We serve Montana by providing high quality services, ensuring equity and fairness, and constantly improving efficiency.



A tax based on the value of property, such as real estate or a **AD VALOREM TAX**

particular good.

ADULT-USE CANNABIS

Marijuana or marijuana products that may be purchased from a dispensary by a person at least 21 years of age, without needing

to be a medical cardholder.

ARMS-LENGTH TRANSACTION

A transaction in which the buyer and seller are not related and act independently in their own self-interest, not subject to each other's influence.

BRITISH THERMAL UNIT (BTU)

The amount of energy needed to raise the temperature of one pound of water by one degree Fahrenheit. This is the standard for measuring the energy content it fuels.

CAPITAL GAIN

The profit an investor gains from selling an investment (property, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc.) that has increased in value over its purchase price.

CARRYBACK

An accounting technique with which a company retroactively applies net operating losses to a preceding year's income to reduce tax liabilities present in that year.

CARRYFORWARD

To adjust an amount against succeeding amounts, or to transfer it to the next period.

CARRYOVER

See carryforward.

C CORPORATION

Any corporation that is, in general, taxed separately from its shareholders.

PROPERTIES

CENTRALLY ASSESSED Large utilities, pipelines, airlines, and railroads, operating in more than one county or state, valued by the department.

COAL SEVERANCE TAX

State tax on coal extracted (or severed) from the earth, based on its value. Tax rate varies with the heat content of the coal and the type of mine (open pit or underground).

COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE, COMPENSATION, AND LIABILITY ACT (CERCLA)

Commonly known as Superfund, a law that provided a tax on the chemical and petroleum industries and provided broad federal authority to clean up releases of hazardous substances.

DECEDENT

A person who has died.

A method of dividing a set of values or statistics into 10 equally **DECILE**

large groups.

EMPOWERMENT ZONE	A financially distressed area that receives tax credits, grants, and other advantages to help revitalize the area.
ESTATE TAX	A tax on the net value of the estate of a deceased person before transfer to person's heirs.
EXCISE TAX	A tax on the use or consumption of a certain products, such as gasoline, cigarettes, or alcohol.
HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION	A type of property tax relief whereby the assessed value of a home, on which property tax is based, is reduced. Following SB 157 of the 2015 session, Montana no longer has a homestead exemption.
HORIZONTAL WELL	A drilling method in which the drill turns and runs horizontally once it reaches the source of energy to be extracted, be it gas or oil.
INPATIENT BED DAY	A day of care provided to a patient in a hospital. A day begins at midnight and ends 24 hours later. Part of a day, including day of admission, counts as a full day. Day of discharge or death does not. If admission and discharge or death occur on the same day, that day is counted as one bed day.
LICENSE TAX	A fee paid to the government for the privilege of holding a license to conduct a certain trade, such as sell alcohol or practice medicine.
LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC)	A hybrid company structure combining characteristics of both a corporation and a sole proprietorship (or partnership). Members of the company cannot be held personally liable for the company's debts or liabilities.
MARKET VALUE	The value at which property would change hands between a willing buyer and a willing seller.
MEDICAL CANNABIS	Marijuana or marijuana products that are purchased from a dispensary by registered cardholder.
MILLAGE RATE	Tax per dollar of assessed value of property, where the rate is referred to in "mills." A mill is one-tenth of a cent.
NET OPERATING LOSS	Occurs when a company's allowable tax deductions are greater than its taxable income.

OFFSET

To hold a tax refund amount, or part of the amount, if an individual owes money to the State of Montana because of a delinquent debt. The department can offset that individual's state payment, or withhold part of a tax refund to satisfy the debt.

ORPHAN SHARE

Part of the liability of a Superfund site that belongs to insolvent or defunct parties that cannot pay their fair share of a site's cleanup cost.

PROOF GALLON

A gallon of spirits that is 50 percent alcohol by volume.

PROPERTY TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (PTAP)

Property tax relief program for property owners who meet certain qualifications.

PASS-THROUGH ENTITY

An entity that passes its income, loss, deductions or credits to its owners, who may include partners, shareholders, beneficiaries, and investors.

STATE GENERAL FUND

The primary fund of the state, composed mainly of revenue from taxes and used to budget for state operations.

SUB-JOBBER

An entity or a person who purchases tobacco products from a Montana licensed wholesaler with the cigarette tax insignia affixed, and sells or offers to sell those products to a licensed retailer or tobacco product vendor.

RESIDENT BED DAY

Each 24-hour period that a resident in an intermediate care facility is present in the facility and receiving care or that a resident is on leave but a bed is being held for him or her.

S CORPORATION

Any corporation that, in general, does not pay any federal income tax, but rather divides its income and losses among its shareholders, who are then subject to taxation.

SIMPLIFIED (SEP) PLAN

A Simplified Employee Pension plan. A SEP provides employers a **EMPLOYEE PENSION** simplified method to make contributions toward their employees' retirement and their own retirement. Contributions are made directly to an IRA set up for each employee (a SEP-IRA).

SAVINGS INCENTIVE MATCH PLAN FOR **EMPLOYEES** (SIMPLE) PLAN

Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees. It gives small employers a simplified method to make contributions toward their employees' retirement and their own retirement. Under a SIMPLE IRA plan, employees may choose to make salary reduction contributions and the employer makes matching or non-elective contributions. All contributions are made directly to an IRA set up for each employee (a SIMPLE-IRA).

SPECIAL JURISDICTION OR SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT

Single purpose jurisdictions—such as a school district, fire district, water district, etc.—that exist separately from local governments and are funded by special taxes outside of the normal mill-based tax system, such as a lighting district that charges each property a set, flat amount.

An oil or gas well nearing the end of its economically useful life. STRIPPER WELL A written law passed by the Legislature. **STATUTE** A measure of tax progressiveness. **SUITS INDEX** The income factored in calculating how much tax an individual or **TAXABLE INCOME** company owes, usually the gross income minus any deductions, exemptions, or other adjustments. A percentage of property value used to calculate property tax. **TAXABLE VALUE** TAX EXPENDITURES Any reduction in government revenue through provisions in tax laws, such as deductions, exclusions, deferrals, exemptions, and preferential tax rates. The difference between total amounts of taxes owed to the **TAX GAP** government and the amount it actually receives. A method of public financing used to encourage development **TAX INCREMENT** and redevelopment in financially distressed areas. **FINANCING (TIF)** The total amount of tax an individual or entity owes the **TAX LIABILITY** government after credits and advance payments (such as withholding and estimated payments). State program that awards matching grants to local governments TREASURE STATE for the construction of local infrastructure projects. TSEF is fed **ENDOWMENT** by the coal severance tax, the interest on which helps pay for the **PROGRAM AND** TSEP projects. **FUND (TSEP AND** TSEF) **VALUATION** The process of determining the current value of an asset, such as

WEST TEXAS
INTERMEDIATE

(WTI)

a home.

A grade of crude oil used as a benchmark in oil pricing.

ARM Administrative Rules of the State of Montana

BTU British Thermal Unit

CERCLA Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and

Liability Act of 1980

DOR Department of Revenue

DPHHS Department of Public Health and Human Services

EPTAP Extended Property Tax Assistance Program

FERC Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

MCA Montana Code Annotated

MDV Montana Disabled Veteran Property Tax Relief Program

MMHNCC Montana Mental Health Nursing Care Center

NCSL National Conference of State Legislatures

NOL Net Operating Loss

PSC Public Service Commission

PTAP Property Tax Assistance Program

RIC Revenue Interim Committee

TDD Telecommunications Device for the Deaf

TIF Tax Increment Financing

TSEF Treasure State Endowment Fund

TSEP Treasure State Endowment Program

WTP West Texas Intermediate

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