

Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:

Article X, section 20, The Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, is amended to add:

**(8)(d) Tax cuts.** A \$25 tax cut, increased \$25 yearly (to \$50, \$75, ...), shall lower each 2005 and later:

utility and television account customer-paid tax, grant, franchise charge, and other public charge except a 911 telephone fee; vehicle sales, use, lease, and ownership tax, and real estate transfer tax, on each \$20,000 of taxable value, and fraction thereof; yearly income tax on each \$20,000 of state taxable income, and fraction thereof, up to \$100,000; occupation, street light, property drainage, and local vehicle registration tax and charge; and yearly property tax total levied by each district.

Exceptions:

(I) District voters each November in even-numbered years may lower or cancel one or more future tax cuts for the next one or two years only. District voters in November 2005 also may lower or cancel the 2005 income and property tax cuts.

(II) Only if real property tax would be a majority of their next year's cash revenue after excluding gifts, federal funds, bond proceeds, and that year's added property tax cut, districts may approve adding \$5 as that year's real property tax cut.

(III) Districts may approve a delay only in adding that part of their next year's tax cuts which would result in that year's cash revenue from district taxes and other districts growing less than current year inflation. Until fully restored, each delayed part shall be added back to the tax cuts to the extent such revenue growth in each later year exceeds inflation in its prior year.

(IV) On each bill, districts may offer each taxpayer a choice to refuse the tax cut on that bill.

Enforcement:

Lowering or canceling the tax cuts is a tax increase. Districts with any petition process shall have exception (I) ballot issues by initiative petition only, adapting state signature requirements and filing deadlines. Multiple-year tax cut totals shall keep using exception (I) and (II) amounts, but only for years properly approved. Violation of revenue limits in approved exceptions (II) or (III) shall void that approval, and districts shall refund to district taxpayers, within 120 days after the year ends, twice the tax cut amount illegally withheld by that invalid approval. Exceptions (I)-(III) approved after 2006 shall apply only in districts with a governing board elected by voters. Exceptions shall be in whole dollars, are not gifts, and shall not reduce the tax cuts after the tax cuts take effect. The tax cuts shall apply to each tax or charge on each bill, and shall be in addition to any other tax cut or revenue reduction or refund. The state shall audit itself and each local entity yearly for full compliance, and enforce strictly the tax cuts and exceptions. Successful plaintiffs enforcing (8)(d) *shall always* receive costs, and attorney fees incurred up to 10% of total first-year benefits to taxpayers, but defendants may receive only costs, and only in frivolous suits.

Douglas Bruce  
Box 26018  
Colo. Spgs. CO 80936  
(719) 550-0010

Carolyn Myers  
15270 Eastonville Road  
Elbert CO 80106  
(719) 351-8071

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