

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 1, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1842

Introduced by Assembly Member Dahle

February 18, 2014

An act to ~~amend Section 103 of~~ *add Section 39* to the Revenue and Taxation Code, relating to taxation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1842, as amended, Dahle. ~~Property taxation: property: definition. Tax information: administration.~~

Existing law imposes various taxes that are administered by the Franchise Tax Board, the State Board of Equalization, and the Employment Development Department.

This bill would require, on or before January 1, 2016, the Franchise Tax Board, the State Board of Equalization, and the Employment Development Department to collaborate and focus the agencies' current and future information technology efforts to conduct a feasibility study on the development of a single Internet Web site portal that virtually consolidates the agencies to enable online, self-service access to the agencies, as provided, and to submit the study to the Legislature. This bill would also require these agencies, upon a joint determination by the agencies that a need exists to improve cost-effective services to taxpayers and an appropriation by the Legislature, to consolidate forms, applications, and other documents to reduce or eliminate the number of multiple submissions of the same information by taxpayers.

~~Existing property tax law defines property to include all matters and things, real, personal, and mixed, that are capable of private ownership.~~

~~This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to this provision.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~-yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. *The Legislature finds and declares all of the*
- 2 *following:*
- 3 (a) *California relies on three separate state agencies to*
- 4 *administer and enforce its major taxes.*
- 5 (b) *To obtain assistance and comply with California’s tax laws,*
- 6 *policies, and procedures, many taxpayers must interact with all*
- 7 *three agencies, and frequently with multiple departments within*
- 8 *these agencies.*
- 9 (c) *While this system has performed reasonably well in many*
- 10 *respects, the multiagency nature of the system is prone to certain*
- 11 *inherent problems, difficulties, and inefficiencies, and is*
- 12 *particularly complex for taxpayers required to comply with*
- 13 *California’s tax laws.*
- 14 (d) *Over the past decades, numerous reports have been prepared*
- 15 *and various legislative proposals have been considered on the*
- 16 *topic of coordination and cooperation among these three agencies.*
- 17 *The focus of these efforts range from relatively minor aspects of*
- 18 *increased cooperation to proposals for full consolidation of the*
- 19 *agencies under “one roof.”*
- 20 (e) *Focusing on the customer should be a core element of*
- 21 *California’s tax administration. Taxpayers should not have to*
- 22 *understand complex government structures and relationships in*
- 23 *order to interact with the government, particularly in a sensitive*
- 24 *area like taxes.*
- 25 (f) *The California Tax Service Center, available at*
- 26 *www.taxes.ca.gov, provides an assortment of independent*
- 27 *departmental forms, returns, and links, tied together by a common*
- 28 *homepage on the Internet, and is intended to provide California*
- 29 *taxpayers with resources and educational programs with a goal*
- 30 *as a one-stop tax assistance hub.*
- 31 (g) *The California Tax Service Center can be used to better*
- 32 *serve California’s taxpaying community by virtually consolidating*
- 33 *the three agencies’ operations to enable them to appear as one*

1 unified organization with the goal of providing a seamless
2 experience for taxpayers in their online interactions with the
3 agencies.

4 (h) It is therefore in California's best interest to develop an
5 Internet Web-based, taxpayer-focused system that virtually
6 consolidates the State Board of Equalization, the Franchise Tax
7 Board, and the Employment Development Department. In
8 developing a taxpayer-focused system, the fundamental objective
9 should be a platform that provides an integrated experience for
10 taxpayers, to enable online self-service access with a single logon
11 for all three agencies, and to provide pertinent and essential
12 information that will enable taxpayers to satisfy their payment and
13 reporting obligations, obtain real-time information pertinent to
14 their individual accounts, and provide assistance that will enable
15 taxpayers to achieve optimum compliance with California's
16 complex tax system.

17 SEC. 2. Section 39 is added to the Revenue and Taxation Code,
18 to read:

19 39. (a) (1) On or before January 1, 2016, the board, the
20 Franchise Tax Board, and the Employment Development
21 Department shall collaborate and focus their current and future
22 information technology efforts to conduct a feasibility study on
23 the development of a single Internet Web-based portal that virtually
24 consolidates the agencies to enable online, self-service access
25 through a single logon for taxpayers to electronically file returns,
26 submit forms or other information, determine account balances
27 and due dates of taxes, remit amounts due, identify the status of
28 any appeal, claim for refund, request for relief of interest or
29 penalty, and any other information the agencies deem helpful to
30 the taxpayer to assist in compliance with the state's tax laws. The
31 feasibility study shall consider the California Tax Service Center
32 Internet Web site in its analysis.

33 (2) The feasibility study shall be conducted within the existing
34 budgets of the board, the Franchise Tax Board, and the
35 Employment Development Department. An appropriation shall
36 not be made by the Legislature to fund the feasibility study.

37 (3) The feasibility study shall be submitted to the Legislature
38 no later than six months after the study is completed and shall be
39 submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government
40 Code.

1 (4) *This subdivision shall become inoperative on January 1,*
2 *2019, pursuant to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code.*

3 (b) *As part of this effort, upon a joint determination by the*
4 *agencies that a need exists to improve cost-effective services to*
5 *taxpayers and an appropriation by the Legislature, these agencies*
6 *shall also consolidate forms, applications, and other documents*
7 *to reduce or eliminate the number of multiple submissions of the*
8 *same information by taxpayers.*

9 ~~SECTION 1. Section 103 of the Revenue and Taxation Code~~
10 ~~is amended to read:~~

11 ~~103. "Property" includes all those matters and things, real,~~
12 ~~personal, and mixed, that are capable of private ownership.~~