Approved	On:	

Minutes of the House Committee on Assessment and Taxation. The meeting was called to order by E. C. Rolfs, Chairman, at 9:00 a.m. on January 31, 1985 in room 519 South at the Capitol of the State of Kansas.

The following members were absent:

Representative Leach

Committee staff present:

Tom Severn, Legislative Research Melinda Hanson, Legislative Research Don Hayward, Reviser of Statutes Millie Foose, Committee Secretary

Mr. Harley T. Duncan, Secretary of Revenue, discussed Kansas Individual Income Tax Tables. The Department of Revenue requested introduction of a bill to amend KSA 79-32,112a. Representative Lowther moved, second by Representative Wagnon, that this bill be introduced. The motion carried.

Mr. Duncan discussed HB-2060, which would repeal the itemized state income tax deduction for state and local motor fuel taxes. He suggested that this bill be amended to delete line 31 and in effect on December 31, 1977 and insert December 31, 1984, which would bring Kansas into conformity with Federal deductions in several areas.

In reply to questions from representatives, Mr. Duncan and Mr. Hayward discussed differences in figuring taxes for KPERS, Railroad Retirement, and some private pension plans.

The minutes of January 24, 1985 were reviewed. There being no changes, the chairman declared them approved as presented.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the chairman declared the meeting adjourned.

. C. Rolfs, Chairman



DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

State Office Building Topeka, KS 66625

MEMORANDUM

January 31, 1985

TO:

House Committee on

Assessment and Taxation

FROM:

Harley T. Duncan

Secretary of Revenue

SUBJECT: Kansas Individual Income Tax Tables

The Department of Revenue requests introduction of a bill to amend K.S.A. 79-32,112a which governs the promulgation of individual income tax tables by the Secretary of Revenue.

K.S.A. 79-32,112a, as it is now written, allows for income tax tables which "... reflect the Kansas standard deduction, a deduction for the federal income tax liability... and a deduction for the allowable number of personal exemptions." The ability to use tax tables with these deductions incorporated in them is limited to a select, and rapidly declining, group of taxpayers. Items which make the tables inappropriate are: any federal credits; itemized deductions; income averaging; any modifications to federal adjusted gross income (including KPERS contributions); and, the federal charitable contribution for non-itemizers. This list, particularly the last two items, severely limits the number of individuals who qualify to use the tax tables. Unfortunately many taxpayers use the tax tables anyway and submit returns with an incorrect state tax liability.

The Department proposes to amend K.S.A. 79-32,112a to delete the specific references to the standard deduction, federal tax deduction and personal exemptions. This would allow us to develop tables based on taxable income (or a modification thereof) much like the federal tax tables (example attached). Through such a modification, a much larger group of taxpayers could use the tables and avoid the tax computation schedule. Also, a larger income spectrum could be covered in the tables which are now limited to \$20,000/\$40,000 adjusted gross income.

It is the feeling of the Department that, due to the limited number of individuals who may use the present tax tables; the complexity of having different methods of calculating tax liability; and the significant expansion of the range of the proposed tables, K.S.A. 79-32,112a should be amended to allow for greater flexibility in designing tax tables for tax years after December 31, 1984.

Harley T. Duncan

Secretary of Revenue

HTD:x/5950

1984 Tax Table (Continued)

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34 TAX TABLE B-MARRIED FILING JOINTL



16% standard deduction or low income allowance, whichever is greater, personal exemptions and federal income tax have been taken into account in figuring the tax shown in this table. Do not take a separate deduction for them.

(For married persons filing joint returns with adjusted gross income of \$40,000 or less who claim fewer than 10 exemptions)

To find your tax: Read down the left income column until you find your income as shown on line 9, on the front of form 40, or line 6, on the front of form 40A. Read across to the column headed by the total number of exemptions claimed on line 5c of form 40, or form 40A. The amount shown at the point where the two lines meet is your tax. Enter on line 15, on the front of form 40, or line 7, on the front of form 40A.

THIS TABLE CAN NOT BE USED IF YOU DO NOT MEET THE QUALIFICATIONS LISTED ON PAGE 5 OF THIS BOOKLET

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#2

January 31, 1985

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Ed C. Rolfs, Chairman

House Committee on Assessment and Taxation

FROM: Harley T. Dur

Secretary of

RE: House Bill 2060

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you on HB 2060. The Department of Revenue supports the intent of this measure.

HB 2060 would repeal the itemized state income tax deduction for state and local motor fuels taxes. This deduction was repealed at the federal level beginning in tax year 1979. It remains an itemized state deduction, however, because state law conforms to federal itemized deductions as they existed for tax year 1978 unless provided specifically otherwise.

Enactment of this measure would provide for greater conformity between the state and federal tax codes, and it is on this basis that the Department supports the bill. Greater state-federal conformity will improve the Department's ability to insure compliance with state tax laws. In areas where state law does not conform to federal law, the Department has limited ability to verify the accuracy and validity of deductions taken or other adjustments made. We must rely principally on computer edits to identify those returns exceeding established tolerances and thus in need of manual examination. conform to federal law, however, federal audits and examinations effectively serve our compliance needs as well as those of the federal government. We receive notice of all federal adjustments and can follow-up with the taxpayer to insure that appropriate state adjustments are made. Increased conformity should also simplify matters for the taxpayer, leading to fewer errors and less confusion.

We estimate that HB 2060 will increase FY 1986 State General Fund revenues by \$2.1 million. The estimate is based on the Department's simulation model consisting of 10,000 returns from 1981, updated to 1985 income levels and tax law.

The Department, however, respectfully requests that the Committee consider amending HB 2060 to update the date of

reference for our conformity to federal itemized deductions from December 31, 1977 to December 31, 1984. The effect of the amendment would be that we would conform to federal itemized deductions now in place for tax year 1985, unless otherwise provided in state law. Specifically, this would mean the following changes in state itemized deductions (in addition to repeal of the motor fuel tax deduction):

- (1) We would conform to the federal treatment of unreimbursed casualty and theft losses. Currently, all unreimbursed losses in excess of \$100 may be deducted at the state level. This was the federal treatment until tax year 1983, at which time it was modified to provide that only losses in excess of 10 percent of adjusted gross income may be deducted. Adoption of this treatment would increase FY 1986 State General Fund revenues by roughly \$500,000.
- (2) A deduction of up to \$100 on a single return and \$200 on a joint return for contributions to candidates for public office, political committees or to newsletter funds of candidates and elected officials would be repealed. This former federal deduction was converted to a credit (50% of the above amounts) in tax year 1979. Repeal of this deduction would increase FY 1986 State General Funds revenues by approximately \$90,000.
- (3) The state would add a deduction of up to \$1,500 in qualified adoption expenses related to legally adopting a "special needs" child for whom payments are received under the Social Security adoption assistance program. Qualified adoption expenses would include reasonable attorney fees, court costs, adoption fees and other expenses related directly to the adoption of the child. They would not include, however, expenses for which other deductions or credits are taken or adoption expenses reimbursed under any federal, state or local. The fiscal impact of this deduction cannot be estimated reliably, but it is not expected to be substantial.

Other specific state laws would cause us to retain our non-conformity to the medical, dental and drug expenses as well as continuing the additional itemized deduction for social security, self-employment and railroad retirement taxes. Also retained would be Kansas itemized deductions for special depreciation on certain oil production processes and certain solar energy systems as well as the deduction for certain works of art.

Again, the Department recommends adoption of this amendment in the interests of federal-state tax conformity. We believe that greater conformity will foster tax compliance and make the law more understandable to the taxpayer.

All these changes would affect only taxpayers who itemize deductions. Approximately 325,000 resident taxpayers itemize their deductions; this is about 36 percent of all resident taxpayers. Itemized filers are 80 percent joint returns and 20 percent single returns. Of all itemized returns, over 60 percent have an adjusted gross income in excess of \$25,000, and more than 85 percent have an adjusted gross income in excess of \$15,000.

Thank you again for opportunity to testify. I would be glad to attempt to answer any questions.