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Press Release

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Department of Revenue: Impacts of a Partial Government Shutdown

Juneau – Due to the current budget impasse, Department of Revenue (DOR) employees were sent layoff notices this afternoon. DOR will provide as much information as possible to the public in regard to a partial government shutdown and any potential reductions in service. Governor Walker and Commissioner Hoffbeck are hopeful the legislature will reach an agreement so the shutdown does not occur, but out of respect to Alaskans, DOR has listed the effects a partial government shutdown would have on the Department's different divisions.

The Tax Division will continue to collect and account for taxes and refunds. The Juneau and Anchorage offices will remain open with a reduced level of staffing and the online portal for filing tax returns will remain available. The public may experience a delay in the processing of refunds and tax credits. Additionally, audit, appraisal, and tax payer assistance functions will be limited which may result in delays in tax assessments and litigation resolutions, potentially resulting in delayed final tax payments. Information such as oil prices and production, which is typically posted daily, may not be available on the Tax Division website.

The Child Support Services Division will continue to operate as usual during the early periods of a shutdown. Should a shutdown last longer than 2 months, the staffing will be reduced to a level that allows only for payment of child support on existing orders and collection. At that point no new child support orders or modifications would be processed.

The Treasury Division will have minor staffing reductions, as they are only partially fund by the unrestricted general fund. All investment and cash management activities will continue.

The Permanent Fund Dividend Division is funded by sources other than the unrestricted general fund and will not be effected with a partial government shutdown.

All DOR agencies not funded by the unrestricted general fund should remain unaffected. These agencies include the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation, and Alaska Housing Finance Corporation.

In light of a partial government shutdown, both Governor Walker and Commissioner Hoffbeck stay optimistic the legislature will reach a compromise and the layoffs will be recalled prior to the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2015). As the details unfold, DOR will provide as much information and advance notice as possible to the public and any potentially affected parties.