



# NEWS RELEASE

## ***For Immediate Release***

Division of Taxation

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## **Tips for final weeks of Colorado income tax filing season**

**Denver, CO, March 24, 2016** – With less than four weeks remaining before the Monday, April 18 filing deadline, Colorado taxpayers should be aware of a few things if they have not yet filed their state income tax.

### **TABOR Refund Available**

Under the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR), excess funds will be distributed back to Colorado residents who lived in the state during all of 2015. This refund is claimed on the Colorado 104 individual income tax return. Each person will receive a sales tax refund through their 2015 income tax filing ranging between \$13 and \$41, depending on the taxpayer's federal adjusted gross income. Joint return filers will each receive the refund. Even if a full-year resident is not required to file a federal or Colorado income tax return, they are eligible for this TABOR sales tax refund.

### **Consumer Use Tax on Individual Income Tax Return**

As a means to increase public awareness about consumer use tax and because the filing deadline for consumer use tax is the same deadline as the income tax filing deadline, the opportunity to report and remit consumer use tax is now available on the Colorado 2015 individual income tax return. Colorado joins 27 other states that include the option to report consumer use tax on its individual income tax return.

However, leaving the use tax portion of the form blank does *not* mean that the taxpayer is formally stating there is no use tax liability. Taxpayers may confidentially and without fear of criminal prosecution report zero on the use tax line of their individual income tax return. Doing this indicates the taxpayer does not want to use the income tax form to report and remit any 2015 consumer use tax liability they may have. The alternate filing methods are:

- the Department's free Revenue Online service available at [www.Colorado.gov/RevenueOnline](http://www.Colorado.gov/RevenueOnline), or
- the Consumer Use Tax Return, form DR 0252, available at [www.TaxColorado.com](http://www.TaxColorado.com).

(more)

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### **Colorado Earned Income Tax Credit**

Colorado taxpayers who qualify for the federal EITC can claim 10 percent of the amount they claim on their federal tax return on their state tax return for the 2015 tax year. The Colorado earned income tax credit amount will vary based on income, but is estimated to average about \$217 per qualifying household. Full-year and part-year Colorado residents who claimed the EITC on their federal return are allowed the Colorado EITC. Nonresidents do not qualify for the Colorado EITC.

### **Taxpayer Security Awareness, Refund Fraud Detection and Prevention and Refund Processing Expectations**

Taxpayers need to take steps to protect their personally identifiable information year-round due to high rates of identity theft. The Department takes measures to ensure tax information is secure and will ask for information up front to assist in verifying the validity of a refund claim. Some Colorado income tax refunds may be delayed up to 60 days beyond normal processing time. And some Direct Deposit refunds may be converted to paper check as the Department works to ensure state tax dollars get to the right person and not into the hands of fraudsters. The Department takes taxpayer information and tax refund security very seriously and will take the time necessary to review and verify tax returns and refunds.

### **Refund Status**

The Department's phone lines are busy this time of year with tax filing questions. Rather than calling in, taxpayers may check the status of their Colorado income tax refund through Revenue Online, [www.Colorado.gov/RevenueOnline](http://www.Colorado.gov/RevenueOnline). There is no need to login. Simply choose the button "Check the Status of Your Refund?"

### **Extension of Time to File**

Taxpayers who can't make the April 18 filing deadline may take a paperless (no form to submit) extension of time to file. Note that the six-month extension allows more time to *file* the information. The tax is due in April. If you can pay 90 percent of what is due by April 18, you will pay only interest on the remaining amount when you file the return. Be sure to use the DR-158-I voucher included in the 2015 104 booklet to ensure your payment is credited to your account.

### **Colorado Income Tax Filing Tips and Refund Status Information**

Tax Year 2015 income tax filing season tips are available on the Colorado Taxation Web site, [www.TaxColorado.com](http://www.TaxColorado.com). To file your income tax return and find the status of your refund, use the state's free service, Revenue Online ([www.Colorado.gov/RevenueOnline](http://www.Colorado.gov/RevenueOnline)).

*The Colorado Department of Revenue is committed to providing security and customer service to assist taxpayers in voluntary compliance with state tax laws.*

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