

131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 835

H.P. 524

House of Representatives, February 21, 2023

An Act to Phase Out the Income Tax

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

R(+ B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

Presented by Representative BOYER of Poland. Cosponsored by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin and Representatives: ANDREWS of Paris, ARDELL of Monticello, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, HYMES of Waldo, LIBBY of Auburn, NEWMAN of Belgrade, QUINT of Hodgdon, SMITH of Palermo.

1	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:	
2 3	Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §5111, sub-§1-F, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 267, Pt. DD, §3, is amended to read:	
4 5 6	1-F. Single individuals and married persons filing separate returns; tax years beginning 2017. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2017 <u>but no later than</u> <u>December 31, 2027</u> , for single individuals and married persons filing separate returns:	
7 8 9 10 11 12	If Maine taxable income is: Less than \$21,050 At least \$21,050 but less than \$50,000 \$50,000 or more	The tax is: 5.8% of the Maine taxable income \$1,221 plus 6.75% of the excess over \$21,050 \$3,175 plus 7.15% of the excess over \$50,000
13 14	Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §5111, sub-§2-F, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 267, Pt. DD, §5, is amended to read:	
15 16 17	2-F. Heads of households; tax years beginning 2017. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2017 <u>but no later than December 31, 2027</u> , for unmarried individuals or legally separated individuals who qualify as heads of households:	
18 19 20 21 22 23	If Maine taxable income is: Less than \$31,550 At least \$31,550 but less than \$75,000 \$75,000 or more	The tax is: 5.8% of the Maine taxable income \$1,830 plus 6.75% of the excess over \$31,550 \$4,763 plus 7.15% of the excess over \$75,000
24 25	Sec. 3. 36 MRSA §5111, sub-§3-F, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 267, Pt. DD, §7, is amended to read:	
26 27 28 29	3-F. Individuals filing married joint returns or surviving spouses; tax years beginning 2017. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2017 <u>but no later than</u> <u>December 31, 2027</u> , for individuals filing married joint returns or surviving spouses permitted to file a joint return:	
30 31 32 33 34 35	If Maine taxable income is: Less than \$42,100 At least \$42,100 but less than \$100,000 \$100,000 or more	The tax is: 5.8% of the Maine taxable income \$2,442 plus 6.75% of the excess over \$42,100 \$6,350 plus 7.15% of the excess over \$100,000
36	Sec. 4. 36 MRSA §5111, sub-§7 is enacted to read:	
37 38 39	7. Phase-out. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, for each taxpayer filing an income tax return under this chapter, the amount of tax calculated under subsection 1-F, 2-F or 3-F, as adjusted under section 5403, is reduced as follows:	
40 41	 A. For tax years beginning in 2024, the amount calculated is multiplied by 80%; B. For tax years beginning in 2025, the amount calculated is multiplied by 60%; 	

1	C. For tax years beginning in 2026, the amount calculated is multiplied by 40%; and	
2	D. For tax years beginning in 2027, the amount calculated is multiplied by 20%.	
3	Sec. 5. 36 MRSA §5111, sub-§8 is enacted to read:	
4 5	8. Income tax eliminated. Beginning January 1, 2028, no taxes are imposed under this section.	
6 7	Sec. 6. 36 MRSA §5200, sub-§1-A, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 474, Pt. E, §2, is amended to read:	
8 9 10 11 12	1-A. Imposition and rate of tax beginning 2018. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2018 <u>but no later than December 31, 2027</u> , a tax is imposed for each taxable year at the following rates on each taxable corporation and on each group of corporations that derives income from a unitary business carried on by 2 or more members of an affiliated group:	
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	If the income is: The tax is: Not over \$350,000 3.5% of the income \$350,000 but not over \$1,050,000 \$12,250 plus 7.93% of the excess over \$1,050,000 but not over \$3,500,000 \$67,760 plus 8.33% of the excess over \$1,050,000 or more \$271,845 plus 8.93% of the excess \$271,845 plus 8.93% of the excess over \$3,500,000	
21 22 23 24 25	In the case of an affiliated group of corporations engaged in a unitary business with activity taxable only by Maine, the rates provided in this subsection are applied only to the first \$3,500,000 of the Maine net income of the entire group and must be apportioned equally among the taxable corporations unless those taxable corporations jointly elect a different apportionment. The balance of the Maine net income of the entire group is taxed at 8.93%.	
26 27 28 29 30 31	In the case of an affiliated group of corporations engaged in a unitary business with activity taxable both within and without this State, the rates provided in this subsection are applied only to the first \$3,500,000 of the net income of the entire group and must be apportioned equally among the taxable corporations unless those taxable corporations jointly elect a different apportionment. The balance of the net income of the entire group is taxed at 8.93%.	
32	Sec. 7. 36 MRSA §5200, sub-§7 is enacted to read:	
33 34 35	7. Phase-out. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, for each taxpayer filing an income tax return under this chapter, the amount of tax calculated under subsection 1-A is reduced as follows:	
36	A. For tax years beginning in 2024, the amount calculated is multiplied by 80%;	
37	B. For tax years beginning in 2025, the amount calculated is multiplied by 60%;	
38	C. For tax years beginning in 2026, the amount calculated is multiplied by 40%; and	
39	D. For tax years beginning in 2027, the amount calculated is multiplied by 20%.	
40	Sec. 8. 36 MRSA §5200, sub-§8 is enacted to read:	

<u>8. Income tax eliminated.</u> Beginning January 1, 2028, no taxes are imposed under <u>this section.</u>

Sec. 9. Spending reductions. Beginning with fiscal year 2024-25, the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of the Budget shall reduce the budget each fiscal year for each department of State Government proportionally to achieve an overall reduction in expenditures equal to the reduction of revenue under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, section 5111, subsections 7 and 8 and section 5200, subsections 7 and 8.

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SUMMARY

10 This bill phases out the income tax over 5 years beginning in 2024 and requires that 11 state department budgets be reduced proportionally.