

CHAPTER 40

AN ACT concerning the taxation of S corporations under the corporation business tax, amending P.L.1945, c.162.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. Section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5) is amended to read as follows:

C.54:10A-5 Franchise Tax.

5. The franchise tax to be annually assessed to and paid by each taxpayer shall be the sum of the amount computed under subsection (a) hereof, or in the alternative to the amount computed under subsection (a) hereof, the amount computed under subsection (f) hereof, and the amount computed under subsection (c) hereof:

(a) That portion of its entire net worth as may be allocable to this State as provided in section 6, multiplied by the following rates: 2 mills per dollar on the first \$100,000,000.00 of allocated net worth; 4/10 of a mill per dollar on the second \$100,000,000.00; 3/10 of a mill per dollar on the third \$100,000,000.00; and 2/10 of a mill per dollar on all amounts of allocated net worth in excess of \$300,000,000.00; provided, however, that with respect to reports covering accounting or privilege periods set forth below, the rate shall be that percentage of the rate set forth in this subsection for the appropriate year:

Accounting or Privilege Periods Beginning on or After:	The Percentage of the Rate to be Imposed Shall Be:
April 1, 1983	75%
July 1, 1984	50%
July 1, 1985	25%
July 1, 1986	0

(b) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1968, c.250, s.2.)

(c) (1) For a taxpayer that is not a New Jersey S corporation, 3¼% of its entire net income or such portion thereof as may be allocable to this State as provided in section 6 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-6); provided, however, that with respect to reports covering accounting or privilege periods or parts thereof ending after December 31, 1967, the rate shall be 4¼%; and that with respect to reports covering accounting or privilege periods or parts thereof ending after December 31, 1971, the rate shall be 5½%; and that with respect to reports covering accounting or privilege periods or parts thereof ending after December 31, 1974, the rate shall be 7½%; and that with respect to reports covering accounting or privilege periods or parts thereof ending after December 31, 1979, the rate shall be 9%; provided however, that for a taxpayer that has entire net income of \$100,000 or less for a privilege period the rate for that privilege period shall be 7½%.

(2) For a taxpayer that is a New Jersey S corporation, for privilege periods ending on or before June 30, 1998 the rate determined by subtracting the maximum tax bracket rate provided under N.J.S.54A:2-1 for the privilege period from the tax rate that would otherwise be applicable to the taxpayer's entire net income for the privilege period if the taxpayer were not an S corporation provided under paragraph (1) of this subsection for the privilege period and for privilege periods ending on or after July 1, 1998 the rate shall be 2%, provided however that for a taxpayer that has entire net income of \$100,000 or less for a privilege period ending on or after July 1, 1998, the rate for that privilege period shall be 0.5%, multiplied by its entire net income that is not subject to federal income taxation or such portion thereof as may be allocable to this State pursuant to sections 6 through 10 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-6 through 54:10A-10); plus

(3) For a taxpayer that is a New Jersey S corporation, the tax rate that would otherwise be applicable to the taxpayer's entire net income for the privilege period if the taxpayer were not an S corporation provided under paragraph (1) of this subsection for the privilege period multiplied by its entire net income that is subject to federal income taxation or such portion thereof as may be allocable to this State pursuant to sections 6 through 10 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-6 through 54:10A-10).

(d) Provided, however, that the franchise tax to be annually assessed to and paid by any

investment company or real estate investment trust, which has elected to report as such and has filed its return in the form and within the time provided in this act and the rules and regulations promulgated in connection therewith, shall, in the case of an investment company, be measured by 25% of its entire net income and 25% of its entire net worth, and in the case of a real estate investment trust, by 4% of its entire net income and 15% of its entire net worth, at the rates hereinbefore set forth for the computation of tax on net income and net worth, respectively, but in no case less than \$250.00, and further provided, however, that the franchise tax to be annually assessed to and paid by a regulated investment company which for a period covered by its report satisfies the requirements of Chapter 1, Subchapter M, Part I, Section 852(a) of the federal Internal Revenue Code shall be \$250.00.

(e) The tax assessed to any taxpayer pursuant to this section shall not be less than \$25.00 in the case of a domestic corporation, \$50.00 in the case of a foreign corporation, or \$250.00 in the case of an investment company or regulated investment company. Provided however, that for accounting or privilege periods beginning in calendar year 1994 and thereafter the minimum taxes for taxpayers other than an investment company or a regulated investment company shall be as provided in the following schedule:

Period Beginning In Calendar Year	Domestic Corporation Minimum Tax	Foreign Corporation Minimum Tax
1994	\$ 50	\$100
1995	\$100	\$200
1996	\$150	\$200
1997	\$200	\$200

and provided further that the director shall adjust the minimum tax for accounting or privilege periods beginning in each fifth year following calendar year 1997 and each fifth year thereafter by multiplying the minimum tax for periods beginning in 1997 by an amount equal to one plus 75% of the increase, if any, in the annual average total producer price index for finished goods published by the federal Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for the year preceding the determination year over such index for calendar year 1996.

(f) In lieu of the portion of the tax based on net worth and to be computed under subsection (a) of this section, any taxpayer, the value of whose total assets everywhere, less reasonable reserves for depreciation, as of the close of the period covered by its report, amounts to less than \$150,000.00, may elect to pay the tax shown in a table which shall be promulgated by the director.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved March 27, 1997.