

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 17, 2013

SENATE BILL

No. 641

Introduced by Senator Anderson

February 22, 2013

An act to amend Section 23153 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, relating to taxation, to take effect immediately, tax levy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 641, as amended, Anderson. Corporation taxes: minimum franchise tax: exemptions.

The Corporation Tax Law provides that all banks and corporations subject to tax and not otherwise exempt shall pay annually a minimum franchise tax of \$800, except as specified.

This bill would exempt from the minimum franchise tax a qualified new corporation, as defined, for its first 4 taxable years.

This bill would take effect immediately as a tax levy.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 23153 of the Revenue and Taxation Code
2 is amended to read:
3 23153. (a) Every corporation described in subdivision (b) shall
4 be subject to the minimum franchise tax specified in subdivision
5 (d) from the earlier of the date of incorporation, qualification, or
6 commencing to do business within this state, until the effective
7 date of dissolution or withdrawal as provided in Section 23331 or,

1 if later, the date the corporation ceases to do business within the
2 limits of this state.

3 (b) Unless expressly exempted by this part or the California
4 Constitution, subdivision (a) shall apply to each of the following:

5 (1) Every corporation that is incorporated under the laws of this
6 state.

7 (2) Every corporation that is qualified to transact intrastate
8 business in this state pursuant to Chapter 21 (commencing with
9 Section 2100) of Division 1 of Title 1 of the Corporations Code.

10 (3) Every corporation that is doing business in this state.

11 (c) The following entities are not subject to the minimum
12 franchise tax specified in this section:

13 (1) Credit unions.

14 (2) Nonprofit cooperative associations organized pursuant to
15 Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 54001) of Division 20 of the
16 Food and Agricultural Code that have been issued the certificate
17 of the board of supervisors prepared pursuant to Section 54042 of
18 the Food and Agricultural Code. The association shall be exempt
19 from the minimum franchise tax for five consecutive taxable years,
20 commencing with the first taxable year for which the certificate
21 is issued pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 54042 of the Food
22 and Agricultural Code. This paragraph only applies to nonprofit
23 cooperative associations organized on or after January 1, 1994.

24 (d) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), paragraph (1) of
25 subdivision (f) of Section 23151, paragraph (1) of subdivision (f)
26 of Section 23181, and paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section
27 23183, corporations subject to the minimum franchise tax shall
28 pay annually to the state a minimum franchise tax of eight hundred
29 dollars (\$800).

30 (2) The minimum franchise tax shall be twenty-five dollars
31 (\$25) for each of the following:

32 (A) A corporation formed under the laws of this state whose
33 principal business when formed was gold mining, which is inactive
34 and has not done business within the limits of the state since 1950.

35 (B) A corporation formed under the laws of this state whose
36 principal business when formed was quicksilver mining, which is
37 inactive and has not done business within the limits of the state
38 since 1971, or has been inactive for a period of 24 consecutive
39 months or more.

1 (3) For purposes of paragraph (2), a corporation shall not be
2 considered to have done business if it engages in business other
3 than mining.

4 (e) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), for taxable years beginning
5 on or after January 1, 1999, and before January 1, 2000, every
6 “qualified new corporation” shall pay annually to the state a
7 minimum franchise tax of five hundred dollars (\$500) for the
8 second taxable year. This subdivision shall apply to any corporation
9 that is a qualified new corporation and is incorporated on or after
10 January 1, 1999, and before January 1, 2000.

11 (1) The determination of the gross receipts of a corporation, for
12 purposes of this subdivision, shall be made by including the gross
13 receipts of each member of the commonly controlled group, as
14 defined in Section 25105, of which the corporation is a member.

15 (2) “Gross receipts, less returns and allowances reportable to
16 this state,” means the sum of the gross receipts from the production
17 of business income, as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 25120,
18 and the gross receipts from the production of nonbusiness income,
19 as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 25120.

20 (3) “Qualified new corporation” means a corporation that is
21 incorporated under the laws of this state or has qualified to transact
22 intrastate business in this state, that begins business operations at
23 or after the time of its incorporation and that reasonably estimates
24 that it will have gross receipts, less returns and allowances,
25 reportable to this state for the taxable year of one million dollars
26 (\$1,000,000) or less. “Qualified new corporation” does not include
27 any corporation that began business operations as a sole
28 proprietorship, a partnership, or any other form of business entity
29 prior to its incorporation. This subdivision shall not apply to any
30 corporation that reorganizes solely for the purpose of reducing its
31 minimum franchise tax.

32 (4) This subdivision shall not apply to ~~a limited-partnerships~~
33 ~~partnership~~, as defined in Section 17935, ~~a limited liability~~
34 ~~companies company~~, as defined in Section 17941, ~~a limited liability~~
35 ~~partnerships partnership~~, as described in Section 17948, ~~a~~
36 ~~charitable-organizations organization~~, as described in Section
37 23703, ~~a regulated investment-companies company~~, as defined in
38 Section 851 of the Internal Revenue Code, ~~a real estate investment~~
39 ~~trusts trust~~, as defined in Section 856 of the Internal Revenue Code,
40 ~~a real estate mortgage investment-conduits conduit~~, as defined in

1 Section 860D of the Internal Revenue Code, *a* qualified Subchapter
2 ~~S~~-~~subsidiaries~~ *subsidiary*, as defined in Section 1361(b)(3) of the
3 Internal Revenue Code, or to the formation of any subsidiary
4 corporation, to the extent applicable.

5 (5) For any taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 1999,
6 and before January 1, 2000, if a corporation has qualified to pay
7 five hundred dollars (\$500) for the second taxable year under this
8 subdivision, but in its second taxable year, the corporation's gross
9 receipts, as determined under paragraphs (1) and (2), exceed one
10 million dollars (\$1,000,000), an additional tax in the amount equal
11 to three hundred dollars (\$300) for the second taxable year shall
12 be due and payable by the corporation on the due date of its return,
13 without regard to extension, for that year.

14 (f) (1) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), every corporation that
15 incorporates or qualifies to do business in this state on or after
16 January 1, 2000, shall not be subject to the minimum franchise tax
17 for its first taxable year.

18 (2) This subdivision shall not apply to *a* limited-~~partnerships~~
19 *partnership*, as defined in Section 17935, *a* limited liability
20 ~~companies~~ *company*, as defined in Section 17941, *a* limited liability
21 ~~partnerships~~ *partnership*, as described in Section 17948, *a*
22 ~~charitable-organizations~~ *organization*, as described in Section
23 23703, *a* regulated investment-~~companies~~ *company*, as defined in
24 Section 851 of the Internal Revenue Code, *a* real estate investment
25 ~~trusts~~ *trust*, as defined in Section 856 of the Internal Revenue Code,
26 *a* real estate mortgage investment-~~conduits~~ *conduit*, as defined in
27 Section 860D of the Internal Revenue Code, and *a* qualified
28 Subchapter ~~S~~-~~subsidiaries~~ *subsidiary*, as defined in Section
29 1361(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, to the extent applicable.

30 (3) This subdivision shall not apply to any corporation that
31 reorganizes solely for the purpose of avoiding payment of its
32 minimum franchise tax.

33 (g) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a domestic corporation, as
34 defined in Section 167 of the Corporations Code, that files a
35 certificate of dissolution in the office of the Secretary of State
36 pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 1905 of the Corporations
37 Code, prior to its amendment by the act amending this subdivision,
38 and that does not thereafter do business shall not be subject to the
39 minimum franchise tax for taxable years beginning on or after the
40 date of that filing.

1 (h) The minimum franchise tax imposed by paragraph (1) of
2 subdivision (d) shall not be increased by the Legislature by more
3 than 10 percent during any calendar year.

4 (i) (1) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a corporation that is a
5 small business solely owned by a deployed member of the United
6 States Armed Forces shall not be subject to the minimum franchise
7 tax for any taxable year the owner is deployed and the corporation
8 operates at a loss or ceases operation.

9 (2) The Franchise Tax Board may promulgate regulations as
10 necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this
11 subdivision, including a definition for “ceases operation.”

12 (3) For the purposes of this subdivision, all of the following
13 definitions apply:

14 (A) “Deployed” means being called to active duty or active
15 service during a period when a Presidential Executive order
16 specifies that the United States is engaged in combat or homeland
17 defense. “Deployed” does not include either of the following:

18 (i) Temporary duty for the sole purpose of training or processing.

19 (ii) A permanent change of station.

20 (B) “Operates at a loss” means negative net income as defined
21 in Section 24341.

22 (C) “Small business” means a corporation with total income
23 from all sources derived from, or attributable, to the state of two
24 hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) or less.

25 (4) This subdivision shall become inoperative for taxable years
26 beginning on or after January 1, 2018.

27 (j) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), for taxable years beginning
28 on or after January 1, 2013, a qualified new corporation shall not
29 be subject to the minimum franchise tax for its first four taxable
30 years.

31 ~~(C) The determination of the gross receipts of a corporation,~~
32 ~~for purposes of this subdivision, shall be made by including the~~
33 ~~gross receipts of each member of the commonly controlled group,~~
34 ~~as defined in Section 25105, of which the corporation is a member.~~

35 (1) (A) “*Qualified new corporation*” means a corporation that,
36 on or after the effective date of the act adding this subdivision,
37 meets both of the following:

38 (i) *Is incorporated under the laws of this state or has qualified*
39 *to transact intrastate business in this state.*

1 (ii) Commences business operations at or after the time of its
2 incorporation.

3 (B) “Qualified new corporation” shall not include a corporation
4 that commenced business operations as a sole proprietorship, a
5 partnership, or any other form of business entity immediately prior
6 to its incorporation.

7 ~~(B)~~

8 (2) (A) “Gross receipts, less returns and allowances reportable
9 to this state,” means the sum of the gross receipts from the
10 production of business income, as defined in subdivision (a) of
11 Section 25120, and the gross receipts from the production of
12 nonbusiness income, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section
13 25120.

14 ~~(2) (A) “Qualified new corporation” means a corporation that~~
15 ~~is incorporated under the laws of this state or has qualified to~~
16 ~~transact intrastate business in this state, that begins business~~
17 ~~operations at or after the time of its incorporation and that~~
18 ~~reasonably estimates that it will have gross receipts, less returns~~
19 ~~and allowances, reportable to this state for the taxable year of ten~~
20 ~~thousand dollars (\$10,000) or less.~~

21 (B) *The determination of the gross receipts of a corporation,*
22 *for purposes of this subdivision, shall be made by including the*
23 *gross receipts of each member of the commonly controlled group,*
24 *as defined in Section 25105, of which the corporation is a member.*

25 ~~(2)~~

26 (3) This subdivision shall not apply to any corporation that
27 reorganizes solely for the purpose of reducing its minimum
28 franchise tax.

29 ~~(3)~~

30 (4) This subdivision shall not apply to ~~a limited-partnerships~~
31 *partnership*, as defined in Section 17935, ~~a limited liability~~
32 *companies company*, as defined in Section 17941, ~~a limited liability~~
33 *partnerships partnership*, as described in Section 17948, ~~a~~
34 *charitable-organizations organization*, as described in Section
35 23703, ~~a regulated investment-companies company~~, as defined in
36 Section 851 of the Internal Revenue Code, ~~a real estate investment~~
37 *trusts trust*, as defined in Section 856 of the Internal Revenue Code,
38 ~~a real estate mortgage investment-conduits conduit~~, as defined in
39 Section 860D of the Internal Revenue Code, ~~a qualified Subchapter~~
40 *S-subsidaries subsidiary*, as defined in Section 1361(b)(3) of the

1 Internal Revenue Code, or to the formation of any subsidiary
2 corporation, to the extent applicable.

3 *(5) The exemption under this section shall be allowed only for*
4 *each of the first four taxable years in which the qualified new*
5 *corporation reasonably estimates that it will have gross receipts,*
6 *less returns and allowances, reportable to this state of ten thousand*
7 *dollars (\$10,000) or less.*

8 SEC. 2. This act provides for a tax levy within the meaning of
9 Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect.

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