

STATE OF NEW YORK

4623--A

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 23, 2017

Introduced by Sens. RANZENHOFER, AMEDORE, CROCI, FELDER, GALLIVAN, HANNON, HELMING, RITCHIE, SAVINO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Investigations and Government Operations -- recommitted to the Committee on Investigations and Government Operations in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the tax law, in relation to providing an exemption for tangible personal property and services sold by a cemetery; in relation to establishing an amnesty program for cemetery corporations

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Declaration of policy. The people of this state have a
2 vital interest in the maintenance and preservation of cemetery corpo-
3 rations to prevent them from becoming a burden upon local governments
4 and the community. The preservation of cemetery funds is vital to the
5 long-term maintenance and preservation of these burial grounds to
6 prevent abandonment and dilapidation. In order to preserve this order,
7 and the uniqueness of cemetery corporations, clarifications of cemetery
8 sales tax collections are necessary.

9 § 2. Subdivision (a) of section 1115 of the tax law is amended by
10 adding a new paragraph 7-a to read as follows:

11 (7-a) Tangible personal property and services sold by a cemetery for
12 the exclusive use on the grounds and in the buildings of the cemetery
13 corporation including but not limited to the additional services
14 provided by a cemetery as defined in paragraph (b) of section fifteen
15 hundred nine of the not-for-profit corporation law and for the mainte-
16 nance and preservation of lots, plots and parts thereof.

17 § 3. Subdivision (a) of section 1116 of the tax law is amended by
18 adding a new paragraph 10 to read as follows:

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 (10) A cemetery corporation, as defined in paragraph (a) of section
2 fifteen hundred two of the not-for-profit corporation law, including but
3 not limited to those cemeteries regulated by the religious corporations
4 law where it is the purchaser, user, or consumer, or where it is the
5 vendor of services or property exclusively to be used on the grounds or
6 buildings of the corporation.

7 § 4. The tax law is amended by adding a new section 1149 to read as
8 follows:

9 § 1149. Amnesty program. (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of any
10 other law to the contrary, there is hereby established an amnesty
11 program as described herein, to be administered by the commissioner, to
12 be effective for the period as prescribed by such commissioner, for all
13 eligible taxpayers as described herein, owing any tax or surcharge
14 imposed or formerly imposed by sections eleven hundred five and eleven
15 hundred ten of this article, and administered by such commissioner.

16 (b) Such amnesty program shall apply to tax liabilities for the taxes
17 set forth in sections eleven hundred five and eleven hundred ten of this
18 article for taxable periods ending or transactions or uses occurring on
19 or before December thirty first, two thousand eighteen.

20 (c) For purposes of the amnesty program established under this
21 section, an eligible taxpayer is a cemetery corporation as defined by
22 paragraph (a) of section fifteen hundred two of the not-for-profit
23 corporation law who or which has a tax liability with regard to one or
24 more of the designated taxes for the period of time described in subdi-
25 vision (b) of this section.

26 (d) The amnesty program established herein shall provide, that upon
27 application, including applicable returns, which application and returns
28 shall be in such form and submitted in such manner as prescribed by the
29 commissioner, by an eligible taxpayer, and upon payment in such form and
30 in such manner as prescribed by such commissioner, which payment shall
31 either accompany such application or be made within the time stated on a
32 bill issued by such commissioner to such taxpayer, of the amount of a
33 tax liability under one or more of the designated taxes with respect to
34 which amnesty is sought, such commissioner shall waive any applicable
35 penalties and interest (including the additional rate of interest
36 prescribed under section eleven hundred forty-five of this part). In
37 addition, no civil, administrative or criminal action or proceeding
38 shall be brought against such an eligible taxpayer relating to the tax
39 liability covered by such waiver. Failure to pay all such taxes by the
40 later of March fifteenth, two thousand nineteen, or the date prescribed
41 therefor on a bill issued by such commissioner, shall invalidate any
42 amnesty granted pursuant to the amnesty program established under this
43 section.

44 (e) Amnesty tax return forms shall be in a form, contain such informa-
45 tion and be submitted as prescribed by the commissioner and shall
46 provide for specifications by the applicant of the tax liability with
47 respect to which amnesty is sought. The applicant must also provide such
48 additional information as is required by such commissioner. Amnesty
49 shall be granted only with respect to the tax liabilities specified by
50 the taxpayer on such forms. Any return or report filed under the amnesty
51 program established herein is subject to verification and assessment as
52 provided by statute. If the applicant files a false or fraudulent tax
53 return or report, or attempts in any manner to defeat or evade a tax
54 under the amnesty program, amnesty shall be denied or rescinded.

55 (f) With respect to any existing installment payment agreement of an
56 eligible taxpayer, where such agreement applies to a tax liability with

1 respect to which amnesty is sought by such taxpayer, notwithstanding any
2 terms of such agreement to the contrary, such taxpayer, as a condition
3 of receiving amnesty, must pay any such liability in full by the later
4 of the last day of the prescribed amnesty period, or the date prescribed
5 therefor on a bill issued by the commissioner.

6 (g) The commissioner may promulgate regulations, issue forms and
7 instructions and take any and all other actions necessary to implement
8 the provisions of the amnesty program established under this section.
9 Such commissioner shall publicize the amnesty program provided for in
10 this section so as to maximize public awareness of and participation in
11 such program.

12 § 5. On or before February 28, 2021, the commissioner of taxation and
13 finance shall submit a report to the chairperson of the assembly ways
14 and means committee, the ranking minority member of the assembly ways
15 and means committee, the chairperson of the senate finance committee,
16 the ranking minority member of the senate finance committee and the
17 director of the budget regarding the amnesty program established pursu-
18 ant to this act. The report shall contain the following information as
19 of the report cutoff date: (i) the gross revenue collected under each
20 tax and the year or other applicable period for or during which the
21 liability was incurred; (ii) the amount of money spent on advertising,
22 notification, and outreach activities, by each activity, and a
23 description of the form and content of such activities, by each activ-
24 ity; (iii) the amount paid by the department of taxation and finance for
25 services and expenses related to the establishment of the amnesty
26 program; and (iv) an estimate of the net revenue generated from the
27 amnesty program.

28 § 6. This act shall take effect immediately.