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UNEMPLOYMENT TAXES FOR FLORIDA EMPLOYERS DECREASING IN 2015

Florida Employers will see a decrease in their state unemployment taxes (now called reemployment taxes) for calendar year 2015. Effective January 1st, the minimum Florida unemployment tax rate is \$16.80 per employee per year. This is a reduction of \$30 per employee from last year. And for the first time in a long time, those employers who are assigned the maximum tax rate will also see a tax decrease, from \$432 per employee per year to \$378 per employee per year. Employers that have an experience-based tax rate that falls somewhere between the minimum and maximum tax rates should see similar decreases.

Please note: The wage base for each employee is also decreasing for 2015, from \$8,000 per year to \$7,000 per employee. This is the amount of each employee's wages that is subject to reemployment tax – employers pay reemployment tax only on the first \$7,000 of an employee's wages. Any amount over \$7,000 that an employee earns is not subject to state reemployment tax.

The Florida Department of Revenue mailed out a 2015 reemployment tax rate notice to all employers in January. The tax rate for your business listed on this notice will be effective for wages paid on or after January 1, 2015. The first reemployment tax return for 2015 (your RT-6) will be due to the Florida Department of Revenue by April 30, 2015 and will be for wages paid in January, February and March. On the

RT-6 tax return, you should list all employee names and social security numbers, plus the amount of wages you paid each employee during the preceding quarter. Please remember that unemployment taxes for 2015 will only be charged on the first \$7,000 of each employee's wages, instead of the first \$8,000, as it has been the last several years.

If your business has 10 or more employees, you are required to file your RT-6 and pay your reemployment taxes online through the Florida Department of Revenue's website, unless you have received a waiver. When paying your taxes electronically, you must initiate the payment by 5:00 p.m. ET on the business day prior to the due date of April 30th for your payment to be considered timely filed. Late filing incurs both penalties and interest.

Whether you file your reemployment return and taxes by paper or electronically, you can sign up to receive a quarterly payment reminder from the Florida Department of Revenue at dor.myflorida.com/dor/list/.

ATTENTION CORPORATIONS AND LLC'S: ANNUAL REPORTS NOW DUE

It is now time for all Florida Corporations and Limited Liability Companies (LLC's) to file their Annual Report with the Florida Department of State's Division of Corporations. The Annual Report must be filed with the State of Florida each year between January 1st and May 1st in order to keep your company's records active with the Department of State.

WATCH OUT FOR "ANNUAL MINUTES" NOTICE

The Annual Report is not a financial statement, and you cannot use it to change your business name. However, the Annual Report is an opportunity for you to update basic information about your company, like names and addresses of officers, directors and members; your company's office address; your company's FEIN; and the registered agent for your company.

Please remember, your only reminder from the State of Florida to file your Annual Report will come via the email address the Division of Corporations has on file for you. The email comes from the Florida Department of State and the subject of the email is "Official 2015 Annual Report Notice for: [your company name]." There is a link in the email that takes you directly to the state's official website at **sunbiz.org**.

All Annual Reports must be filed online; paper reports are not allowed. To file, go to **sunbiz.org**. Make sure the page displayed on your computer has the State of Florida's flag in the upper right corner and says "Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations" in the upper left corner. Click on the box in the middle of the screen that says "File Current Year Annual Report or Amended Annual Report." If you are not familiar with filing an Annual Report, you can click on the box that says "Get Online Annual Report Filing Instructions" to read detailed, step-by-step instructions.

For corporations, the Annual Report filing fee is \$150, if filed by May 1st. For LLC's, the filing fee is \$138.75, if filed by May 1st. The state charges a non-negotiable late fee of \$400 for Annual Reports filed after May 1st.

For more information on how to file your Annual Report, you can email the Division of Corporations at **corphelp@dos.state.fl.us**. Or, you can call the FUBA offices and ask for Karen or Lance. Even though the Annual Report and the corresponding filing fees are a State of Florida requirement, we can try to answer any questions you may have.

A company called Compliance Services is sending businesses in Florida notices offering to file "Annual Minutes" for a fee of \$125. **Please be aware:** While it is true that Florida law requires corporations to keep minutes of its shareholder or board meetings, you do not have to pay anyone to prepare your corporation's minutes. Further, minutes do not have to be filed with any agency of the State of Florida.

The mail from Compliance Services is usually in a green envelope and might say "Important – Annual Minutes Requirement Statement" on the front of the envelope. Inside is a form titled "Annual Minutes Requirement Statement" that looks like an official government document and asks for \$125 to prepare minutes for your corporation.

While this mail looks like an official government form, it is from a private company not affiliated in any way with the government.

This mail has confused some FUBA members into thinking that they are taking care of their Annual Report requirement by paying this company \$125. If you give this company \$125, they will send you a set of minutes, but this does not take the place of filing the Annual Report for your corporation or LLC. In fact, if you read the notice from Compliance Services carefully, it does contain a disclaimer on the second page that it does not satisfy the requirement to file an Annual Report.

Please do not confuse a notice from Compliance Services with the legitimate requirement that corporations and LLC's must file an Annual Report each year with the Division of Corporations to keep their entity's information up-to-date.