



Department of  
Taxation

## **Governor Kasich Approves Important Tax Law**

*Conformity Bill Eliminates Significant Tax Filing Complications*

*(March 25, 2013)*

Ohio Governor John Kasich has now signed into law a bill that brings the state income tax system into alignment with the federal tax system, an act important to thousands of Ohio income tax filers.

Prior to the signing of Senate Bill 28, the Ohio and federal definitions of adjusted gross income were different, requiring many Ohio taxpayers to make miscellaneous adjustments to their state income tax return. S.B. 28 – commonly referred to as the “Conformity Bill” -- incorporates more than 20 federal income tax adjustments into Ohio tax law; that means tax filing complications can now be avoided.

This Ohio conformity bill was necessitated by the enactment of federal bill HR 8 on January 3, 2013. HR 8 was enacted after Congress reached an agreement in solving the so-called “federal fiscal cliff”. An initial Ohio conformity bill (Am. Sub. H.B. 472) was approved in December 2012, incorporating the tax law changes up to that point. This second Ohio bill addresses all the tax items impacted by HR 8, keeps the Ohio definition of Adjusted Gross Income in line with the federal definition, and does not raise or add any new Ohio taxes.

The Ohio Department of Taxation has been recommending that taxpayers delay filing of their returns until Senate Bill 28 is passed and becomes effective. Since the bill is effective upon the date of the Governor’s signature (which occurred late Friday), taxpayers are no longer encouraged to delay filing. For more information and guidance on proceeding with the filing process, please visit the department’s web site – **[tax.ohio.gov](http://tax.ohio.gov)**.

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(For news media questions, please contact Gary Gudmundson, ODT Communications Director at 614-466-0099)