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March 8, 2017

Senate Taxation Committee

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 198

Presented by Chase Blasi

Chair Caryn Tyson and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Revenue respectfully submits the following in support of Senate Bill 198:

The proposal seeks authority to fingerprint and background check current employees, applicants and contractors that have access to federal tax information. The need for this bill arose after the IRS updated Publication 1075, mandating all states fingerprint and background check everyone that has access to federal tax information.

The bill limits the use of the fingerprint and background check information to verifying the identity and determining the fitness of the person for either initial or continued employment. Disclosure of the information is strictly prohibited except as provided in the bill.

The department uses federal tax information to audit, detect fraud, verify income and exemptions and determine dyed fuel violations. In addition, the department has collected \$22,347,619.62 in fiscal year 2016.

With the passage of this bill, we will stay in compliance with Publication 1075 and will not lose access to federal tax information.

The Department respectfully requests passage of Senate Bill 198.

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