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Don't miss this month's insights— *Bills to exempt overtime pay from income tax* could face challenge in federal and state legislatures

# Top stories

# US employment tax rates and limits

Our 2025 edition of US employment tax rates and limits includes, as of September 25, 2024, the following:

- Social Security wage base for 2025
- Qualified pension plan limits for 2024 and 2025
- Health Savings Account limits for 2024 and 2025
- Fringe-benefit inflation adjustments and Form W-2 penalties for 2025
- Federal mileage rates and luxury vehicle limits for 2025
- Per diem rates under high-low substantiation method for 2025
- 2023 and 2024 FUTA credit reduction
- State unemployment insurance wage bases and tax rates for 2025
- Disability and paid family leave insurance wage base and rates for 2025
- Federal income tax withholding for 2025
- State income tax withholding tables, supplemental withholding and highest withholding tax rates for 2025

—Download the latest report

Report on state unemployment insurance requirements for employee notices and workplace posters

Most states require that employers tell employees about their potential eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits. There are two forms of communications that most states require: (1) a notice to the employee at the time of separation and/or (2) a poster placed in a conspicuous location in the workplace.

Our special report includes the results of our September 3, 2024 survey of state workforce agency websites and includes links, if applicable, to the states' requirements for unemployment insurance employee separation notices and workplace posters.

—Download the latest report

# Federal and state Form W-4 compliance

Our special report provides information employers need to know about federal and state Form W-4 compliance, with topics including:

- IRS Form W-4 regulations
- IRS lock-in letters compliance
- Federal Form W-4 top 10 tips
- Federal Form W-4 frequently asked questions
- Special instructions for US nonresident aliens
- State Form W-4 compliance in 2024
- 2024 State Form W-4 requirements survey
- 2024 state Form W-4 requirements heat map
- —<u>Download the latest report</u>

# State income tax withholding

Idaho law lowers income tax rate retroactive to January 1, 2025 On March 6, 2025, Idaho Governor Brad Little signed into law <u>H.B. 40</u>, which retroactive to January 1, 2025, lowers the income tax rate for individuals, trusts and estates from 5.695% to 5.3% on income exceeding \$2,500 (\$5,000 for married persons filing joint).

—Read more about this development in Tax Alert 2025-0705

#### Ohio updates Internal Revenue Code conformity

House Bill 14 (HB 14) updates Ohio's Internal Revenue Code conformity with immediate effect.

—Read more about this development in Tax Alert 2025-0562

# State unemployment insurance

Delaware updates unemployment insurance law to include fixed wage base and new methodology for determining SUI tax rates

<u>H.B. 433</u> made significant changes to Delaware's state unemployment insurance (SUI) law, which will collectively change the amount of SUI taxes paid by many experience-rated employers.

—Read more about this development in <u>Tax Alert 2025-0647</u>

Michigan delinquent employers still subject to higher 2025 state unemployment insurance wage base The Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity announced in December 2024 that the 2025 state unemployment insurance (SUI) wage base is lowered from \$9,500 to \$9,000 for qualifying employers because the SUI Trust Fund balance exceeded the statutory trigger of exceeding \$2.5 billion on June 30, 2024.

—Read more about this development in <u>Tax Alert 2025-0779</u>

Ohio simplifies SUI reporting and tax payments for employees working concurrently for related employers

Effective January 1, 2025, Ohio regulations simplify state unemployment insurance (SUI) reporting and tax payments for employers with employees who work concurrently for more than one related employer. (Ohio Administrative Code 4141-11-13; Ohio Department of Job & Family Services website.)

—Read more about this development in Tax Alert 2025-0752

# Local payroll developments

Seattle voters approve new payroll expense tax for social housing Seattle, Washington voters approved citizen-led ballot initiative Proposition 1A, which effective January 1, 2025, imposes a new employer-paid Social Housing Tax to fund the Seattle Social Developer, a voterapproved agency created in February 2023 to support mixed-income social housing. This new tax is expected to generate annual revenues of \$52 million.

—Read more about this development in Tax Alert 2025-0706

# Bill watch (tracking the status of legislation proposed in January through March 2025)

#### Federal

HR 561	Status: Introduced 1-20-2025	Topic: No tax on overtime pay

Would allow a tax deduction for overtime compensation received by an individual, subject to income limitations, through 2029. The amount of the deduction may not exceed 20% of the individual's regular wages from the same employer. Further, the deduction is not allowed for an individual with adjusted gross income exceeding \$100,000 (or \$150,000 for a head of the household and \$200,000 for a married couple filing a joint return). See House-passed Budget Resolution H. Con. Res. 14.

#### Federal

HR 1959	Status: Sent to Committee on Ways and	Topic: Federal unemployment
	Means (3-6-2025)	<u>insurance</u>
Would relieve employers from the increase in their federal unemployment insurance taxes (FUT resulting from the state carrying an unpaid FUTA loan.		employment insurance taxes (FUTA)

#### Alabama

HB 467	Status: Introduced in House and referred to House Ways and Means Education (3-20- 2025)	Topic: No tax on overtime pay
Effective upon enac	tment, would remove the June 30, 2025 s	sunset date for excluding overtime

pay from Alabama state income tax.

#### Alabama

HB 259	Status: Pending in House Ways and Means	Topic: Relocation tax incentive
	Education (2-11-2025)	
Effective October 1,	2025, would provide employees who rela	ocate to or work remotely from
certain counties with	nin Alabama a state income tax credit.	_

#### Alabama

HB 379	Status: Pending in House Ways and Means Education (3-4-2025)	Topic: Nonresident income tax
Effective January 1,	2026, would exempt remote workers fro	m nonresident income tax if they

are present within the state for 24 or fewer days in the calendar year.

#### Arizona

HB 2081	Status: Passed House, (2-10-2025); second reading in Senate (2-25-2025)	Topic: Tax on tips
Effective January 1,	2025, would allow a deduction from Ariz	ona gross earnings for tips.

#### Arkansas

HB 1	<u>116</u>	Status: Recommitted to Committee on Revenue and Taxation after amendment (3- 13-2025)	Topic: Nonresident income tax
Eff	ective January 1	2026, would end the requirement that en	mployers withhold Arkansas

nonresident income if the employee works in Arkansas for less than 15 days in the calendar year and the employee's resident state has a similar provision.

#### Connecticut

SB 1369	Status: Referred to House Committee on	Topic: New state payroll tax
	Finance, Revenue and Bonding (3-13-2025)	
Effective January 1,	2026, would create a new 1.5% payroll to	ax to fund the Workforce Child Care
Fund, which would provide direct financial assistance to families and childcare providers.		

Georgia

ocor gra		
HB 111	Status: Waiting for Governor's signature (3-	Topic: State income tax
	20-2025)	
	s income tax rate of 5.29% to 5.19% retro	3

ecrease rates by 10 basis points, or 0.1%, annually, starting in 2026 until the rate reaches 4.99%.

## Hawaii

HB 283	Status: Referred to Committee (1-21-2025)	Topic: State income tax
Effective January 1, 2026, would eliminate the state's income tax.		e tax.

#### Hawaii

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SB 1470; HB 1151	Status: Passed Senate and referred to	Topic: State income tax
	House. Passed by House Committee (3-27-	
	2025)	

Effective retroactive to January 1, 2025: 1) would repeal the maximum tax rate that may be considered in determining the amount of income tax that must be withheld and the requirement that a standard deduction allowance be treated as if it was denominated as a withholding exemption, and (2) for the purpose of income tax withholding, would permit the Director of Taxation to prescribe a standard deduction allowance of more or less than one whole exemption.

#### Idaho

HB 40	Status: Became law 3-6-2025	Topic: Personal income tax rates
Effective retroactive	to January 1, 2025, decreases personal	and corporate tax rates from
5.695% to 5.3%.		·

## Illinois

SB 174 / SB 2981	Status: Referred to Senate Assignments,	Topic: No tax on overtime pay
	co-sponsor added (2-11-2025)	
Effective Immediate	ly, would allow a deduction from Illinois ta	exable income for overtime pay. SB
2981 would allow the overtime deduction in excess of the regular salary.		

#### Indiana

<u>HB 1001</u>	Status Passed House (2-20-2025); Referred to Senate Committee, third sponsor added (3-25-2025)	Topic: No tax on tips
Effective January 1,	2025, would exempt tips from the Indian	a adjusted gross income tax.

#### Iowa

HSB 114	Status: House Labor and Workforce Committee (1-30-2025)	Topic: Unemployment insurance tax reform
Gov. Reynolds proposes lowering the maximum tax rate to the lowest allowed by federal law		
(5.4%), cutting the t	axable wage base by half and simplifying t	the unemployment insurance system

#### Maine

by reducing the number of tax tables.

<u>LD 106</u>	Status: Referred to Committee on Tax (1-8-2025)	Topic: Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance
	2026, would establish that leave paid un to the extent the benefits are included in	

#### Maine

LD 54	Status: Public hearing by House Committee	Topic: Pay transparency
	for Labor (3-4-2025)	

Effective 90 days after enactment, would require an employer with 10 or more employees to: (1) include on a job posting a statement listing the prospective range of pay the employer will offer to a successful applicant, (2) disclose the range of pay it offers for the position the employee holds upon an employee's request and (3) maintain a record of each position held by an employee and the employee's pay history during the employee's employment and for three years after the employee's termination of employment.

## Maryland

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FY 2026 Budget	Status: Differences between House and	Topic: State income tax
Proposal (p. 9)	Senate in reconciliation (4-1-2025)	
H.B. 352		

Effective January 1, 2026, would (1) consolidate the bottom four income tax brackets (Maryland's tax currently uses three brackets on income more than \$3,000) and use the same state tax rate of 4.7% from \$0 to \$150,000 (for married filers); and (2) add two new tax brackets and rates for high-income households (6.25% on taxable income greater than \$500,000 and 6.5% on taxable income greater than \$1 million).

Maryland

SB 0355	Status: Referred to Senate Committee (2-5-	Topic: Paid Family and Medical
	2025)	Leave Insurance

For contributions and claims under the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program, would alter the start date from July 1, 2025, to July 1, 2027, for paying contributions and from July 1, 2026, to July 1, 2028, for submitting claims for benefits.

Maryland

HB 102	Status: By request of the MD Department of	Topic: Paid Family and Medical
	Labor, introduced and passed the House	Leave Insurance
	3-28-2025. The Senate has until 4-7-2025	
	to pass the bill.	

For contributions under the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program, would alter the start date from July 1, 2025, to January 1, 2027, for paying contributions and from January 1, 2028, for filing claims for benefits.

#### Massachusetts

H 3173	Status: Introduced (2-27-2025)	Topic: No tax on overtime pay
Would exempt overt apply to salaried exe	ime pay from income tax with the clarifica empt employees.	ation that the provision does not

Michigan

HB 4170	Status: Passed House, transmitted to Senate (3-20-2025)	Topic: State individual income tax
Effective January 1,	2025, would lower the income tax rate fr	rom 4.25% to 4.05%.

Michigan

HB 4001	Status: Passed House, transmitted to	Topic: Minimum wage
	Senate (2-4-2025)	-

Effective immediately, would introduce a new schedule for general minimum wage increases through January 1, 2029, and maintain the tipped minimum wage at 38% of the regular hourly minimum wage. It also would adjust the unemployment rate threshold for annual minimum wage increases from 8.5% to 7.5%.

#### Minnesota

SF 589	Status: Referred to Taxes (1-27-2025)	Topic: No tax on overtime pay
Effective January 1, Minnesota state inco	2026, would exempt overtime pay requir ome tax.	red under federal law from

## Minnesota

<u>SF 46</u>	Status: Referred to Taxes (1-16-2025)	Topic: Nonresident income tax

Effective January 1, 2026, would exempt certain nonresident employees from Minnesota nonresident income tax and withholding if they work in the state for fewer than 30 days in the calendar year.

#### Missouri

H.B. 100 and SB 151	Status: Passed Senate, Committee (2-19-	Topic: State income tax
	2025)	

Effective January 1, 2026, would implement a flat 4% income tax rate and, starting in 2027, would provide for 10 annual reductions of 0.1 percentage points, while retaining the budget requirements established under <u>SB 3 (2022)</u>.

#### Missouri

HB 798	Status: Passed House, sent to Senate,	Topic: State income tax
	public hearing held (3-27-2025)	

Effective January1, 2026, would implement a flat 4.7% income tax rate and, starting in 2027, the 4% flat tax would be reduced when the revenue grows by at least \$1 million and the Tax Reform Fund is at least \$120 million at the end of the fiscal year.

## Missouri

H.B. 567	Status: Passed House, referred to Senate	Topic: Employment law
	Committee on Fiscal Oversight (3-27-2025)	

Effective immediately, would repeal the changes under voter-approved <u>Proposition A</u>, which raised the minimum wage to \$13.75 effective January 1, 2025, with annual cost of living adjustments each year thereafter and requires that employers provide paid leave to employees.

## Mississippi

MISSISSIPPI		
<u>HB 1</u>	Status: Signed by Governor (3-27-2025)	Topic: State income tax
Starting in 2027, gradually reduces the state's income tax rate until it is phased out completely		
by 2037.	-	

#### Montana

H.B. 210	Status: Sent to Governor (3-31-2025)	Topic: Unemployment insurance

Effective January 1, 2026, would add a lower contribution tax rate schedule and change the tax schedule rate trigger, thereby lowering the average tax rate from 1.12 to 0.95 in new Schedule I.

#### Montana

SB 203	Status: Senate Taxation Committee,	Topic: State income tax
	scheduled for second reading (3-31-2025)	

Effective retroactive to January 1, 2025, would increase the income threshold before taxable income is taxed at the higher marginal rates at either 5.9% or 4.1%. Montana Governor Greg Gianforte has <u>called for</u> a reduction in the maximum individual income tax rate from 5.9% to 4.9%, in addition to an expansion of the Montana earned income tax credit.

#### New Jersey

S. 3741	Status: Introduced in Senate (10-7-2024)	Topic: No tax on tips
Effective January 1,	2025, would exclude tips from New Jers	ey gross income tax.

#### New York

AB A3009B	Status: Amend and Recommit to House Topic: State income tax
	Ways and Means (3-10-2025)
= 00 .1 1	

Effective January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2032, would set the top tax rate at 12% on income over \$100 million, 11.75% on income over \$25 million but less than \$100 million and 10.75% on income between \$10 million and \$25 million. The tax rates for the first five of the existing nine brackets would be lowered.

#### New York

SB S1514	Status: Passed Senate, referred to House	Topic: Worker classification
	Committee on Labor (3-5-2025)	
Would empower the co	ommissioner of labor to issue stop-work order	rs against employers for

Would empower the commissioner of labor to issue stop-work orders against employers for misclassifying employees as independent contractors or providing false, incomplete or misleading information to an insurance company on the number of employees.

## North Carolina

<u>HB 48</u>	Status: Passed House, referred to Senate Committee on Rules (2-27-2025)	Topic: Unemployment insurance
Would raise the max	imum Unemployment Insurance (UI) week	ly benefit amount from \$350 to

Would raise the maximum Unemployment Insurance (UI) weekly benefit amount from \$350 to \$450 and provide an employer tax credit equal to the employer's UI tax payment made on or before January 31, 2025.

#### North Carolina

HB 459	Status: Referred to House Committee on	Topic: State income tax
	Rules (3-20-2025)	

Effective retroactive to January 1, 2025, would set the state's individual income tax rate at 4.25%, up from the 3.99% for tax years beginning after 2025. The bill would also amend the general revenue amount that would trigger a reduction of the state's individual income tax rate beginning with fiscal year 2027-28.

## North Carolina

HB 11	Status: Referred to Committee on Finance	Topic: No tax on tips, overtime
	(3-11-2025)	pay
Effective January 1, up to \$2,500 and qu	2025, would provide tax deductions for a lalified tips.	overtime pay, bonus compensation

#### Ohio

OTHO			
H.B. 30	Status: Committee on Ways and Means	Topic: S	State personal income tax
	hearing (3-26-2025)		
Effective January 1, of 2.75% starting in	2025, would lower the tax rates to 2.75% 2026.	% and 3.1	25% and create a flat tax

#### Oklahoma

Ottidilollid		
S.B. 1 , H.B. 1806	Status: Referred to Senate Revenue and	Topic: State personal income tax
	Taxation Committee (2-4-2025); referred to	
	House Appropriations Committee (2-4-	
	2025)	
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Effective January 1, 2025, would reduce the state's graduated income tax rates by 0.25% if revenue collections exceed an itemized estimate of \$400 million.

Pennsylvania

<u> </u>		
S.B. 206	Status: Referred to Finance (1-29-2025)	Topic: State personal income tax
	2026, would eliminate the state's incom-	e tax on individual taxpayers, trusts
	Effective January 1, and estates.	ffective January 1, 2026, would eliminate the state's incomind estates.

## Rhode Island

S. 329	Status: Introduced (2-21-2025)	Topic: State income tax
Would impose an add	ditional 3% income tax on certain taxpaye	rs with a taxable income over
\$625,000 for tax years beginning after January 1, 2026.		

## South Carolina

Governor Henry	Status: Proposed (1-13-2025)	Topic: State income tax
McMaster Budget		
<u>Proposal</u>		
Governor McMaster has proposed lowering the top tax rate from 6.2% to 6.0%.		

## South Carolina

<u>HB 4216</u>	Status: Referred to Committee on Ways and Means (3-27-2025)	Topic: State income tax
Would collapse the current three income tax brackets and replace them with a flat 3.99% in tax year 2026. The state's current rates are 0%, 3% and 6.2%.		

#### South Dakota

Journ Dukota		
<u>SB 26</u>	Status: Delivered to Governor (3-12-2025)	Topic: Unemployment insurance
	2026, would reduce employer contributing the for reemployment assistance.	on rates and increase the

## Utah

HB 106	Status: Signed by Governor (3-25-2025)	Topic: State income tax
Effective retroactive rate from 4.55% and	e to January 1, 2025, lowers the state's p l 4.45%.	ersonal and corporate income tax

## Utah

HB 279	Status: Signed by Governor 3-25-2025	Topic: Earned wage access
Effective May 7, 202	25, provides rules governing employee ea	rned wage access services.

## Vermont

H 77	Status: Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means (1-23-2025)	Topic: State income tax
Effective January 1	, 2026, would increase the income thresh	olds for the state's income tax

Effective January 1, 2026, would increase the income thresholds for the state's income tax brackets for individuals, trusts and estates and would create a new 12.75% rate for single filers with income over \$1 million.

## Virginia

HB 1965	Status: Did not pass before legislative	Topic: No tax on tips
	session ended	

Effective January 1, 2026, would provide an individual income tax deduction for the amount of cash tips, including tips paid by electronic means, that are included on statements furnished to the taxpayer's employer for federal tax purposes.

## Washington, Seattle

Proposition 1A	Status: Passed by voters (2	-20-2025)	Topic: Payro	oll expense ta	ЭХ
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Effective January 1, 2025, creates a new 5.0% payroll expense tax on annual compensation above \$1 million paid in Seattle to an individual employee. The tax is separate from the existing Seattle Payroll Expense tax.

## Washington, Burien

Initiative Measure 1	Status: Passed by Voters (2-20-2025)	Topic: Minimum wage		
Effective March 25, 2025, institutes a minimum wage matching neighboring <u>Tukwila</u> .				

## West Virginia

HB 3103	Status: Assigned to House Finance (3-4-2025)	Topic: Exempt retirement benefits from income tax		
Effective January 1, 2025, would exempt retirement benefits from personal income tax.				

## West Virginia

SB 99	Status: Assigned to Committee on Health	Topic: Return to West Virginia		
	and Human Resources (3-10-2025)	tax credit		

Would create a \$25,000 tax credit against personal income tax liability for qualified taxpayers who returned to West Virginia on or after January 1, 2025, and at one point (1) both resided and were employed in the state for a minimum of 10 years, or (2) were born in the state, and then subsequently resided out of state for 10 consecutive years.

#### Wisconsin

SB 36 /AB 38	Status: Senate Fiscal estimate received (2-28-2025); Referred to House Ways and	Topic: No tax on tips
	Means (2-28-2025)	
\\\   -	in a sure day, and and the first many in a	

Would create an income tax exemption for cash tips received by an employee from the customers of the employee's employer.

## Wisconsin

AB 50 (2025-2027	Status: Referred to Join Survey Committee	Topic: Income tax
budget bill)	on Retirement Systems (2-18-2025)	

Effective retroactive to January 1, 2025, would add a fifth income tax bracket with (1) a rate of 9.80% for individuals and married joint filers with taxable income exceeding \$1 million and for married separate filers with taxable income exceeding \$500,000 and (2) an increase from \$700 to \$1,200 for the income tax personal exemption for taxpayers, their spouses and dependents.

# Bills to exempt overtime pay from income tax could face challenges in federal and state legislatures

In 2023, Alabama became the first state to exempt overtime pay from income tax. Effective January 1, 2024, Alabama <u>HB 217</u> exempts overtime pay from wages subject to income tax through June 30, 2025. (See <u>Tax Alert 2023-1282</u>.)

The Alabama legislature is now considering <u>HB 467</u>, which would make the provision permanent. Passage of the provision faces challenges, including loss in revenue–according to the <u>Fiscal Note</u> to HR 467, the provision is projected to reduce the state's Education Trust Fund by an estimated minimum of \$34 million and \$45 million for every year after that.

In addition, President Trump popularized the overtime exemption by including it in his <u>policy objectives</u>. Nineteen states are currently considering the provision. (See the chart below.)

Will no income tax on overtime pay soon reach more American workers? If the Trump Administration is successful in getting his original proposal enacted as part of his larger tax bill, all hourly workers would have the potential of a reduction in federal income taxes. Further, most states (with exceptions such as California, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Pennsylvania), instruct employers to use the federal definition of taxable wages for state income tax withholding purposes.

The Economic Policy Institute, a pro-labor policy think tank, published a blog post on March 13, 2025, suggesting that the measure would encourage excessive work hours, put a downward pressure on base wages and further complicate the tax system.

Should there be sufficient widespread public support for the measure, lawmakers could be compelled to reach bipartisan compromise on the measure to gain the requisite votes for enactment. For instance, US House member, Don Bacon (R), has introduced <u>H.R. 561</u>, which would limit the overtime exemption. For instance, the amount of the federal income tax deduction could not exceed 20% of the individual's regular wages from the same employer. Further, the deduction would not be allowed for an individual with adjusted gross income exceeding \$100,000 (or \$150,000 for a head of the household and \$200,000 for a married couple filing a joint return).

Considering the measure's impact on payroll systems and supporting policies and procedures, employers should closely watch federal/state developments.

States considering no income tax on overtime (as of March 31, 2025)

State	Bill #	Bill #	Bill #	Bill #
Connecticut	SB 651			
Georgia	HB 375			
Illinois	SB 174	<u>HB</u>	HB 1899	HB 1750
		2734		
lowa	HF 110			
Kentucky	HB 26			

State	Bill #	Bill #	Bill #	Bill #
Massachusetts	HD 426			
Michigan	SB 125			
Minnesota	SF 589			
Mississippi	HB 504			
Missouri	HB 860			
Nebraska	LB 30			
New Jersey	A 2621			
New York	S 3914			
North Carolina	<u>HB 11</u>			
Ohio	HB 39			
Oregon	HB 2234			
South Carolina	S 3793	H 3298	H 3368	
Virginia	HB 1965			
West Virginia	SB 610			

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Payroll Month in Review for January-February 2024

Pay Payroll Month in Review for March 2024

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Payroll Month in Review for May 2024

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Payroll Month in Review for December 2024

Payroll Month in Review for January-February 2025

## Contact Employment Tax Advisory Services for more information

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