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Matt Austin

Changes Proposed for Vt. Taxes

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Posted: Jan 13, 2011 6:38 PM EST
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If you are confused and angry about taxes you have some friends in Montpelier.

On Thursday a group with a big name, "The Blue Ribbon Tax Structure Commission," released its plan to make paying taxes easier and more fair.

Every year Vermonters send hundreds of millions of dollars in taxes to Montpelier.

Taxes that take away from our pay checks and add to our purchases.

"We are recommending that we clean it up and go back to ground zero," says Bill Schubart, a commission member.

The commission spent more than a year studying Vermont taxes. On Thursday it released the results.

"Our friends might not like us after we make our recommendations," says Kathy Hoyt, a commission member.

Hoyt says the idea is to simplify taxes and make them more fair.

Their recommendations:

> The income tax rates would be reduced but there would be no deductions.

> The sales tax would go down to 4.5% but would expand to almost everything including services we use.

> Legislators spend a little more time deciding how tax money is spent and who doesn't have to pay.

Hoyt says the changes wouldn't change how much money is collected but make taxes easier for everyone.

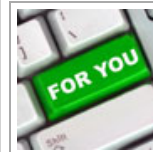
"Making this a stronger place for people to come, live and do business," says Hoyt.

Already there is opposition.

Governor Peter Shumlin says he is skeptical of some of the ideas and from Matt Cota who represents companies selling heating fuel which would be taxed under the plan.



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"Our concern is that people can't afford another \$100 for their heating bill," says Cota, Vermont Fuel Dealers Association.

The plan, which all the commission members couldn't agree on, now heads to legislators.

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