THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1994 Session of 2024

INTRODUCED BY BRIGGS, MADDEN, GREINER, McNEILL, KINSEY, BIZZARRO, KAZEEM, SANCHEZ, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, HILL-EVANS, WARREN, D. WILLIAMS, GREEN, MAYES, BOROWSKI, MUNROE, D'ORSIE, WATRO, DIAMOND, JOZWIAK, MERCURI, ROWE, FRITZ, GROVE, PICKETT, RADER AND WEBSTER, JANUARY 31, 2024

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 1, 2024

AN ACT

Amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), entitled "An act relating to tax reform and State taxation by codifying-2 and enumerating certain subjects of taxation and imposing 3 4 taxes thereon; providing procedures for the payment, collection, administration and enforcement thereof; providing for tax credits in certain cases; conferring powers and 7 imposing duties upon the Department of Revenue, certain employers, fiduciaries, individuals, persons, corporations 8 and other entities; prescribing crimes, offenses and 9 penalties," in procedure and administration, further 10 providing for definitions and for review by board and 11 providing for settlement conference process. 12 AMENDING THE ACT OF MARCH 4, 1971 (P.L.6, NO.2), ENTITLED "AN ACT RELATING TO TAX REFORM AND STATE TAXATION BY CODIFYING 13 14 AND ENUMERATING CERTAIN SUBJECTS OF TAXATION AND IMPOSING 15 TAXES THEREON; PROVIDING PROCEDURES FOR THE PAYMENT, 16 COLLECTION, ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT THEREOF; PROVIDING 17 FOR TAX CREDITS IN CERTAIN CASES; CONFERRING POWERS AND 18 19 IMPOSING DUTIES UPON THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, CERTAIN EMPLOYERS, FIDUCIARIES, INDIVIDUALS, PERSONS, CORPORATIONS 20 AND OTHER ENTITIES; PRESCRIBING CRIMES, OFFENSES AND 21 PENALTIES," IN CORPORATE NET INCOME TAX, FURTHER PROVIDING 22 FOR DEFINITIONS; IN PROCEDURE AND ADMINISTRATION, FURTHER 23 PROVIDING FOR PETITION FOR REASSESSMENT AND FOR REVIEW BY 24 BOARD AND PROVIDING FOR SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE PROCESS, FOR 25 CLOSING AGREEMENTS AND FOR REPORT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY; AND, IN GENERAL PROVISIONS, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR TIMELY FILING. 27 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 2.8

- 1 hereby enacts as follows:
- 2 Section 1. Section 2701 of the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, <--
- 3 No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, is amended by
- 4 adding a definition to read:
- 5 Section 2701. Definitions.
- 6 The following words and phrases when used in this article-
- 7 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
- 8 context clearly indicates otherwise:
- 9 * * *
- 10 "Treasurer." The State Treasurer of the Commonwealth.
- 11 Section 2. Section 2704(d.7) of the act is amended and the
- 12 section is amended by adding a subsection to read:
- 13 Section 2704. Review by board.
- 14 * * *
- 15 (a.1) Extension for filing petition. Notwithstanding any
- 16 provision to the contrary, the date for filing a petition
- 17 required under this article with the board may be extended by
- 18 the board upon:
- 19 (1) written application for good cause shown; and
- 20 (2) a finding that granting the application will not
- 21 <u>prejudice the other party.</u>
- 22 * * *
- 23 [(d.7) Compromise settlement.—The board shall establish—
- 24 procedures to facilitate the compromise settlement of issues on
- 25 appeal. A compromise settlement shall be ordered by the board
- 26 only with the agreement of both the petitioner and the-
- 27 department. The provisions of section 2707(c) shall be-
- 28 applicable to compromise settlements under this section.]
- 29 * * *
- 30 Section 3. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

Τ	Section 2/04.1. Settlement conference process.
2	(a) Settlement officer. The board shall appoint one or more
3	individuals to serve as a settlement officer for a settlement
4	conference initiated under subsection (b), to whom the following
5	shall apply:
6	(1) A settlement officer may be either an employee of
7	the board or a third party contractor retained by the board.
8	(2) A settlement officer:
9	(i) must be a citizen of the United States;
10	(ii) must be an attorney in good standing before the
11	Supreme Court of Pennsylvania or a certified public
12	accountant in good standing before the State Board of
13	Accountancy;
14	(iii) must have significant experience in a position
15	requiring substantial knowledge of Pennsylvania tax law;
16	and
17	(iv) may not be employed by the department, board or
18	the treasurer, other than in the capacity as a settlement
19	officer.
20	(3) A settlement officer shall:
21	(i) be fair and impartial and is not permitted to
22	preside over a settlement conference if the settlement
23	officer cannot conduct it in an impartial manner; and
24	(ii) disclose, as soon as practicable, all actual
25	and potential conflicts of interest that are reasonably
26	known to the settlement officer and could reasonably be
27	seen as raising a question about the officer's interest
28	in the outcome unless the petitioner and the department
29	consent in writing.
30	(4) The board may remove a settlement officer at its

1	sole discretion.
2	(5) The treasurer shall set the compensation for a
3	settlement officer.
4	(b) Request for settlement conference. Notwithstanding
5	section 2704(f)(1), either party may submit a request for, or
6	the board may direct, a settlement conference to settle a
7	petition for review of a decision and order under the board's
8	jurisdiction. The request for a settlement conference shall be
9	submitted to the board, unless the settlement conference is
10	directed by the board, by filing a written request with the
11	petition or within 30 days of the petition being filed. The
12	board may allow settlement conferences after the deadline in the
13	exercise of discretion or upon application for good cause. The
14	following shall apply:
15	(1) The board may defer consideration of the petition
16	until after either party declines to participate in a
17	settlement conference or the settlement conference is deemed
18	terminated under subsection (e). If the board defers
19	consideration of the petition, the board shall issue a
20	decision and order disposing of the petition within six
21	months of the party's refusal to participate in a settlement
22	conference or termination.
23	(2) The party requesting a settlement conference shall
24	simultaneously notify the other party or parties and the
25	board of the request, unless the board initiated the
26	settlement conference.
27	(3) A request for settlement must provide a brief
28	description of the dispute and the relief requested. The
29	nonrequesting party or parties must file a written response
30	with the board and provide a copy to the requesting party in

	support of of opposition to the settlement conference within
2	10 business days of the requestor's submission.
3	(4) The board, within five business days of receipt of
4	the response in support of or opposition to the settlement
5	conference, shall notify the parties in writing whether the
6	board will refer an appeal to a settlement conference.
7	(5) A petitioner may decline to participate in a
8	settlement conference upon providing the board with written
9	notice of its intent not to participate within five business
10	days of receipt of notice of the referral.
11	(c) Settlement conference. The following shall apply to a
12	settlement conference requested under subsection (b):
13	(1) A settlement conference shall be held no later than
14	60 days from the date the board refers a case for settlement
15	conference.
16	(2) The settlement officer shall set the date, time and
17	place for each conference. The parties shall respond to
18	requests for conference dates in a timely manner, be
19	cooperative in scheduling the earliest practicable date and
20	adhere to the established conference schedule. The settlement
21	officer, in the exercise of discretion or upon application
22	for good cause, may reschedule a conference. The settlement
23	officer shall provide notice of the conference to the parties
24	in advance of the conference date.
25	(3) A settlement conference and related settlement
26	conference communications are private proceedings. A
27	representative of each party must attend each settlement
28	conference. A party is not required to attend each settlement
29	conference unless the party does not have representation.
30	Other individuals may attend a settlement conference only

Τ	<u>with the permission of the parties and with the consent of </u>
2	the settlement officer.
3	(4) A settlement conference may be conducted virtually
4	or in person.
5	(5) A settlement conference may not be recorded
6	electronically or in any other manner, regardless of the
7	consent of the parties.
8	(6) The following shall apply to representation at a
9	settlement conference:
_0	(i) A party is not required to retain representation
1	for a settlement conference.
2	(ii) If a party retains representation, the party
. 3	may be represented at a settlement conference by any
4	individual of the party's choosing.
.5	(iii) Each party must have a representative attend a
. 6	settlement conference who has the authority to consummate
_7	a settlement, which shall include each party who has not
-8	<u>retained representation.</u>
_9	(7) The settlement officer shall conduct the settlement
20	conference in an informal manner with the purpose of
21	facilitating a settlement between the petitioner and the
22	department. The settlement officer is authorized to conduct
23	separate or ex parte meetings and other communications with
24	the parties, and any representatives of the parties, before,
25	during and after any scheduled settlement conference.
26	(8) Prior to and during the scheduled settlement
27	conference the parties and their representatives shall, as
28	appropriate to each party's circumstances, exercise best
29	efforts to prepare for and engage in a meaningful and
30	productive settlement conference.

1	(9) The parties are encouraged to exchange all documents
2	pertinent to the relief requested. The settlement officer may
3	request the exchange of memoranda on issues, including the
4	underlying interests and the history of the parties'
5	negotiations. Information that a party wishes to keep
6	confidential may be sent to the settlement officer, as
7	necessary, in a separate communication with the settlement
8	officer.
9	(10) Confidential information disclosed to a settlement
10	officer by a party in the course of a settlement conference
11	shall not be divulged by the settlement officer. The
12	settlement officer shall maintain the confidentiality of all
13	information obtained in the settlement conference, and all
14	records, reports or other documents received by the
15	settlement officer while serving in that capacity shall be
16	confidential. The settlement officer shall be subject to the
17	provisions and penalties of section 731 of the act of April
18	9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code.
19	(11) The settlement officer must return to each
20	respective party all documents containing confidential
21	information presented at the settlement conference within 30
22	days after the earlier of the date that the board accepts a
23	settlement, or the board mails its order deciding the case.
24	(12) A party must submit to the board any documents
25	intended to be used in support of the party's appeal. The
26	documents must be submitted in accordance with the rules and
27	procedures of the board for submitting additional evidence.
28	(13) The settlement officer shall not be compelled to
29	divulge confidential records or to testify in regard to the
30	settlement conference in any administrative, judicial or

Τ	otner proceeding.
2	(14) No confidential or privileged document or other
3	record presented or included in a settlement conference shall
4	be subject to the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3),
5	known as the Right-to-Know-Law.
6	(15) Each party to a settlement conference shall
7	maintain the confidentiality of the settlement conference and
8	shall not rely on or introduce as evidence in any
9	administrative, judicial or other proceeding the following,
10	unless agreed to by the parties or required by applicable
11	law:
12	(i) Views expressed or suggestions made by a party
13	or other participant with respect to a possible
14	settlement of the dispute.
15	(ii) Admissions made by a party or other participant
16	in the course of the settlement conference.
17	(iii) Proposals made or views expressed by the
18	settlement officer.
19	(iv) The fact that a party had or had not indicated
20	willingness to accept a proposal for settlement made by
21	the settlement officer.
22	(16) A settlement officer is not a legal representative
23	of any party and has no fiduciary duty to any party.
24	(d) Post settlement conference procedures.
25	(1) The settlement officer shall evaluate the merits of
26	a dispute during the settlement conference. The evaluations
27	shall be communicated to each party privately or, if the
28	parties agree, to all parties jointly. Unless parties agree
29	otherwise, evaluations shall be communicated orally.
30	(2) The settlement officer does not have the authority

_	to impose a sectioner on the parties. Subject to the
2	discretion of the settlement officer, the officer may make
3	oral or written recommendations for settlement to a party
4	privately or, if the parties agree, to all parties jointly.
5	(3) In the event a settlement of all or some of the
6	issues in dispute is not achieved within the scheduled
7	settlement conference, the settlement officer may continue to
8	communicate with the parties for a period of time not to
9	exceed 30 days from the date of the settlement conference,
10	during which time the parties agree to negotiate in earnest
11	in an ongoing effort to facilitate a complete settlement.
12	(4) If the parties to a settlement conference come to an
13	agreement, the parties shall present the terms of the
14	settlement to the board for approval in writing signed by all
15	parties within 10 business days after reaching the
16	settlement. The settlement agreement shall be approved by the
17	board if the board determines the agreement is not contrary
18	to law.
19	(5) If the parties to a settlement conference cannot
20	reach a settlement of any or all of the issues, the board
21	shall proceed in accordance with the procedure specified in
22	this act and regulations.
23	(6) A settlement agreement shall not be considered as
24	precedent and cannot be appealed.
25	(e) Termination of a settlement conference. The settlement
26	conference shall be terminated:
27	(1) by the board approving a settlement agreement by the
28	parties;
28 29	(2) by a written declaration by the settlement officer

- 1 contribute to a resolution of the parties' dispute;
- 2 <u>(3) by a written declaration of all parties that the</u>
- 3 settlement conference is terminated; or
- 4 <u>(4) when the settlement officer has represented in</u>
- 5 writing to the board that there has been no communication
- 6 between the settlement officer and any party or party's
- 7 <u>representative for 21 days following the conclusion of the</u>
- 8 <u>settlement conference.</u>
- 9 <u>(f) Exclusion of liability. A settlement officer is not a</u>
- 10 necessary or proper party in administrative, judicial or other
- 11 proceedings relating to the settlement conference.
- 12 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, parties to
- 13 a settlement conference under this section shall be deemed to
- 14 have consented that the settlement officer shall not be liable
- 15 to any party for any error, act or omission in connection with
- 16 any settlement conference conducted under this section. Parties
- 17 to a settlement conference under this section may not call a
- 18 settlement officer as a witness in litigation or any other
- 19 proceeding relating to the settlement conference. The settlement
- 20 officer is not competent to testify as a witness in any
- 21 proceeding related to the settlement conference.
- 22 (g) Rules and regulations. The board may adopt rules and
- 23 regulations necessary to effectuate this section.
- 24 (h) Laws not applicable. The provisions of 2 Pa.C.S.
- 25 (relating to administrative law and procedure) shall not apply
- 26 to a settlement conference conducted under this section.
- 27 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.
- 28 SECTION 1. SECTION 401(3)1(B.2) OF THE ACT OF MARCH 4, 1971 <--
- 29 (P.L.6, NO.2), KNOWN AS THE TAX REFORM CODE OF 1971, ADDED JULY
- 30 11, 2024 (P.L.674, NO.56), IS AMENDED TO READ:

- 1 SECTION 401. DEFINITIONS.--THE FOLLOWING WORDS, TERMS, AND
- 2 PHRASES, WHEN USED IN THIS ARTICLE, SHALL HAVE THE MEANING
- 3 ASCRIBED TO THEM IN THIS SECTION, EXCEPT WHERE THE CONTEXT
- 4 CLEARLY INDICATES A DIFFERENT MEANING:
- 5 * * *
- 6 (3) "TAXABLE INCOME." 1. * * *
- 7 (B.2) AN ADDITIONAL DEDUCTION SHALL BE ALLOWED FROM THE
- 8 TAXABLE INCOME OF A MEDICAL CANNABIS BUSINESS IN THE AMOUNT OF
- 9 THE ORDINARY AND NECESSARY EXPENSES THAT WERE PAID OR INCURRED
- 10 BY THE MEDICAL CANNABIS BUSINESS DURING THE TAXABLE YEAR THAT
- 11 ARE ORDINARILY DEDUCTIBLE FOR FEDERAL INCOME TAX PURPOSES UNDER
- 12 SECTION 162 OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 (PUBLIC LAW 99-
- 13 514, 26 U.S.C. § 162) IF NO DEDUCTION FOR ORDINARY AND NECESSARY
- 14 EXPENSES PAID OR INCURRED BY THE MEDICAL CANNABIS BUSINESS WAS
- 15 TAKEN FOR FEDERAL INCOME TAX PURPOSES FOR THE TAXABLE YEAR. AS
- 16 USED IN THIS PHRASE, THE TERM "MEDICAL CANNABIS BUSINESS" SHALL
- 17 MEAN A MEDICAL MARIJUANA ORGANIZATION AS DEFINED IN SECTION 103
- 18 OF THE ACT OF APRIL 17, 2016 (P.L.84, NO.16), KNOWN AS THE
- 19 "MEDICAL MARIJUANA ACT," THAT HAS AN ACTIVE GROWER/PROCESSOR
- 20 PERMIT OR DISPENSARY PERMIT DURING THE TAXABLE YEAR FOR WHICH
- 21 THE DEDUCTION IS SOUGHT.
- 22 * * *
- 23 SECTION 2. SECTIONS 2702(A) AND 2704(A) OF THE ACT ARE
- 24 AMENDED TO READ:
- 25 SECTION 2702. PETITION FOR REASSESSMENT.
- 26 (A) GENERAL RULE. -- [A]
- 27 (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2), A TAXPAYER
- 28 MAY FILE A PETITION FOR REASSESSMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT
- 29 WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE MAILING DATE OF THE NOTICE OF
- 30 ASSESSMENT.

- 1 (2) FOR AN ASSESSMENT OF TAX IMPOSED UNDER ARTICLE III,
- 2 A TAXPAYER MAY FILE A PETITION FOR REASSESSMENT WITH THE
- 3 DEPARTMENT WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER THE MAILING DATE OF THE
- 4 NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT. AN EXTENSION OF TIME FOR FILING THE
- 5 PETITION MAY BE ALLOWED FOR CAUSE BUT MAY NOT EXCEED AN
- 6 ADDITIONAL 30 DAYS.
- 7 * * *
- 8 SECTION 2704. REVIEW BY BOARD.
- 9 (A) PETITION FOR REVIEW OF A DECISION AND ORDER.--[WITHIN]
- 10 (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2), WITHIN 60
- 11 DAYS AFTER THE MAILING DATE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S NOTICE OF
- 12 DECISION AND ORDER ON A PETITION FILED WITH IT, A TAXPAYER
- 13 MAY PETITION THE BOARD TO REVIEW THE DECISION AND ORDER OF
- 14 THE DEPARTMENT.
- 15 (2) FOR AN ASSESSMENT OF TAX IMPOSED UNDER ARTICLE III,
- 16 <u>A TAXPAYER MAY FILE A PETITION FOR REVIEW WITH THE BOARD</u>
- 17 WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER THE MAILING DATE OF THE DECISION AND
- ORDER OF THE DEPARTMENT. AN EXTENSION OF TIME FOR FILING THE
- 19 PETITION MAY BE ALLOWED FOR CAUSE BUT MAY NOT EXCEED AN
- 20 ADDITIONAL 30 DAYS.
- 21 * * *
- 22 SECTION 3. THE ACT IS AMENDED BY ADDING SECTIONS TO READ:
- 23 SECTION 2704.1. SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE PROCESS.
- 24 (A) SETTLEMENT OFFICER.--THE BOARD SHALL APPOINT ONE OR MORE
- 25 INDIVIDUALS TO SERVE AS A SETTLEMENT OFFICER FOR A SETTLEMENT
- 26 CONFERENCE INITIATED UNDER SUBSECTION (B), AND THE FOLLOWING
- 27 SHALL APPLY:
- 28 (1) A SETTLEMENT OFFICER MUST BE A THIRD-PARTY
- 29 CONTRACTOR RETAINED BY THE BOARD.
- 30 (2) A SETTLEMENT OFFICER:

Τ	(1) MUST BE A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES;
2	(II) MUST BE AN ATTORNEY IN GOOD STANDING BEFORE THE
3	SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA OR A CERTIFIED PUBLIC
4	ACCOUNTANT IN GOOD STANDING BEFORE THE STATE BOARD OF
5	ACCOUNTANCY;
6	(III) MUST HAVE SIGNIFICANT EXPERIENCE IN A POSITION
7	REQUIRING SUBSTANTIAL KNOWLEDGE OF PENNSYLVANIA TAX LAW;
8	AND
9	(IV) MAY NOT BE EMPLOYED BY THE DEPARTMENT, BOARD OR
10	THE STATE TREASURER, OTHER THAN IN THE CAPACITY AS A
11	SETTLEMENT OFFICER.
12	(3) A SETTLEMENT OFFICER:
13	(I) SHALL BE FAIR AND IMPARTIAL AND IS NOT PERMITTED
14	TO PRESIDE OVER A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE IF THE SETTLEMENT
15	OFFICER CANNOT CONDUCT IT IN AN IMPARTIAL MANNER; AND
16	(II) SHALL DISCLOSE, AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE, ALL
17	ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST THAT ARE
18	REASONABLY KNOWN TO THE SETTLEMENT OFFICER AND COULD
19	REASONABLY BE SEEN AS RAISING A QUESTION ABOUT THE
20	OFFICER'S INTEREST IN THE OUTCOME UNLESS THE PETITIONER
21	AND THE DEPARTMENT CONSENT IN WRITING.
22	(4) THE BOARD MAY REMOVE A SETTLEMENT OFFICER AT ITS
23	SOLE DISCRETION.
24	(5) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL SET THE COMPENSATION FOR A
25	SETTLEMENT OFFICER.
26	(B) REQUEST FOR SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE NOTWITHSTANDING
27	SECTION 2704(F)(1), EITHER PARTY MAY SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR, OR
28	THE BOARD MAY DIRECT, A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE TO SETTLE A
29	PETITION FOR REVIEW OF A DECISION AND ORDER UNDER THE BOARD'S
30	JURISDICTION. THE REQUEST FOR A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE SHALL BE

- 1 SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD, UNLESS THE SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE IS
- 2 DIRECTED BY THE BOARD, BY FILING A WRITTEN REQUEST WITH THE
- 3 PETITION OR WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE PETITION BEING FILED. THE
- 4 BOARD MAY ALLOW SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES AFTER THE DEADLINE IN THE
- 5 EXERCISE OF DISCRETION OR UPON APPLICATION FOR GOOD CAUSE. THE
- 6 FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY:
- 7 (1) THE BOARD MAY DEFER CONSIDERATION OF THE PETITION
- 8 UNTIL AFTER THE PARTIES TERMINATE A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE OR
- 9 THE SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE IS DEEMED TERMINATED UNDER
- 10 SUBSECTION (E). IF THE BOARD DEFERS CONSIDERATION OF THE
- 11 PETITION, THE BOARD SHALL ISSUE A DECISION AND ORDER
- 12 DISPOSING OF THE PETITION WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF THE PARTY'S
- 13 REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE OR
- 14 <u>TERMINATION</u>.
- 15 (2) THE PARTY REQUESTING A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE SHALL
- 16 <u>SIMULTANEOUSLY NOTIFY THE OTHER PARTY OR PARTIES AND THE</u>
- 17 BOARD OF THE REQUEST, UNLESS THE BOARD INITIATED THE
- 18 SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE.
- 19 (3) A REOUEST FOR SETTLEMENT MUST PROVIDE A BRIEF
- 20 DESCRIPTION OF THE DISPUTE AND THE RELIEF REQUESTED. THE
- 21 NONREOUESTING PARTY OR PARTIES MUST FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE
- 22 WITH THE BOARD AND PROVIDE A COPY TO THE REQUESTING PARTY IN
- 23 SUPPORT OF OR OPPOSITION TO THE SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE WITHIN
- 24 10 BUSINESS DAYS OF THE REQUESTER'S SUBMISSION.
- 25 (4) THE BOARD, WITHIN FIVE BUSINESS DAYS OF RECEIPT OF
- THE RESPONSE IN SUPPORT OF OR OPPOSITION TO THE SETTLEMENT
- 27 CONFERENCE, SHALL NOTIFY THE PARTIES IN WRITING WHETHER THE
- 28 BOARD WILL REFER AN APPEAL TO A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE.
- 29 <u>(5) A PETITIONER MAY DECLINE TO PARTICIPATE IN A</u>
- 30 SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE UPON PROVIDING THE BOARD WITH WRITTEN

- 1 NOTICE OF ITS INTENT NOT TO PARTICIPATE WITHIN FIVE BUSINESS
- 2 DAYS OF RECEIPT OF NOTICE OF THE REFERRAL.
- 3 (C) SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE. -- THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY TO A
- 4 SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE REQUESTED UNDER SUBSECTION (B):
- 5 (1) A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE SHALL BE HELD NO LATER THAN
- 6 <u>60 DAYS FROM THE DATE THE BOARD REFERS A CASE FOR SETTLEMENT</u>
- 7 CONFERENCE.
- 8 (2) THE SETTLEMENT OFFICER SHALL SET THE DATE, TIME AND
- 9 PLACE FOR EACH CONFERENCE. THE PARTIES SHALL RESPOND TO
- 10 REQUESTS FOR CONFERENCE DATES IN A TIMELY MANNER, BE
- 11 COOPERATIVE IN SCHEDULING THE EARLIEST PRACTICABLE DATE AND
- 12 ADHERE TO THE ESTABLISHED CONFERENCE SCHEDULE. THE SETTLEMENT
- 13 OFFICER, IN THE EXERCISE OF DISCRETION OR UPON APPLICATION
- 14 FOR GOOD CAUSE, MAY RESCHEDULE A CONFERENCE. THE SETTLEMENT
- OFFICER SHALL PROVIDE NOTICE OF THE CONFERENCE TO THE PARTIES
- 16 IN ADVANCE OF THE CONFERENCE DATE.
- 17 (3) A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE AND RELATED SETTLEMENT
- 18 CONFERENCE COMMUNICATIONS ARE PRIVATE PROCEEDINGS. A
- 19 REPRESENTATIVE OF EACH PARTY MUST ATTEND EACH SETTLEMENT
- 20 CONFERENCE. A PARTY IS NOT REQUIRED TO ATTEND EACH SETTLEMENT
- 21 CONFERENCE UNLESS THE PARTY DOES NOT HAVE REPRESENTATION.
- 22 OTHER INDIVIDUALS MAY ATTEND A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE ONLY
- 23 WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE PARTIES AND WITH THE CONSENT OF
- 24 THE SETTLEMENT OFFICER.
- 25 (4) A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE MAY BE CONDUCTED VIRTUALLY
- OR IN PERSON.
- 27 <u>(5) A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE MAY NOT BE RECORDED</u>
- 28 ELECTRONICALLY OR IN ANY OTHER MANNER, REGARDLESS OF THE
- 29 CONSENT OF THE PARTIES.
- 30 (6) THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY TO REPRESENTATION AT A

1	SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE:
2	(I) A PARTY IS NOT REQUIRED TO RETAIN REPRESENTATION
3	FOR A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE.
4	(II) IF A PARTY RETAINS REPRESENTATION, THE PARTY
5	MAY BE REPRESENTED AT A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE BY ANY
6	INDIVIDUAL OF THE PARTY'S CHOOSING.
7	(III) EACH PARTY MUST HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE ATTEND A
8	SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE WHO HAS THE AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE
9	A SETTLEMENT, WHICH SHALL INCLUDE EACH PARTY WHO HAS NOT
10	RETAINED REPRESENTATION.
11	(7) THE SETTLEMENT OFFICER SHALL CONDUCT THE SETTLEMENT
12	CONFERENCE IN AN INFORMAL MANNER WITH THE PURPOSE OF
13	FACILITATING A SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE PETITIONER AND THE
14	DEPARTMENT. THE SETTLEMENT OFFICER IS AUTHORIZED TO CONDUCT
15	SEPARATE OR EX PARTE MEETINGS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS WITH
16	THE PARTIES, AND ANY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARTIES, BEFORE,
17	DURING AND AFTER ANY SCHEDULED SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE.
18	(8) PRIOR TO AND DURING THE SCHEDULED SETTLEMENT
19	CONFERENCE, THE PARTIES AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES SHALL, AS
20	APPROPRIATE TO EACH PARTY'S CIRCUMSTANCES, EXERCISE BEST
21	EFFORTS TO PREPARE FOR AND ENGAGE IN A MEANINGFUL AND
22	PRODUCTIVE SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE.
23	(9) THE PARTIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO EXCHANGE ALL DOCUMENTS
24	PERTINENT TO THE RELIEF REQUESTED. THE SETTLEMENT OFFICER MAY
25	REQUEST THE EXCHANGE OF MEMORANDA ON ISSUES, INCLUDING THE
26	UNDERLYING INTERESTS AND THE HISTORY OF THE PARTIES'
27	NEGOTIATIONS. INFORMATION THAT A PARTY WISHES TO KEEP
28	CONFIDENTIAL MAY BE SENT TO THE SETTLEMENT OFFICER, AS
29	NECESSARY, IN A SEPARATE COMMUNICATION WITH THE SETTLEMENT
30	OFFICER.

1	(10) CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION DISCLOSED TO A SETTLEMENT
2	OFFICER BY A PARTY IN THE COURSE OF A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE
3	SHALL NOT BE DIVULGED BY THE SETTLEMENT OFFICER. THE
4	SETTLEMENT OFFICER SHALL MAINTAIN THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF ALL
5	INFORMATION OBTAINED IN THE SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE, AND ALL
6	RECORDS, REPORTS OR OTHER DOCUMENTS RECEIVED BY THE
7	SETTLEMENT OFFICER WHILE SERVING IN THAT CAPACITY SHALL BE
8	CONFIDENTIAL. THE SETTLEMENT OFFICER SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE
9	PROVISIONS AND PENALTIES OF SECTION 731 OF THE ACT OF APRIL
10	9, 1929 (P.L.343, NO.176), KNOWN AS THE FISCAL CODE.
11	(11) THE SETTLEMENT OFFICER MUST RETURN TO EACH
12	RESPECTIVE PARTY ALL DOCUMENTS CONTAINING CONFIDENTIAL
13	INFORMATION PRESENTED AT THE SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE WITHIN 30
14	DAYS AFTER THE EARLIER OF THE DATE THAT THE BOARD ACCEPTS A
15	SETTLEMENT OR THE BOARD MAILS ITS ORDER DECIDING THE CASE.
16	(12) A PARTY MUST SUBMIT TO THE BOARD ANY DOCUMENTS
17	INTENDED TO BE USED IN SUPPORT OF THE PARTY'S APPEAL. THE
18	DOCUMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES AND
19	PROCEDURES OF THE BOARD FOR SUBMITTING ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE.
20	(13) THE SETTLEMENT OFFICER SHALL NOT BE COMPELLED TO
21	DIVULGE CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS OR TO TESTIFY IN REGARD TO THE
22	SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE IN ANY ADMINISTRATIVE, JUDICIAL OR
23	OTHER PROCEEDING.
24	(14) NO CONFIDENTIAL OR PRIVILEGED DOCUMENT OR OTHER
25	RECORD PRESENTED OR INCLUDED IN A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE SHALL
26	BE SUBJECT TO ACCESS UNDER THE ACT OF FEBRUARY 14, 2008
27	(P.L.6, NO.3), KNOWN AS THE RIGHT-TO-KNOW LAW.
28	(15) EACH PARTY TO A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE SHALL
29	MAINTAIN THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE AND
30	SHALL NOT RELY ON OR INTRODUCE AS EVIDENCE IN ANY

1	ADMINISTRATIVE, JUDICIAL OR OTHER PROCEEDING THE FOLLOWING,
2	UNLESS AGREED TO BY THE PARTIES OR REQUIRED BY APPLICABLE
3	<u>LAW:</u>
4	(I) VIEWS EXPRESSED OR SUGGESTIONS MADE BY A PARTY
5	OR OTHER PARTICIPANT WITH RESPECT TO A POSSIBLE
6	SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE.
7	(II) ADMISSIONS MADE BY A PARTY OR OTHER PARTICIPANT
8	IN THE COURSE OF THE SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE.
9	(III) PROPOSALS MADE OR VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE
10	SETTLEMENT OFFICER.
11	(IV) THE FACT THAT A PARTY HAD OR HAD NOT INDICATED
12	WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT A PROPOSAL FOR SETTLEMENT MADE BY
13	THE SETTLEMENT OFFICER.
14	(16) A SETTLEMENT OFFICER IS NOT A LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE
15	OF ANY PARTY AND HAS NO FIDUCIARY DUTY TO ANY PARTY.
16	(D) POSTSETTLEMENT CONFERENCE PROCEDURES
17	(1) THE SETTLEMENT OFFICER SHALL EVALUATE THE MERITS OF
18	A DISPUTE DURING THE SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE. THE EVALUATIONS
19	SHALL BE COMMUNICATED TO EACH PARTY PRIVATELY OR, IF THE
20	PARTIES AGREE, TO ALL PARTIES JOINTLY. UNLESS PARTIES AGREE
21	OTHERWISE, EVALUATIONS SHALL BE COMMUNICATED ORALLY.
22	(2) THE SETTLEMENT OFFICER DOES NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY
23	TO IMPOSE A SETTLEMENT ON THE PARTIES. SUBJECT TO THE
24	DISCRETION OF THE SETTLEMENT OFFICER, THE OFFICER MAY MAKE
25	ORAL OR WRITTEN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SETTLEMENT TO A PARTY
26	PRIVATELY OR, IF THE PARTIES AGREE, TO ALL PARTIES JOINTLY.
27	(3) IN THE EVENT A SETTLEMENT OF ALL OR SOME OF THE
28	ISSUES IN DISPUTE IS NOT ACHIEVED WITHIN THE SCHEDULED
29	SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE, THE SETTLEMENT OFFICER MAY CONTINUE TO
30	COMMUNICATE WITH THE PARTIES FOR A PERIOD OF TIME NOT TO

- 1 EXCEED 30 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE,
- 2 DURING WHICH TIME THE PARTIES AGREE TO NEGOTIATE IN EARNEST
- 3 IN AN ONGOING EFFORT TO FACILITATE A COMPLETE SETTLEMENT.
- 4 (4) IF THE PARTIES TO A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE COME TO AN
- 5 AGREEMENT, THE PARTIES SHALL PRESENT THE TERMS OF THE
- 6 <u>SETTLEMENT TO THE BOARD FOR APPROVAL IN WRITING SIGNED BY ALL</u>
- 7 PARTIES WITHIN 10 BUSINESS DAYS AFTER REACHING THE
- 8 SETTLEMENT. THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT SHALL BE APPROVED BY THE
- 9 BOARD IF THE BOARD DETERMINES THE AGREEMENT IS NOT CONTRARY
- 10 TO LAW.
- 11 (5) IF THE PARTIES TO A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE CANNOT
- 12 REACH A SETTLEMENT OF ANY OR ALL OF THE ISSUES, THE BOARD
- 13 SHALL PROCEED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCEDURE SPECIFIED IN
- 14 THIS ACT AND REGULATIONS.
- 15 <u>(6) A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED AS</u>
- 16 PRECEDENT AND CANNOT BE APPEALED.
- 17 (E) TERMINATION OF A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE.--THE SETTLEMENT
- 18 CONFERENCE SHALL BE TERMINATED:
- 19 (1) BY THE BOARD APPROVING A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BY THE
- 20 PARTIES;
- 21 (2) BY A WRITTEN DECLARATION BY THE SETTLEMENT OFFICER
- 22 THAT FURTHER EFFORTS AT A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE WOULD NOT
- 23 CONTRIBUTE TO A RESOLUTION OF THE PARTIES' DISPUTE;
- 24 (3) BY A WRITTEN DECLARATION OF ALL PARTIES THAT THE
- 25 SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE IS TERMINATED; OR
- 26 (4) WHEN THE SETTLEMENT OFFICER HAS REPRESENTED IN
- 27 WRITING TO THE BOARD THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO COMMUNICATION
- 28 BETWEEN THE SETTLEMENT OFFICER AND ANY PARTY OR PARTY'S
- 29 REPRESENTATIVE FOR 21 DAYS FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF THE
- 30 SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE.

- 1 (F) EXCLUSION OF LIABILITY.--A SETTLEMENT OFFICER IS NOT A
- 2 NECESSARY OR PROPER PARTY IN ADMINISTRATIVE, JUDICIAL OR OTHER
- 3 PROCEEDINGS RELATING TO THE SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE.
- 4 NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF LAW TO THE CONTRARY, PARTIES TO
- 5 A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE DEEMED TO
- 6 HAVE CONSENTED THAT THE SETTLEMENT OFFICER SHALL NOT BE LIABLE
- 7 TO ANY PARTY FOR ANY ERROR, ACT OR OMISSION IN CONNECTION WITH
- 8 ANY SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE CONDUCTED UNDER THIS SECTION. PARTIES
- 9 TO A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT CALL A
- 10 SETTLEMENT OFFICER AS A WITNESS IN LITIGATION OR ANY OTHER
- 11 PROCEEDING RELATING TO THE SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE. THE SETTLEMENT
- 12 OFFICER IS NOT COMPETENT TO TESTIFY AS A WITNESS IN ANY
- 13 PROCEEDING RELATED TO THE SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE.
- 14 (G) RULES AND REGULATIONS. -- THE BOARD MAY ADOPT RULES AND
- 15 PROMULGATE REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THIS SECTION.
- 16 (H) LAWS NOT APPLICABLE. -- THE PROVISIONS OF 2 PA.C.S.
- 17 (RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE LAW AND PROCEDURE) SHALL NOT APPLY
- 18 TO A SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE CONDUCTED UNDER THIS SECTION.
- 19 SECTION 2708. CLOSING AGREEMENTS.
- 20 (A) AUTHORIZATION.--THE DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORIZED TO ENTER
- 21 INTO AN AGREEMENT IN WRITING WITH ANY PERSON RELATING TO THE
- 22 LIABILITY OF THE PERSON, OR OF THE PERSON OR ESTATE FOR WHOM THE
- 23 PERSON ACTS, IN RESPECT OF ANY TAX ADMINISTERED BY THE
- 24 DEPARTMENT FOR ANY TAXABLE PERIOD.
- 25 (B) FINALITY.--IF THE AGREEMENT IS APPROVED BY THE
- 26 DEPARTMENT, WITHIN A TIME AS MAY BE STATED IN THE AGREEMENT OR
- 27 LATER AGREED TO, THE AGREEMENT SHALL BE FINAL AND CONCLUSIVE,
- 28 AND, EXCEPT UPON A SHOWING OF FRAUD, MALFEASANCE OR
- 29 MISREPRESENTATION OF A MATERIAL FACT:
- 30 (1) THE CASE SHALL NOT BE REOPENED AS TO THE MATTERS

- 1 AGREED UPON OR THE AGREEMENT MODIFIED BY ANY OFFICER,
- 2 EMPLOYEE OR AGENT OF THE DEPARTMENT.
- 3 (2) IN A SUIT, ACTION OR PROCEEDING, THE AGREEMENT, OR
- 4 ANY DETERMINATION, ASSESSMENT, COLLECTION, PAYMENT,
- 5 ABATEMENT, REFUND OR CREDIT MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
- 6 AGREEMENT, SHALL NOT BE ANNULLED, MODIFIED, SET ASIDE OR
- 7 DISREGARDED.
- 8 (C) LIABILITIES SUSPENDED.--IF, PURSUANT TO AN AGREEMENT
- 9 AUTHORIZED BY SUBSECTION (A), THE DEPARTMENT AGREES TO SUSPEND
- 10 THE COLLECTION OF ANY AMOUNTS OF TAX, PENALTIES, INTEREST OR
- 11 OTHER ADDITIONS TO TAX, THE DEPARTMENT MAY REIMPOSE ANY OF THE
- 12 SUSPENDED AMOUNTS IF THE PERSON WHO ENTERED INTO THE AGREEMENT
- 13 FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT.
- 14 <u>SECTION 2709.</u> REPORT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
- NO LATER THAN JUNE 1 OF THE SECOND YEAR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE
- 16 DATE OF THIS SECTION, AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE STATE
- 17 TREASURER SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
- 18 <u>SUMMARIZING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE</u>
- 19 PROCESS IMPLEMENTED UNDER SECTION 2704.1. A COPY OF THE REPORT
- 20 SHALL BE DELIVERED TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MINORITY CHAIRMAN OF THE
- 21 FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AND THE CHAIRMAN AND MINORITY
- 22 CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF
- 23 REPRESENTATIVES. THE REPORT SHALL, AT A MINIMUM, INCLUDE:
- 24 (1) THE NUMBER OF APPEALS OF TAX LIABILITY RESOLVED
- 25 THROUGH THE SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE PROCESS.
- 26 (2) THE NUMBER OF APPEALS OF TAX LIABILITY THAT WERE NOT
- 27 RESOLVED THROUGH THE SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE PROCESS.
- 28 (3) OF THE TAXPAYERS WHOSE APPEALS WERE RESOLVED THROUGH
- THE SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE PROCESS, HOW MANY WERE INDIVIDUAL
- 30 TAXPAYERS AND HOW MANY WERE PASS-THROUGH ENTITIES.

- 1 (4) THE AVERAGE AMOUNT OF TAX LIABILITY CONTESTED IN
- 2 CASES THAT WERE RESOLVED THROUGH THE SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE
- 3 PROCESS.
- 4 (5) THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS IT TOOK FOR APPEALS OF
- 5 TAX LIABILITY TO BE RESOLVED THROUGH THE SETTLEMENT
- 6 CONFERENCE PROCESS.
- 7 (6) RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE
- 8 <u>SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE PROCESS, WHICH MAY BE IMPLEMENTED</u>
- 9 THROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE, GUIDELINES, RULES,
- 10 <u>REGULATIONS OR LEGISLATION.</u>
- 11 (7) ANY OTHER INFORMATION DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE STATE
- 12 <u>TREASURER</u>.
- 13 SECTION 4. SECTION 3003.6 OF THE ACT IS AMENDED TO READ:
- 14 SECTION 3003.6. TIMELY FILING.--(A) A TAXPAYER SHALL BE
- 15 DEEMED TO HAVE TIMELY FILED A PETITION FOR A REFUND, A PETITION
- 16 FOR REASSESSMENT OR ANY OTHER PROTEST RELATING TO THE ASSESSMENT
- 17 OF TAX OR ANY OTHER MATTER RELATING TO ANY TAX IMPOSED BY THIS
- 18 ACT IF THE LETTER TRANSMITTING THE PETITION IS RECEIVED BY THE
- 19 DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE OR IS POSTMARKED BY THE UNITED STATES
- 20 POSTAL SERVICE ON OR PRIOR TO THE FINAL DAY ON WHICH THE
- 21 PETITION IS REQUIRED TO BE FILED.
- 22 (B) FOR PURPOSES OF FILING A PETITION FOR REFUND, A PETITION
- 23 FOR REASSESSMENT OR A PETITION FOR REDETERMINATION WITH THE
- 24 DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE OR THE BOARD OF FINANCE AND REVENUE, THE
- 25 REFERENCE IN SUBSECTION (A) TO A POSTMARK BY THE UNITED STATES
- 26 POSTAL SERVICE SHALL INCLUDE ANY DATE RECORDED OR MARKED AS
- 27 DESCRIBED UNDER 26 U.S.C. § 7502(F)(2)(C) (RELATING TO TIMELY
- 28 MAILING TREATED AS TIMELY FILING AND PAYING) BY ANY DELIVERY
- 29 SERVICE DESIGNATED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY OF THE
- 30 <u>UNITED STATES UNDER 26 U.S.C. § 7502(F)(2)</u>.

- 1 SECTION 5. THE AMENDMENT OF SECTION 401(3)1(B.2) OF THE ACT
- 2 SHALL APPLY TO TAXABLE YEARS BEGINNING AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2023.
- 3 SECTION 6. THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT AS FOLLOWS:
- 4 (1) THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS SHALL TAKE EFFECT
- 5 IMMEDIATELY:
- 6 (I) THE AMENDMENT OF SECTION 401(3)1(B.2) OF THE
- 7 ACT.
- 8 (II) THIS SECTION AND SECTION 5 OF THIS ACT.
- 9 (2) THE REMAINDER OF THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IN 90
- DAYS.