

Montana Tax News You Can Use

Montana Department of Revenue

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In This Issue

Taxpayer Access Point (TAP)
Changes

Vape Store License Inspections

Approved Tax Software

Tax Facts

An e-newsletter for tax preparers and those interested in the state's tax system.

Changes to Taxpayer Access Point (TAP)

The Montana Department of Revenue recently made changes to Taxpayer Access Point (TAP) to protect personal tax information. As of February 22, individual taxpayers can still file and view current year tax returns, but can no longer see prior year tax returns as they have been able to in the past. If a taxpayer needs a copy of a prior year income tax return, they will need to complete [Form RTI](#).

In addition, to assure an individual TAP account is not compromised, we also removed the ability for individuals to change their address in TAP. If a taxpayer wants to change their address, they need to fax or mail a request to the Department of Revenue at:

Fax: (406) 444-7723

Mail: Montana Department of Revenue
P.O. Box 5805
Helena, MT 59604-5805

These individual account changes reduce some TAP features, but we trust you understand we must balance our desire to provide excellent and secure online services with our responsibility to protect personal information.

If you have additional questions, please contact us at DORCustomerAssistance@mt.gov.

Montana Department of Revenue to Inspect Stores for Licenses to Sell Vapor Products

The Montana Department of Revenue will start retail inspections this month to make sure stores that are selling alternative nicotine or vapor products have a license to sell them.

The license requirement took effect January 1, 2016. Since then, the department has issued 680 alternative nicotine or vapor product licenses. About one-third of retail businesses licensed to sell tobacco have also applied to sell vapor products.

In December, the department mailed 1,800 postcards to retail outlets telling them about the requirement to have the license to sell the products. Visit revenue.mt.gov for frequently asked questions about the requirement.

There is a \$5 fee to apply for the new license. Retail outlets can apply and pay online through our eStop Business Licenses service at http://revenue.mt.gov/home/businesses/estop_licensing.

If retailers have questions or need help applying, they can contact our customer service center by email at DORestop@mt.gov, call toll free at 1 (866) 859-2254 (in Helena 444-6900), or visit revenue.mt.gov.

Approved Tax Software for Tax Year 2015

Every year, tax software vendors seek approval to participate in the Montana federal/state electronic filing program. We test the software of each vendor to ensure that it's compatible with our electronic filing system. You can find the latest approval status of each product on the department's website under [Online Services > Tax & Payroll Software](#).

For more information, email DORe-services@mt.gov.

Tax Facts

For 2016, as of February 26:

- Total number of individual income tax returns we've processed: 173,036
- Number of individual tax returns we've received electronically: 169,237
- Number of individual income tax refunds we've issued: 143,923
- Average amount of refunds: \$390

As of March 1:

- Number of fraudulent tax returns we've intercepted: 139
- Amount of fraudulent refunds we've prevented: \$160,727

Contact MT DOR

Web: Revenue.mt.gov

Email: DORCustomerAssistance@mt.gov

Toll Free: 1-866-859-2254

Helena: (406) 444-6900



Tax News You Can Use: DORWritingProject@mt.gov

We welcome your suggestions for articles, as well as your questions and comments.

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Montana Tax News You Can Use is published weekly during tax season and periodically at other times. It is for anyone who helps people file taxes and meet their tax responsibility and for anyone interested in the state's tax system. It keeps you posted on what's happening at the department, lets you know about new ways of preparing and filing taxes, and brings you up-to-date on some of the issues and trends popping up during tax season in Montana.

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