

Tax Roundtable July 2019

Discussion:

<https://www.taxbuzz.com/blog/taxbuzzchat-july2019-latest-legislative-proposals-in-tax>

In our July [#TaxBuzzChat](#), hosted on our Twitter account [@TaxBuzzOnline](#), we were joined by a diverse group of tax professionals from widely varied backgrounds to discuss some of the **legislation currently moving around in Congress and how it could affect the world of tax**. Our chat this month covered legislative proposals such as:

- The Secure Act
- Performing Arts Legislation
- The Gig Act
- The Extender Act
- College Admission Legislation
- The Taxpayer First Act
- Disaster Legislation

H.R.3301 - Taxpayer Certainty and Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2019

Nowhere – the House Ways and Means Committee did pass this (within the committee) 25-17 – but nothing is happening.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/3301>

Latest Action: House - 06/18/2019 Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R.3330 - Taxpayer Protection and Preparer Proficiency Act of 2019

This about giving the IRS the right to regulate tax preparers.

Also nowhere yet...still in committee

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/3330>

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News Flash - IRS Chief Mulls Creation of a Practitioner Division

<https://news.bloombergtax.com/daily-tax-report/irs-chief-mulls-creation-of-a-practitioner-division>

IRS Commissioner Charles Rettig said he's considering creation of a new division in the agency focused on the needs of the tax practitioner community.

"I'm aware of it. I'm sensitive to it. And I understand the need for it," said Rettig, a former longtime tax practitioner himself. He said he has received proposals from outside of the Internal Revenue Service for how such a division might work.

If the agency can accomplish this while balancing its other priorities, it will do so, he said July 9 at the IRS Nationwide Tax Forum at Maryland's National Harbor, outside Washington, D.C.

- The American Institute of CPAs raised the idea of a "practitioner services" division in an [April 2018 letter](#) to lawmakers. The division would be tasked with duties that include acting as a liaison between practitioners and other IRS operating divisions and providing telephone assistance to professionals representing individuals with complex tax problems.
- Rettig said the IRS will need to factor in budget constraints when considering the idea. He also said a practitioner division would have to be developed in a way that didn't lessen the access other people have to the IRS.
- President Donald Trump recently signed the Taxpayer First Act ([H.R. 3151](#)), which requires the Treasury secretary or a delegate to submit a written plan to reorganize the agency to Congress by Sept. 30, 2020

Patty asks

I have a question regarding self-employment tax for a US expat. If the Social Security Administration does not have a Totalization Agreement with the country where the taxpayer is living, Does the taxpayer (self-employed living abroad since 1985) have to pay self-employment tax?

TaxMama Responds

So, self-employment.

The taxpayer is a US national.

It doesn't matter where in the world he's living.

He is responsible for filing all tax returns.

AND for filing and paying for self-employment taxes.

The good news is, by paying in, he may be able to collect from the Social Security funds.

The other good news is, once you know the total balance due you can file for an Offer in Compromise if the balance is too large for him to pay.

And the basis would be (first settle the streamlined thing),
OIC for Effective Tax Administration.

Why? If he hasn't paid into the SSA since 1985, it's unlikely that he's ever going to be able to collect any benefits anyway.

OR he can relinquish benefits, if SS taxes due are higher than he would get from the SSA.