



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

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H.B. 612

131st General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Ryan, Grossman, Young, Hill, Dean, Brenner, Perales, R. Smith, Koehler

BILL SUMMARY

- Exempts from state and municipal income taxes any income received by an out-of-state disaster business or qualifying out-of-state employee for work repairing public utility or communications infrastructure damaged by a declared disaster during a defined period of time pursuant to a formal solicitation.
- Exempts from the commercial activity tax any gross receipts received by an out-of-state disaster business for repairing such infrastructure during such a period.
- Exempts from state and local use taxes the temporary use in Ohio of any equipment by an out-of-state disaster business to repair such infrastructure.
- Exempts from any state or local occupational licensing requirements out-of-state disaster businesses and out-of-state employees performing disaster work in Ohio during such a period.
- Exempts from Ohio's workers' compensation and unemployment compensation laws out-of-state employees performing disaster work in Ohio during such a period.
- Provides that an out-of-state disaster business or out-of-state employee engaging in disaster work in Ohio during such a period is not required to file any business documents in Ohio before engaging in the disaster work.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Exemptions related to disaster work

The bill authorizes state and local tax deductions and exemptions, payroll tax exemptions, and certain state and local regulatory exemptions for certain kinds of

businesses and their employees that repair damage to public utility and communications property and equipment ("critical infrastructure") in Ohio caused by a disaster (referred to in the bill as conducting "disaster work"). In order to qualify, the disaster needs to have been one for which the Governor or President of the United States issued an emergency declaration. In general, exemptions and deductions authorized by the bill apply only during a "disaster response period"—defined by the bill to span from the tenth day before the emergency declaration through the sixtieth day after the declaration expires. Specifically, the bill's deductions and exemptions apply to each of the following:

(1) A business with no Ohio operations in the preceding year, except those related to disaster work conducted during a disaster response period, that is formally solicited to conduct disaster work by the state, a political subdivision, or the owner or user of the infrastructure, e.g., a public utility (such a business is referred to in the bill as an "out-of-state disaster business");

(2) An employee who conducts disaster work during a disaster response period, is employed by business described above, and who does no work in Ohio during the preceding year except disaster work during a disaster response period (hereafter, "solicited business's out-of-state employee");

(3) An employee of an owner or user of critical infrastructure who conducts disaster work during a disaster response period on the owner's or user's critical infrastructure and who does no work in Ohio during the preceding year, except disaster work during a disaster response period (hereafter, "infrastructure owner's out-of-state employee").¹

Tax deductions and exemptions

Income tax and commercial activity tax

The bill authorizes state and municipal income tax and commercial activity tax (CAT) exemptions and deductions for out-of-state disaster businesses, solicited business' out-of-state employees, and infrastructure owners' out-of-state employees. The following table describes these exemptions and deductions in detail, arranged according to each such taxpayer and tax.

¹ R.C. 5703.94(A) and (B).



Tax	Out-of-state disaster business	Solicited business's out-of-state employee	Infrastructure owner's out-of-state employee
State income tax <i>R.C. 5747.01(A)(33)</i>	Deduction of income from solicited disaster work conducted during disaster response period. (Applies to owners of pass-through entity businesses.)	Deduction of income from solicited disaster work conducted during disaster response period.	Deduction of income from disaster work conducted on employer's critical infrastructure during disaster response period.
Municipal income tax <i>R.C. 718.01(C)(20), 718.05(G) and (H)</i>	Exempts income from solicited disaster work conducted during disaster response period. Exempts from requirement to file return solely to report such income.	Exempts income from solicited disaster work conducted during disaster response period. Exempts from requirement to file return solely to report such income.	Exempts income from disaster work conducted on employer's critical infrastructure during disaster response period. Exempts from requirement to file return solely to report such income.
CAT <i>R.C. 5751.01(F)(2)(II)</i>	Exempts gross receipts from solicited disaster work conducted during disaster response period.	(Not applicable – employee compensation is not subject to the CAT).	(Not applicable – employee compensation is not subject to the CAT).

Use tax

In addition to the exemptions and deductions described above, the bill exempts from state and local use tax the use of any equipment in Ohio by an out-of-state disaster business to conduct solicited disaster work during a disaster response period. The exemption applies only if the equipment is removed from Ohio by the last day of that period.²

Occupational licensing

Ohio law regulates occupations and generally requires certain businesses and individuals to have a license in order to pursue a particular line of business or occupation for compensation. The bill exempts from state or local occupational licensing requirements certain out-of-state businesses and employees who are

² R.C. 5741.02(C)(10).



performing disaster work in Ohio during a disaster response period (see **Comment**, below, for potential municipal home rule implications).

The following individuals and entities are exempt from these occupational licensing requirements:

- (1) An out-of-state disaster business;
- (2) A solicited business's out-of-state employee;
- (3) An infrastructure owner's out-of-state employee.

If an out-of-state employee were to engage in licensable work in Ohio other than disaster work, however, the employee would need to obtain an occupational license for that other work.

The bill imposes requirements on the employers of out-of-state employees who are performing disaster work in Ohio during a disaster response period, pursuant to the bill. Upon the request of the Secretary of State, the employer must provide proof of each qualifying employee's eligibility to perform disaster work. The proof must be demonstrated by the employer's books and records and must be submitted within the later of 30 days after receipt of the request or 30 days after the end of the applicable disaster response period.

Workers' Compensation

Ohio's Workers' Compensation Law generally covers employees that work in Ohio. There are certain exceptions to the coverage, however. The Workers' Compensation Law does not apply to temporary employees, and only applies to employees who employed outside of Ohio temporarily working in Ohio, unless the employees work in Ohio for more than 90 consecutive days.

The bill adds the following individuals to the list of individuals who are not considered "employees" for purpose of the Workers' Compensation Law:

- (1) A solicited business's out-of-state employee;
- (2) An infrastructure owner's out-of-state employee.

In other words, under the bill, an employer is not required to, and may not elect to, pay Workers' Compensation premiums on an out-of-state employee who is conducting disaster work, and no other work, in Ohio, regardless of the amount of time the employee is working in Ohio. Consequently, that out-of-state employee would not

receive workers' compensation in Ohio in the event of an injury sustained or occupational disease contracted in the course of and arising out of the disaster work.

Unemployment

Like the Workers' Compensation Law, Ohio's Unemployment Compensation Law generally covers individuals who work in Ohio. The bill exempts a solicited business's or infrastructure owner's out-of-state employee from unemployment compensation benefits in Ohio, with respect to any disaster work the employee performs in Ohio during a disaster response period, regardless of the amount of time the employee is engaging in the disaster work. Specifically, the bill requires reciprocal agreements between states under the Unemployment Compensation Law to provide that an employer is not liable in Ohio for unemployment arising from disaster work performed during a disaster response period by that employee.

As a result, such an employee responding to a disaster in Ohio would not be eligible to receive unemployment benefits in Ohio if the employee is later laid off from that position.

However, the employer may be subject to the full federal unemployment tax if that work is considered covered employment under federal law. Unemployment is administered through a federal-state partnership; an employer receives a significant tax credit on the employer's federal unemployment tax based on contributions the employers pay to an approved state system. However, if the employer does not pay contributions for a particular type of employment that is exempt under state law but is covered under the federal unemployment law, the employer pays the full federal unemployment tax for that employment.

Business filing

The bill exempts any disaster work performed by an out-of-state disaster business or an out-of-state employee in Ohio during a disaster response period from any business filing requirements under Ohio law. Such business filing requirements can be found in Ohio's Corporate Law, for example, and require persons seeking to form a corporation in Ohio to first file documents with the Secretary of State.

Specifically, the bill provides that no individual is required to file any business documents with the Secretary of State as a condition precedent to engaging in the following business activities in Ohio:

(1) Disaster work performed by an out-of-state disaster business that receives a qualifying solicitation;



- (2) Disaster work performed by a solicited business's out-of-state employee;
- (3) Disaster work performed by an infrastructure owner's out-of-state employee.

Administration

The bill specifically empowers the Tax Commissioner to request information from an out-of-state disaster business or the employer of an employee eligible for the benefits described above. The Commissioner may request any information that generally serves to verify the business's or employee's eligibility for those benefits. For example, an out-of-state business may be required to furnish a copy of the solicitation it received to conduct disaster work in Ohio. An employer may be required to identify eligible employees and the date each employee began performing disaster work in Ohio. If the Commissioner makes such a request, the business or employer is required to respond within the later of 30 days after receipt of the request or 30 days after the end of the applicable disaster response period.

The bill authorizes the Department of Taxation to adopt any rules necessary to administer the bill's various exemptions for disaster work by out-of-state businesses and their employees.³

COMMENT

Under Article XVIII, Section 3 of the Ohio Constitution, municipal corporations "have the authority to exercise all powers of local self-government and adopt and enforce within their limits such local police, sanitary, and other similar regulations, as are not in conflict with general laws." Accordingly, a statute enacted by the General Assembly that purports to limit that constitutional authority, such as by preempting any local occupational licensing requirements, may be invalid as applied to municipal corporations raises questions under this provision. See *Canton v. State*, 2002-Ohio-2005, 95 Ohio St.3d 149 (2002).

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	11-09-16

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³ R.C. 5703.94(C) and (D).

