

Background

Fraud attempts are continuing to increase in the tax and benefits systems. When the Department of Revenue (DOR) identifies personal income tax refund fraud, we may identify unemployment benefit fraud. When the Oregon Employment Department (OED) identifies fraud or identity theft in their work, it may involve income tax refund fraud.

Senate Bill 205 proposes to allow DOR and OED to share data when fraud or identity theft is identified. While one agency identifies possible fraudulent behavior or identity theft, statute prevents disclosure of confidential information with partner agencies.

The compliance efforts between the two agencies will further protect the state's revenue held in the General Fund and Unemployment Insurance Fund.

Implementation

DOR proposes to exchange limited data between agencies that are used to similarly identify customers of both agencies.

Each tax filing season, environmental factors that may influence questionable taxpayer activity may increase or decrease. Over time, the agencies can learn from each other about accounts that may look unusual. Collaboration between the two agencies may establish a more predictable cadence to sharing and reviewing data for fraud.

Agency Contact

Marjorie Taylor, Legislative Director, marjorie.taylor@dor.oregon.gov, phone: (503) 476-7644

Megan Denison, Personal Tax and Compliance Division Administrator,
megan.c.denison@dor.oregon.gov, phone: (503) 856-2721