



Interest Rate Benefit Allowable under the Federal Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act

Governor Pataki is reminding members of the military who have a New York State tax liability, whose service has materially affected their ability to pay the liability, that they may be eligible for an interest rate benefit under the Federal Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act. The benefit applies to liabilities for **any** New York State taxes owed.

Generally, the benefit would only apply to a tax liability that is not covered by the benefits outlined in *Important Notice N-02-3, Possible Deferral of the Collection of Back Income Taxes Owed for Members of Reserve Forces, Armed Forces and National Guard*, or in *Important Notice N-02-5, Tax Relief for Individuals Serving In and In Support of the Afghanistan Combat Zone*. A taxpayer who has a personal income tax liability covered by the benefits outlined in either of the notices N-02-3 or N-02-5 may still be eligible for the benefit described in this notice for a liability for a New York State tax other than personal income tax. For information about obtaining these notices, see the Need Help box below.

Section 526 of the Federal Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act limits the maximum interest rate that can be charged to 6% per year for obligations or liabilities incurred before entry into active service. The Federal Act covers active duty members of the military services – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. Reservists, including the National Guard, must be placed on active duty to qualify. Since National Guard personnel not serving in a federalized status – for example, on state active duty for disaster relief – are not covered by the federal act, these personnel are not eligible for this relief.

The reduced rate applies only if the service materially affects the ability of the taxpayer to pay and would only be applied to the interest charged during the period of active duty.

If you have received a billing or collection document and believe that you qualify for the 6% maximum interest rate, please write “**Military Duty Interest Reduction Request**” on the top of the document received, attach a copy of your orders or reporting instructions that detail the call to active duty, and send the document and attachment back in the return envelope. If you currently have an installment payment agreement or make automated payments with the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance and believe that you qualify, please call **1-877-281-6711** and inform the representative about your situation.

Need Help?



Telephone assistance is available from 8:30 a.m. to 4:25 p.m. (eastern time), Monday through Friday.

For tax information: 1 800 225-5829

To order forms and publications: 1 800 462-8100

Refund status: (electronically filed) 1 800 353-0708

(direct deposit) 1 800 321-3213

(all others) 1 800 443-3200

(Automated service for refund status is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.)

From areas outside the U.S. and outside Canada: (518) 485-6800



Fax-on-demand forms: Forms are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

1 800 748-3676



Internet access: www.tax.state.ny.us

(for forms, publications, your refund status, to check your estimated tax account, and other information)



Hotline for the hearing and speech impaired:

1 800 634-2110 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:25 p.m.(eastern time), Monday through Friday. If you do not own a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), check with independent living centers or community action programs to find out where machines are available for public use.



Persons with disabilities: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, we will ensure that our lobbies, offices, meeting rooms and other facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. If you have questions about special accommodations for persons with disabilities, please call 1 800 225-5829.



If you need to write, address your letter to:

NYS TAX DEPARTMENT
TAXPAYER CONTACT CENTER
W A HARRIMAN CAMPUS
ALBANY NY 12227