Virginia Tax Conformity Overview

January 11, 2021



VSCPA Tax Conformity Guiding Principle Whenever possible, Virginia's tax laws should conform to federal tax laws. There should be as little delay as possible between the passage of federal tax law changes and adoption by the Commonwealth

What is Tax Conformity?

- The adoption of federal definitions of income.
 - Individuals: federal adjusted gross income (FAGI)
 - Businesses: federal taxable income (FTI)
- Virginia adopts annually
- Virginia conforms to the Internal Revenue Code as it existed on December 31, 2019, with certain exceptions

Federal Adjusted Gross Income (FAGI)

INCOME

- W-2 income
- Interest & Dividends
- Capital Gains and Losses
- Business income from sole proprietorships or farms
- Rental Income
- Pass-thru income from S Corporations and Partnerships
- Social Security and Pension Income
- Other Income (alimony, gambling winnings, etc)

DEDUCTIONS

- Self-employment Tax
- Self-employed health insurance
- IRA and other pension contributions
- HSA contributions
- Other Deductions (educator, alimony, tuition, etc)

= Federal Adjusted Gross Income

Federal Taxable Income (FTI)

- Revenues minus Expenses
- +/- Tax adjustments
- = FTI

Deconforming Provisions §58.1-301

Bonus depreciation

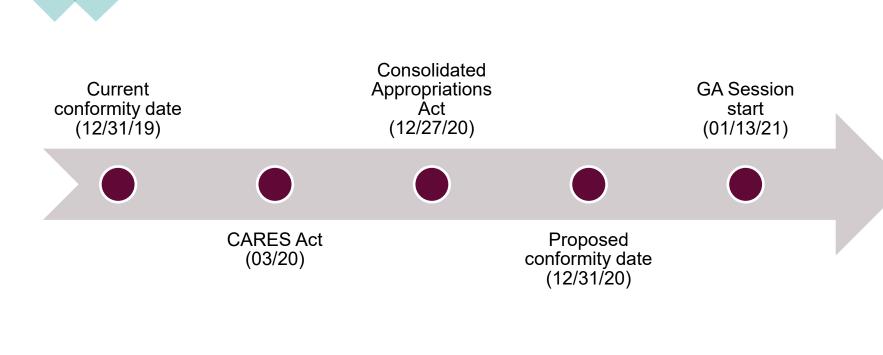
NOL carrybacks

High yield discount obligations

Debt cancellation

Pease limitation

Medical expense deduction floor



Currently

Virginia conforms to the IRC as it existed on December 31, 2019, with certain exceptions





CARES Act Major Provisions

INDIVIDUAL

- COVID-19 related retirement distributions
- Exclusion of educational payments
- For AGI charitable contribution deduction
- Deduction limitations for certain charitable contributions
- NOL carrybacks

BUSINESS

- Loss-limitation for noncorporate taxpayers
- Limit on net interest deductions
- Modification of NOL deduction
- Exclusion for forgiveness of PPP loans
- QIP bonus depreciation

Consolidated Appropriations Act

INDIVIDUAL PROVISIONS

- Deduction for educators for PPE
- Reduced medical deduction floor

BUSINESS PROVISIONS

- Deductibility of expenses paid with PPP funds
- Depreciation on certain residential rental real estate



Conformity Legislation:

HB 1935 (Watts) SB 1146 (Howell)

- Emergency legislation required to take effect before the May 1 filing deadline
 - Requires 80% approval vote in each chamber
 - If not emergency, would take effect July 1

VSCPA
Simplicity
Guiding
Principle

Earliest possible conformity helps to minimize complexity in Virginia return preparation, allowing taxpayers to accurately comply with the rules in a cost-efficient manner.



Returns would require significant adjustments, essentially requiring taxpayers to complete two federal returns – one that uses the current federal definitions of income and one that uses the definitions as they existed on 12/31/19

Without Timely Passage

- Significant delays in ability to file returns
- Virginia Department of Taxation and software companies would have to make significant program changes
- Timing of fiscal revenue



What questions do you have?

Thank you!

