

LEGISLATIVE SESSION - Legislative Bulletin# 2, 2017R, Louisiana legislature

Interesting that the governor spent so much time on infrastructure in his opening address today. I'm hoping legislators didn't think he was somehow suggesting that all of the other taxes proposed are somehow going from the general fund into roads. We're still awaiting introducing of Rep. Jim Morris' gas tax legislation. In the meantime there are a lot of changes that are of big concern to a lot of folks — particularly the CAT (gross receipts tax). We'll be reporting in much greater detail on specific construction-related legislation introduced, in our next bulletin (now that all pre-filed bills have been filed. Keep in mind that tax bills may be introduced through the end of April 18, so there is much more to come.

Today the 2017 regular session of the Louisiana legislature commenced. Governor John Bel Edwards addressed the House and Senate, promoting the administration's solutions to the state's continuing revenue/budget issues. He also promoted solutions to the state's infrastructure needs.

In an earlier bulletin, we reported on administration REVENUE RAISERS: the CAT (Commercial Activity Tax) for corporations (gross receipts). The bill hasn't been introduced yet so we don't yet have all the details. Also: elimination of the federal income tax deduction for individuals and corporations; removal of exemptions from the state's sales tax; expanding sales taxes for some services; phasing out of the corporate franchise tax over a ten-year period; reduction, sun setting, or elimination of some tax credits and incentives. NON-REVENUE measures: elimination of the one-cent sales tax increased two years ago in special session, and lowering individual tax rates, and lowering of corporate income tax rates.

To date 142 tax and fee bills have been introduced, either through the administration, the Task Force on Structural Changes In Budget and Tax Policy, or ideas of others. Another 782 non-fiscal bills have been introduced by both the Senate and House. In other words this is a tax and fee session with a plethora of other matters to keep everyone interested until the House Ways & Means and Appropriations Committees and Senate Revenue & Fiscal Affairs Committee dispose of the tax/fee legislation or forward some of them on to the full House and Senate for further action.

Beginning tomorrow, the House Ways & Means Committee will hold hearings on personal income tax bills, Wednesday corporate tax issues and finally, on Thursday sales tax issues.

Attached is our Track Report which lists all legislation we have flagged for your interest and analysis. As you scroll down the brief descriptions of each bill, you can click on the bill's number and read the content of legislation, real time. BETWEEN NOW AND APRIL 18, MORE REVENUE-RAISING MEASURES MAY BE INTRODUCED. We'll add them to your Track Report as needed.

We've mixed together tax bills of much interest with other general interest bills that may have an impact on how you do business. There are so many tax measures we haven't listed all of them for now but will add them we see that they may have some traction. Please let us know which bills are of interest to you based on the report and how each affects your business.

