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A FAIR INCOME TAX SYSTEM Colorado Secretary of State

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO:**

**SECTION 1.** The people of Colorado find that in order to make Colorado taxes fairer, all taxpayers should pay similar percentages of their income in taxes. The people further find that because some taxes, like sales taxes and property taxes, have a disproportional impact on lower income Coloradans, a graduated individual income tax system which taxes those who earn higher incomes at higher rates is needed to make the tax system fairer. The people also find that corporations should also bear a fair share of the tax burden to pay the costs of education, higher education, health care and public safety. The people also find that since corporate income taxes historically pay for less than 10% state services and since in the last 5 years less than half of all corporations filing corporate income tax returns pay state corporate income taxes, a corporate minimum tax is needed to make the tax system fairer.

**SECTION 2.** Section 20(8)(a) of Article X of the Constitution of the State of Colorado is amended to read:

**(8) Revenue limits.** (a) New or increased transfer tax rates on real property are prohibited. No new state real property tax or local district income tax shall be imposed. Neither an income tax rate increase nor a new state definition of taxable income shall apply before the next tax year. ~~Any income tax law change after July 1, 1992 shall also require all taxable net income to be taxed at one rate, excluding refund tax credits or voter-approved tax credits, with no added tax or surcharge.~~

**SECTION 3.** Part 1 of article 77 of title 24, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to read:

**24-77-103.3. VOTER APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE-USE OF REVENUES-ACCOUNTABILITY.** THE REVENUES RAISED BY THE TAXES IMPOSED PURSUANT SECTIONS 39-22-104, 39-22-301 AND 39-22-301.1 SHALL CONSTITUTE A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE AND MAY BE COLLECTED, KEPT AND SPENT NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LIMITS IN THE CONSTITUTION OR OTHER LAW. ALL REVENUES RAISED BY THE TAXES IMPOSED PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 39-22-104, 39-22-301 AND 39-22-301.1 SHALL BE SPENT ONLY FOR PAYING THE COSTS OF EDUCATION, HIGHER EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE AND PUBLIC SAFETY. AT LEAST 90% OF THE REVENUES RAISED BY THE TAXES IMPOSED PURSUANT SECTIONS 39-22-104, 39-22-301 AND 39-22-301.1 SHALL BE SPENT ON SERVICES FOR COLORADO RESIDENTS AND NOT ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL ESTABLISH A CITIZEN'S OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO ASSURE THAT SUCH REVENUES ARE SPENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION. FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR THAT THE STATE RECEIVES REVENUES PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 39-22-104, 39-22-301 AND 39-22-301.1, THE DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHALL PREPARE A LEGISLATIVE REPORT THAT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

(I) THE AMOUNT OF STATE REVENUES THAT THE STATE RECEIVED; AND

(II) A DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE STATE REVENUES WERE EXPENDED.

THE REPORT REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION SHALL BE COMPLETED BY OCTOBER 15 FOLLOWING A FISCAL YEAR IN WHICH THE STATE RECEIVES REVENUES PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 39-22-104, 39-22-301 AND 39-22-301.1 AND MAY BE AMENDED THEREAFTER AS NECESSARY. THE DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH SHALL PUBLISH AND LINK TO THE OFFICIAL WEB SITE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY A COPY OF THE REPORT.

**SECTION 4.** Section 39-22-104, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SUBSECTION (1.9) and 39-22-104(2), Colorado Revised Statutes is amended, to read:

**39-22-104. Income tax imposed on individuals, estates, and trusts definitions – repeal.** (1.9) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION, WITH RESPECT TO TAXABLE YEARS COMMENCING ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2012, A GRADUATED TAX IS IMPOSED ON THE FEDERAL TAXABLE INCOME, AS DETERMINED PURSUANT TO SECTION 63 OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL, ESTATE, AND TRUST AS SET FORTH IN THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE OF RATES:

FOR INDIVIDUALS WHOSE FEDERAL TAXABLE INCOME IS DETERMINED ON A JOINT FEDERAL RETURN, IF THE FEDERAL TAXABLE INCOME AS MODIFIED AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTIONS (3) AND (4) OF THIS SECTION IS:	FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO FILE AS A HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD, IF THE FEDERAL TAXABLE INCOME AS MODIFIED AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTIONS (3) AND (4) OF THIS SECTION IS:	FOR ALL OTHER INDIVIDUALS, ESTATES AND TRUSTS, IF THE FEDERAL TAXABLE INCOME AS MODIFIED AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTIONS (3) AND (4) OF THIS SECTION IS:
NOT OVER \$50,000 THE TAX IS 4.2%	NOT OVER \$37,500 THE TAX IS 4.2%	NOT OVER \$25,000 TAX IS 4.2%
OVER \$50,000 BUT NOT OVER \$100,000 THE TAX IS \$2,100, PLUS 6.5% OVER THE EXCESS OF \$50,000	OVER \$37,500 BUT NOT OVER \$75,000 THE TAX IS \$1,575, PLUS 6.5% OVER THE EXCESS OF \$37,500	OVER \$25,000 BUT NOT OVER \$50,000 THE TAX IS \$1,050.00, PLUS 6.5% OVER THE EXCESS OF \$25,000
OVER \$100,000 BUT NOT OVER \$200,000 THE TAX IS \$5,350, PLUS 7.0% OVER THE EXCESS OF	OVER \$75,000 BUT NOT OVER \$150,000 THE TAX IS \$4,012, PLUS 7.0% OVER THE EXCESS OF	OVER \$50,000 BUT NOT OVER \$100,000 THE TAX IS \$2,675.00, PLUS 7.0% OVER THE EXCESS OF

\$100,000	\$75,000	50,000
\$200,000 TO \$500,000 THE TAX IS \$12,350, PLUS 8.0% OVER THE EXCESS OF \$200,000	OVER \$150,000 BUT NOT OVER \$375,000 THE TAX IS \$9,262.50, PLUS 8.0% OVER THE EXCESS OF \$150,000	OVER \$100,000 BUT NOT OVER \$250,000 THE TAX IS \$6,175.00, PLUS 8.0% OVER THE EXCESS OF \$100,000
OVER \$500,000 BUT NOT OVER \$1,000,000 THE TAX IS \$36,350, PLUS 9.0% OVER THE EXCESS OF \$500,000	OVER \$375,000 BUT NOT OVER \$750,000 THE TAX IS \$27,262, PLUS 9.0% OVER THE EXCESS OF \$375,000	OVER \$250,000 BUT NOT OVER \$500,000 THE TAX IS \$18,175.00, PLUS 9.0% OVER THE EXCESS OF 250,0000
OVER \$1,000,000 THE TAX IS \$81,350, PLUS 9.5% OVER THE EXCESS OF \$1,000,000	OVER \$750,000 THE TAX IS \$61,012, PLUS 9.5% OVER THE EXCESS OF \$750,000	OVER \$500,000 THE TAX IS \$40,675, PLUS 9.5% OVER THE EXCESS OF \$500,000

THE INCOME BRACKETS SET FORTH IN THE ABOVE SCHEDULE SHALL BE ADJUSTED EACH INCOME TAX YEAR BY THE PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN COLORADO PERSONAL INCOME. COLORADO PERSONAL INCOME MEANS THE TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME FOR COLORADO, AS DEFINED AND OFFICIALLY REPORTED BY THE BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS IN THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR INDEX.

(2) Prior to the application of the rate of tax prescribed in subsection (1), (1.5), ~~or~~ (1.7) OR (1.9) of this section, the federal taxable income shall be modified as provided in subsections (3) and (4) of this section.

**SECTION 5.** Section 39-22-301(1)(d)(I), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW PARAGRAPH (J) and 39-22-301(1)(d)(I)(I) is amended, to read:

**39-22-301 Corporate Tax Imposed.** (1)(d)(I) A tax is imposed upon each domestic C corporation and foreign C corporation doing business in Colorado annually in an amount of the net income of such C corporation during the year derived from sources within Colorado as set forth in the following schedule of rates:

(I) Except as otherwise provided in section 39-22-627, for income tax years commencing on or after January 1, 2000 BUT PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 2012, four and sixty-three one hundredths percent of the Colorado net income;

(J) FOR INCOME TAX YEARS COMMENCING ON AND AFTER JANUARY 1, 2012, SEVEN PERCENT OF COLORADO NET INCOME.

**SECTION 6.** Part 3 of Article 22 of Title 39, Colorado Revised Statutes is amended BY THE ADDITION OF NEW SECTION to read:

**39-22-301.1. CORPORATE ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX.**

(1) WITH RESPECT TO EACH TAXABLE YEAR COMMENCING ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2012, FOR EVERY DOMESTIC C CORPORATION AND FOREIGN C CORPORATION DOING BUSINESS IN COLORADO, IN ADDITION TO THE TAX IMPOSED IN SECTION 39-22-301, A TAX IS IMPOSED IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE EXCESS OF \$1,000 OVER THE TAX IMPOSED IN SECTION 39-22-301.

(2) THE COLORADO ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAXABLE INCOME SHALL BE THE FEDERAL ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAXABLE INCOME, AS DETERMINED PURSUANT TO SECTION 55 OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, MINUS THE APPLICABLE FEDERAL EXEMPTIONS ALLOWED PURSUANT TO SUCH SECTION, WITH THE MODIFICATIONS PROVIDED IN SECTION 39-22-301; EXCEPT THAT ANY STATE OR LOCAL BOND INTEREST INCLUDED IN THE FEDERAL ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAXABLE INCOME SHALL NOT BE ADDED BACK IN DETERMINING THE COLORADO ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAXABLE INCOME, AND ANY INTEREST INCOME FROM OBLIGATIONS OF THE STATE OF COLORADO OR ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION THEREOF WHICH IS EXEMPT FROM THE COLORADO TAX IMPOSED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 39-22-304(2)(B) SHALL BE SUBTRACTED FROM THE FEDERAL ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAXABLE INCOME TO THE EXTENT INCLUDED THEREIN IN DETERMINING COLORADO ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAXABLE INCOME.

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