

Office of the Secretary of Defense

§ 78.5

§ 78.1 Purpose.

Under 10 U.S.C. 1045, this part provides implementing guidance for voluntary State tax withholding from the retired pay of uniformed Service members.

§ 78.2 Applicability and scope.

(a) This part applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Departments, the Coast Guard (under agreement with the Department of Transportation), the Public Health Service (PHS) (under agreement with the Department of Health and Human Services and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) (under agreement with the Department of Commerce). The term "Uniformed Services," as used herein, refers to the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, commissioned corps of the PHS, and the Commissioned corps of the NOAA.

(b) It covers members retired from the regular and reserve components of the Uniformed Services who are receiving retired pay.

§ 78.3 Definitions.

(a) *Income tax.* Any form of tax under a State statute where the collection of that tax either imposes on employers generally the duty of withholding sums from the compensation of employees and making returns of such sums to the State, or grants employers generally the authority to withhold sums from the compensation of employees if any employee voluntarily elects to have such sum withheld. And, the duty to withhold generally is imposed, or the authority to withhold generally is granted, with respect to the compensation of employees who are residents of such State.

(b) *Member.* A person originally appointed or enlisted in, or conscripted into, a Uniformed Service who has retired from the regular or reserve component of the Uniformed Service concerned.

(c) *Retired pay.* Pay and benefits received by a member based on conditions of the retirement law, pay grade, years of service, date of retirement, transfer to the Fleet Reserve or Fleet Marine Corps Reserve, or disability. It also is known as retainer pay.

(d) *State.* Any State, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or possession of the United States.

§ 78.4 Policy.

(a) It is the policy of the Uniformed Services to accept written requests from members for voluntary income tax withholding from retired pay when the Department of Defense has an agreement for such withholding with the State named in the request.

(b) The Department of Defense shall enter into an agreement for the voluntary withholding of State income taxes from retired pay with any State within 120 days of a request for agreement from the proper State official. The agreement shall provide that the Uniformed Services shall withhold State income tax from the monthly retired pay of any member who voluntarily requests such withholding in writing.

§ 78.5 Procedures.

(a) The Uniformed Services shall comply with the payment requirements of the state, city, or county tax laws. Therefore, the payment requirements (biweekly, monthly, or quarterly) of the state, city, or county tax laws currently in effect will be observed by the Uniformed Services. However, payment will not be made more frequently than required by the state, city, or county, or more frequently than the payroll is paid by the Uniformed Services. Payment procedures shall conform, to the extent practicable, to the usual fiscal practices of the Uniformed Services.

(b) A member may request that the State designated for withholding be changed and that the subsequent withholdings be remitted as amended. A member may revoke his or her request for withholding at any time. Any request for a change in the State designated or any revocation is effective on the first day of the month after the month in which the request or revocation is processed by the Uniformed Service concerned, but in no event later than on the first day of the second month beginning after the day on which the request or revocation is received by the Uniformed Service concerned.