



**Illinois Independent
Tax Tribunal**

*James M. Conway
Chief Administrative Law Judge*

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September 17, 2021

Honorable John Hollman
Clerk of the House
402 Capitol Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Honorable Tim Anderson
Secretary of the Senate
401 Capitol Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Re: Illinois Independent Tax Tribunal Annual Report
to the General Assembly for FY21

Dear Sirs:

I am providing certain statistics for the Illinois Independent Tax Tribunal for fiscal year 2021 as required by §1-85 of the Illinois Independent Tax Tribunal Act of 2012 (35 ILCS 1010/1-85).

The Tax Tribunal was created by the General Assembly to provide a fair and impartial forum for taxpayers to litigate their disputes with the Illinois Department of Revenue. The Tax Tribunal, in addition to being an independent state agency, is an administrative law court under the executive branch of Illinois government. Its purpose is to resolve tax disputes in an open and transparent manner and to conduct prompt hearings when matters cannot be settled between the parties.

The Tax Tribunal began functioning as a court on January 2, 2014. There are currently two administrative law judges appointed to the Tax Tribunal. Cases

filed with the Tax Tribunal follow the procedural rules of the Illinois Supreme Court, the Illinois Rules of Civil Procedure and the Tax Tribunal's own Rules.

Most civil court matters are resolved during or following discovery and prior to trial. The Tax Tribunal's caseload is following that trend. The majority of cases filed with the Tax Tribunal are settled or dismissed prior to an evidentiary hearing or through dispositive summary judgment motions.


Fiscal year 2021 represents the seventh full fiscal year of the Tax Tribunal for which there are twelve months of statistics available.

The Tax Tribunal took in 139 new matters in FY21 which have an aggregate dollar value of \$234,103,614 in potential taxes, interest, and penalties. 151 matters were closed in FY21.

A main goal of the Tax Tribunal is to resolve most matters within two years. Over its six and one-half years, the Tribunal has taken in 1482 matters and it has closed out 1235 cases, or 83% of its cases.

While the length of litigation time for any one case is impossible to predict and many factors which can decide the length of litigation are outside the control of the Tax Tribunal, the Tax Tribunal will continue to provide a forum for taxpayers to litigate their cases as efficiently as possible while being a court system that allows each party a full opportunity to litigate their case. During FY21 the Tax Tribunal continued all operations despite the pandemic and continued to provide an accessible, fair, and efficient forum for taxpayers.

Sincerely,


JAMES M. CONWAY
Chief Administrative
Law Judge

Enclosure- §1-85 reportable statistics

Via email: reports@ilga.com

**Illinois Independent Tax Tribunal
FY 2021**

1. Number of Cases Opened: 139
2. Number of Cases Closed: 151
3. Size of Docket (at year end): 246
4. Average Age of Case: 22 months
5. Cases Decided for Department: 0
6. Cases Decided for Taxpayers: 0
7. Cases Resolved through Mediation or Settlement: 69
8. Dollar Amounts of Cases by Tax Type¹²:

Tax Type	Cases Filed	Total Dollars
Income	33	\$40,308,387
Motor Fuel	4	1,764,469
R.O.T.	1	925,164
Sales	52	181,102,586
Tobacco Products	2	3,253,219
Uniform Penalty and Interest	46	5,087,914
Use	1	1,661,875
Total	<u>139</u>	<u>\$234,103,614</u>

¹ The Department of Revenue assesses interest and, if deemed applicable, penalties when it issues its Notices of Liabilities to taxpayers. Those amounts are included in the calculation of total dollar amounts per case.

² The Tax Tribunal has jurisdiction to hear matters involving 22 tax statutes. 35 ILCS 1010/1-45. In FY21, cases were filed that involved 7 of those tax statutes.