

**New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration
109 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH 03301**

**TECHNICAL INFORMATION RELEASE
TIR 2016-002 Date June 14, 2016**

A Technical Information Release is designed to provide immediate information regarding tax laws administered by the Department or the policy positions of the Department as a service to taxpayers and practitioners. A Technical Information Release represents the position of the Department on the limited issues discussed herein based on current law and Department interpretation. For the current status of any tax law, practitioners and taxpayers should consult the source documents (i.e., Revised Statutes Annotated, Rules, Case Law, Session Laws, etc.). Questions should be directed to Central Tax Services at (603) 230-5920.

House Bill 1198 – Valuation of Poles and Conduits Owned by Telephone Utilities

The New Hampshire Legislature has passed and Governor Hassan has signed into law House Bill 1198 (Chapter 208, Laws of 2016), establishing procedures for the valuation of poles and conduits employed in the transmission of telecommunications for purposes of property tax assessment.

Pursuant to RSA 72:8-a, “all structures, poles, towers, and conduits employed in the transmission of telecommunication... shall be taxed as real estate in the town in which such property or any part of it is situated.”

HB 1198 enacts RSA 72:8-c, which establishes a valuation formula for telecommunications poles and conduits for purposes of assessing the property tax pursuant to RSA 72. The valuation formula shall be Replacement Cost New (RCN) of the telecommunications pole or conduit, less depreciation calculated on a straight-line basis for a period of 40 years with a residual value of 20%.

The Department of Revenue Administration (Department) shall provide a schedule of telecommunications pole and conduit RCN using national published telecommunications standard cost data guides not later than July 1 of the tax year and shall adopt rules relative to the establishment of RCN, including a process for receiving public input.

HB 1198 also enacts RSA 74:19, providing that each owner of telecommunications poles and conduits shall annually file, not later than July 1, an inventory of telecommunications poles and conduits with the Department and with the municipality where the property is located.

The Department will be holding an informational meeting this fall (2016) to communicate additional information and answer questions from impacted taxpayers and municipalities.

Additional information about local property tax assessment can be obtained by referencing RSA 72, RSA 74, RSA 76, and N.H. Code of Admin. Rules Rev 600, which can be accessed through the Department’s website.

Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication in programs and services of the Department of Revenue Administration are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the N.H. Department of Revenue Administration, 109 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH 03301 or by contacting them at (603) 230-5000.