

Tax Reform Consulting Services – RFP No. BLR-170002

RFP Questions and Answers for the Week of July 13-20, 2017

Q: Can you provide me with any information on the overall level of effort anticipated for this project?

A: Under the RFP, the task force is looking for a consultant that will assist it in its analysis of the Arkansas Tax Code and in fulfilling its duty to examine and identify areas of potential reform within the tax laws of the State of Arkansas in order to:

- Modernize and simplify the Arkansas tax code;
- Make the Arkansas tax laws competitive with other states in order to attract businesses to the State;
- Create jobs within the State; and
- Ensure fairness to all individuals and entities impacted by the tax laws of the State of Arkansas.

The expectation of the task force chairs is that the consultant will serve the task force in a manner similar to the consultant that was under contract over the past biennium for the Health Reform Task Force. That consultant (The Stephen Group) attended all task force meetings, assisted with preparation of the agenda for the meetings, was present regularly within the state to meet with relevant agency staff to discuss current practices, etc. The consultant will be expected to be present at all meetings of the task force. The consultant will not only present its findings and analysis, but will also provide answers to issues and questions that arise from task force members, as approved by the task force chairs. The consultant will assist the task force in preparation of its two reports (one due December 1, 2017 and the final report on September 1, 2018), as well as assisting with draft legislation to be recommended to the full General Assembly for its 2019 legislative session.

From the point of contract execution in September of this year, through the end of the contract term (December 31, 2018), it is the anticipation of the task force to work very closely with its chosen consultant as it works towards tax reform and relief in the State of Arkansas.

Q: I am curious what authorized to do business in Arkansas means. My firm is a national law firm but has no clients in Arkansas. Is there something we must do to become authorized?

A: Arkansas Code § 4-27-1501 states that a “foreign corporation may not transact business in this state until it obtains a certificate of authority from the Secretary of State.” There are forms at the Arkansas Secretary of State’s website that may be completed in order to meet this requirement. However, I cannot provide you with any legal advice on this issue.