



INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

Amusement Tax for Business Subscribers of Satellite Television

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide business subscribers of satellite television with information regarding their obligation to remit the Chicago Amusement Tax.

General Information

The Chicago Amusement Tax (Amusement Tax), Chapter 4-156 of the Municipal Code of Chicago (Code), applies to paid television programming, including satellite TV. The Federal Communications Act exempts satellite TV providers from having to collect local taxes, but it does not exempt customers from having to pay them.

Who is required to pay the Amusement Tax?

Chicago businesses that subscribe to and use satellite TV are required to pay the Amusement Tax directly to the Chicago Department of Finance (Department). This includes bars, restaurants, and all other businesses that subscribe to satellite TV.

How do I calculate the Amusement Tax due?

As of the date of this bulletin, the Amusement Tax rate is nine percent of the charges paid for satellite TV services used in Chicago. Please note, taxable charges do not include this or any other tax imposed on these charges.

When are payments due?

In general, business subscribers must pay the Amusement Tax to the Department by the 15th of each month for the previous month if their total tax liability is more than \$1,200 per year. If total tax liability is less than or equal to \$1,200 per year, the Amusement Tax is due only once per year by August 15th. See Code Section 3-4-187 for more details.

When is the tax return due?

The tax return for the fiscal year, July 1st through June 30th, is filed annually and is due by August 15th of each year. See Code Section 3-4-186 for details.

How do I register for the tax?

Applications can be found at www.cityofchicago.org/finance in the Tax Collection and Enforcement section of the webpage.

Voluntary Disclosure – Special Limited Time Offer

Because many businesses were previously unaware of their obligation to pay the Amusement Tax, the Department is offering to accept the payment of Amusement Tax from July 1, 2015 to the date of payment, waiving all interest and penalties, and waiving all liability for periods before July 1, 2015 (including Amusement

Tax, interest and penalties), for any business that applies to the Department by March 31, 2017.

Any business that wishes to accept this offer should submit the 2016 Voluntary Disclosure Application for Business Subscribers of Satellite Television Services which is included with this bulletin.

Why should I participate in this Voluntary Disclosure program?

Generally, the statute of limitations is **six years** for non-filers. If a business chooses not to participate in this program and the Department later determines that there is Amusement Tax liability, the business may be assessed tax, interest, and penalties for all periods open under statute.

Additional Questions?

Additional tax information and forms can be found at www.cityofchicago.org/finance.

You may also contact us by email at revenuatabase@cityofchicago.org or by phone at (312) 747-4747.