

# **NCSL SALT Task Force Meeting**

**Charleston, South Carolina**

November 22, 2019

## **2020 Legislative Initiatives to Improve State Tax Compliance & Administration**

Presented by:

**Nikki Dobay**, Council On State Taxation (COST)

**Fred Nicely**, Council On State Taxation (COST)

**Eileen Sherr**, Association of International Certified Professional Accountants

# Three Important 2020 Initiatives

## Improve State Tax Administration

- Improve Reporting of Federal Tax Adjustments to the State
  - General improvements to the process
  - Specific improvements related to new federal partnership au
- Provide Original and Extended State Tax Return Due Dates One Month After Federal Due Dates
- Enact 30-Day Threshold before non-residents are subject to (and if applicable local) income taxes – with reciprocity

# **Improve Reporting of Federal Adjustments to the State**

# Background




- Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 imposed new IRS Audit Procedures for partnerships and multi-member LLCs
  - Projected 10-year \$9.3 billion revenue-raiser (federal alone)
- States incorporate the IRC “tax base” in their laws; however, state assessment/refund laws are separate from that of the IRC
  - Almost every state that imposes an individual and/or corporate income tax has changed their federal adjustment reporting laws to account for the new federal audit procedures
- Unique opportunity to improve overall process for taxpayers to report changes to the states (and, as applicable, local governments)
- General improvements needed for all taxpayers:
  - Clear definition of Final Determination based on all issues for a tax year beginning at the federal level
  - Provide all taxpayers with at least 180 days to report (interest still accrues until reported)
  - Absent a waiver, limit changes after the state’s general statute of limitations and taxpayer to federal changes
  - Equal and clearly stated assessment/refund periods

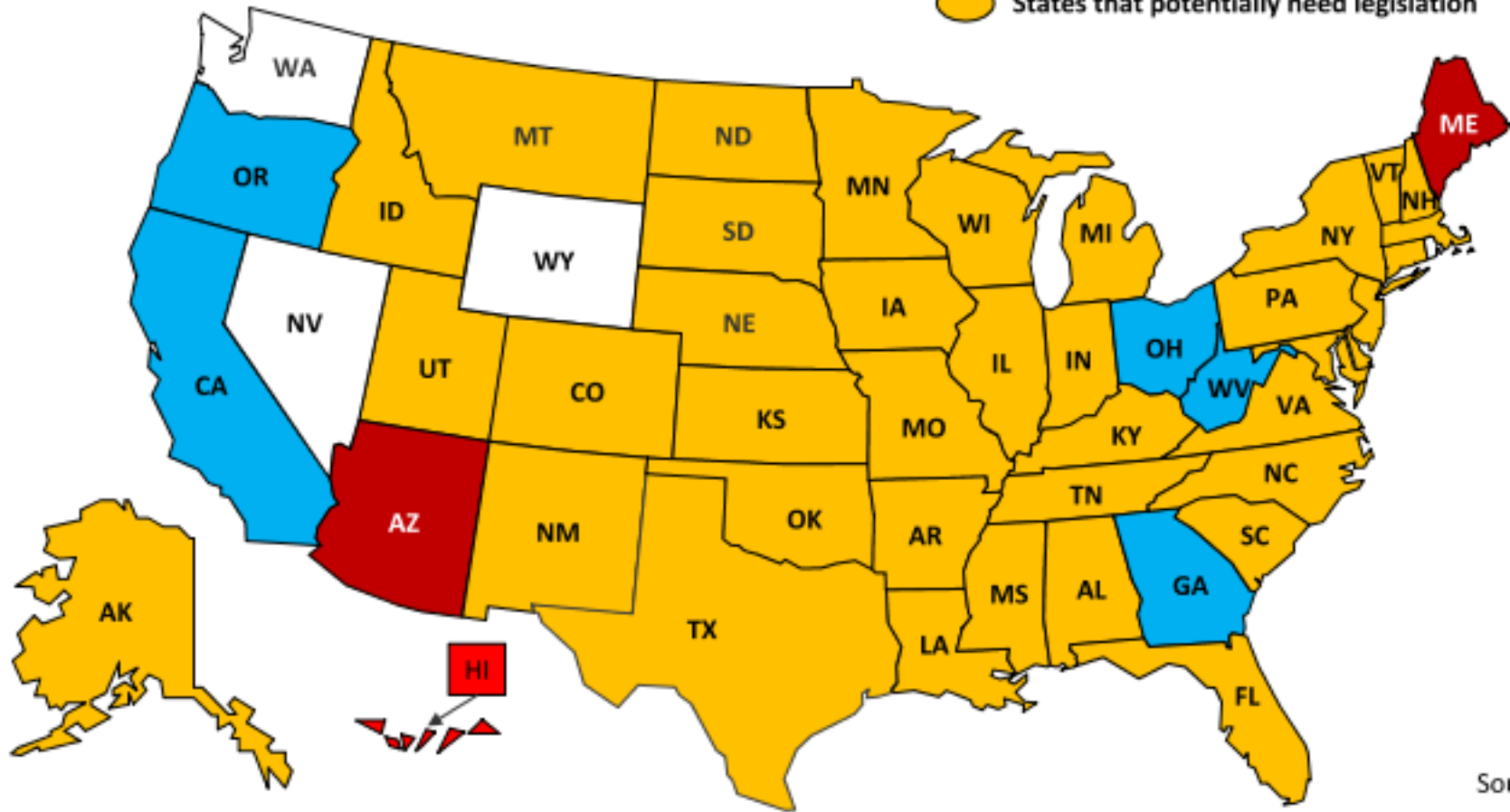
# Background Continued

- COST, AICPA, and other tax associations worked with the MTC model legislation for reporting federal changes for all taxpayers on the issues with taxpayers reporting adjustments under the new partnership audit regime
  - MTC model: <http://www.mtc.gov/getattachment/Uniformity/AdoptedRecommendations/Model-RAR-Statute.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US>
- Specific issues addressed in the MTC Model for partnership audits
  - Adopts federal partnership representative procedure, allowing for a partner to choose a different state partnership representative
  - Allows election at federal level to differ at the state level
  - Addresses apportionment/allocation issues for partnerships to pay tax, but not need to consider
  - Importantly, tiered partnership structures (partnerships owning other partnerships) are covered
- With federal audits likely starting in 2019/2020, states need to conform to the MTC Model ASAP

# States Adopting MTC Model Partner Audit Act

As of October 9, 2019

-  States that have enacted legislation
-  States that have enacted legislation, but more closely follow MTC Model
-  States that potentially need legislation



**Provide Original and Extension  
State Tax Return Due Dates a  
One Month After Federal Due**

# Why an Additional Month is Needed for State Tax Returns



## State Return Completion Follows Federal Determination of Taxable Income

Let's face it – a taxpayer cannot generally file its state income tax return until it calculates its federal income tax liability. This is especially true for multijurisdictional businesses, to calculate a state's apportionment of income, tax credits, etc.

- In general, federal returns are filed at, or very near, the extended due date, and because the state returns often are filed later, additional time is needed to submit a complete and accurate state return. TCJA implementation has only increased taxpayers timely filing returns.
- State filing deadline an additional month after federal filing provides time for taxpayers and practitioners to accurately calculate apportionment.
- The legislation would ensure that the state has:
  - State tax return due dates at least one month after the federal tax return due date.
  - State tax return due dates automatically extended with the granting of a federal extension.
  - An automatic state extension that only requires attaching a copy of the federal extension with the state return.
- Without a one-month extension, taxpayers may need to file state returns using estimates and then file amended state returns, increasing compliance burdens for taxpayers, tax preparers, and tax administrators.
- Changing the filing deadline should not affect the tax payment deadline, and therefore, should have a minimal state



# Suggested Legislation



## Suggested Legislation

A state's law should **automatically provide that the state return original and extended due dates are the federal due dates** (*e.g.*, May 15, 2020 and November 16, 2020 for 2019 calendar year returns); or, at least one month after the original and extended due dates for a taxpayer's federal income tax return.

As applicable, **interest and penalties for late *payment* of the tax may still apply (unless taxpayer complies with estimated payment requirements).**

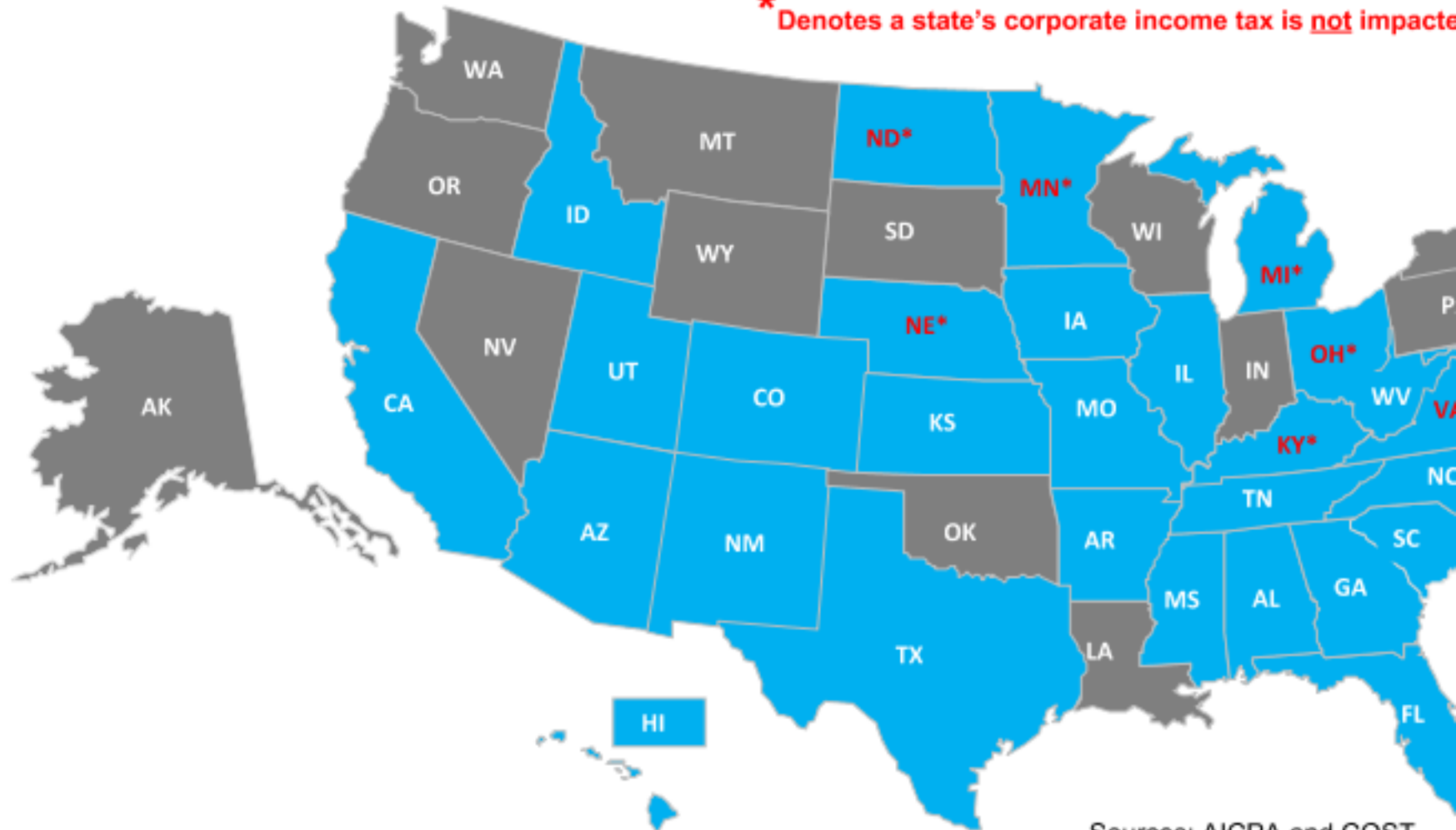
## Model Legislation –

- 1) For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2019, calendar year and fiscal year [taxpayer] return due dates shall be no later than one month after the due date established under the Federal Internal Revenue Code, including any extensions of time granted by the Internal Revenue Service.
- 2) No penalty due to late filing shall be incurred by a taxpayer granted a federal extension if its state return is filed no later than one month after the period of time specified in the Federal extension. The [taxpayer] does not need to request an extension from [revenue director] for an extension of time within which to file the taxpayer's state return.

# States that Potentially Need Legislative One-Month Filing Extension

■ Potentially impacted states for corporations and non-co

\* Denotes a state's corporate income tax is not impacted



Sources: AICPA and COST

**Enact 30-Day Threshold Before Non-Res  
Subject to State (And If Applicable Local  
Taxes – With Reciprocity Provisi**

# Background on Issues with States' Lack of Uniform Taxation when Taxing Non-Residents

## States have widely varied and inconsistent requirements for:

- **Employees** to file personal income tax returns when traveling to a nonresident state for temporary periods
- **Employers** to withhold income tax on employees who travel outside of their state residence for temporary periods
- **Unnecessary Tax Swap & Burden** with income tax credits provided by employee's resident state and non-resident states

U.S. House has passed legislation, "Mobile Workforce State Income Tax Simplification Act," (H.R. 4796 (115<sup>th</sup>)), but the U.S. Senate has not moved it – present bills for 116<sup>th</sup> Congress are H.R. 4796 & S. 1700

As a result of inaction, move to state-by-state enactment effort

## General Description of Model State Model Legislation:

- Employees earning wages/compensation not subject to tax unless in a non-resident state for a period that exceeds a limit, all earnings subject to tax from first day in the state
- Similar bills – exclusions for professional athletes, entertainers, speakers, and if applicable, temporary employees
- To encourage other states to adopt – it is suggested the states have a reciprocity provision or safe harbor based on another state having a similar law

# When is a nonresident employer subject to withholding?

Important note: These don't necessarily align with an employee's filing state. *New York is one of the most onerous because employer and employee requirements don't match.*

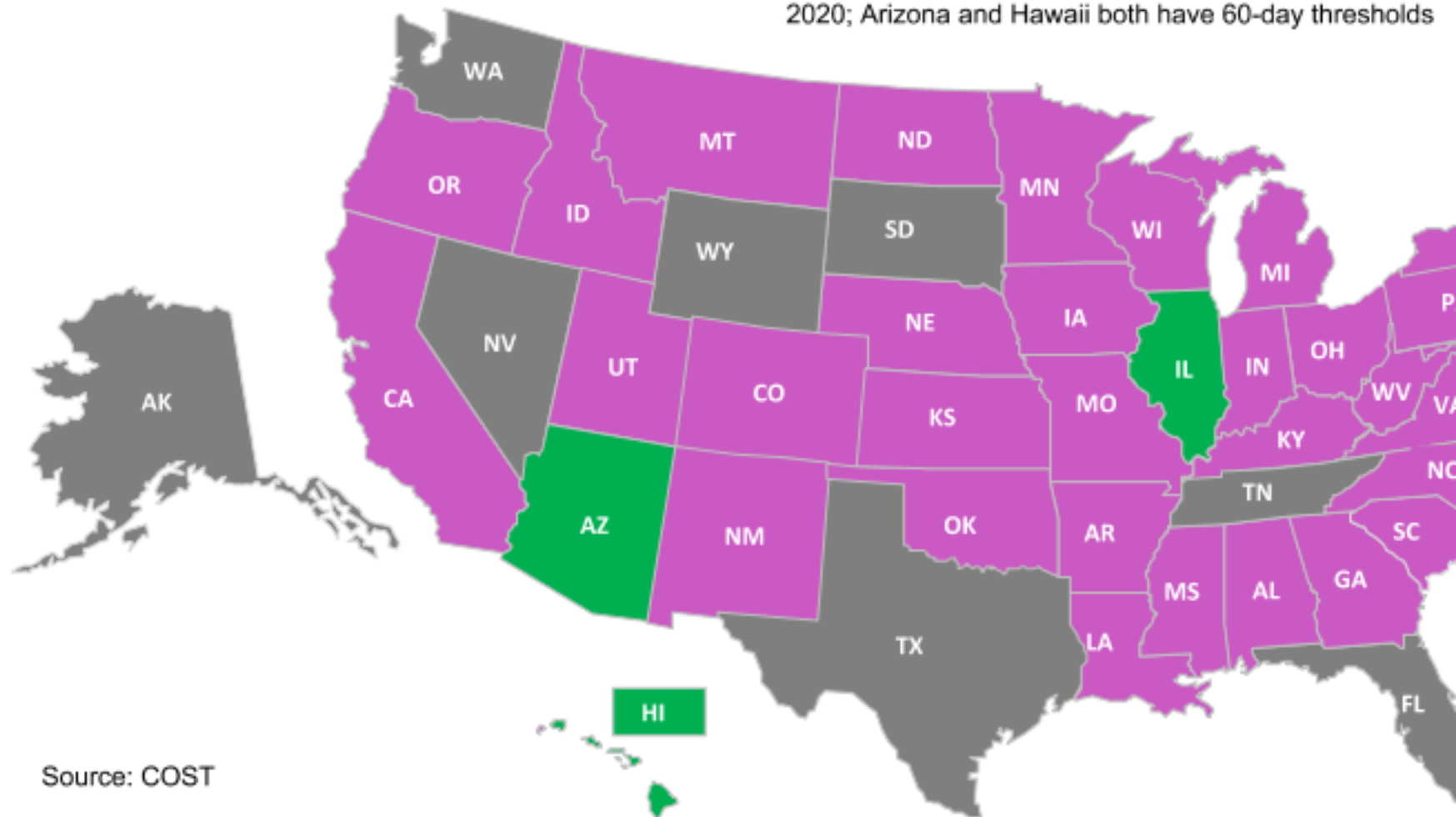


Please note that this map only covers withholding. Many states have different standards for imposing tax on nonresidents (that is, the employee may owe tax even where the employer is not required to withhold). The map does not include reciprocal agreements. Also note that 21 states provide exemptions for nonresidents performing



# States that Should Consider Legislation a 30-Day Threshold

- Impacted:** states potentially lacking a clear minimum 30-day threshold for personal income tax imposition for non-resident workers
- Resolved:** Illinois enacted 30-day threshold for tax years 2020; Arizona and Hawaii both have 60-day thresholds



Source: COST

# Questions?

## **Nikki Dobay**

Senior Tax Counsel  
Council On State Taxation (COST)  
*ndobay@cost.org*

## **Fred I**

Senior Tax Counsel  
Council On State Taxation  
*fnicely@cost.org*

## **Eileen Sherr**

Senior Manager, Tax Policy & Advocacy  
AICPA  
*Eileen.Sherr@aicpa-cima.com*