



The 8/8/2020 Executive Order to Defer Payroll Taxes



On August 8, 2020, President Trump signed an executive order directing the Secretary of the Treasury to permit employers to defer certain payroll tax obligations in order to provide additional economic relief during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This payroll tax deferral applies to employee wages paid between September 1st and December 31st of 2020 and only for employees who make less than \$4,000 during any bi-weekly pay period. The \$4,000 bi-weekly limit equates to \$104,000 in annual compensation.

The deferral applies to the withholding, deposit, and payment of the employees 6.2% social security tax. It does not apply to the employees 1.45% medicare tax.

The order provides that the amounts deferred will not be subject to interest or penalties.

This new payroll tax deferral is separate from the CARES Act provision that allows for the deferral of the employer's portion of the payroll tax.

Also, it is important to note that this is a deferral and not a forgiveness of the payroll taxes, so plans must be in place to pay the taxes at a later date.

While the order raises many questions for employers, we expect further guidance to be issued by the Department of Treasury relatively soon.



Final Thoughts

If you have any questions or would like to discuss how this order or the CARES Act applies to your specific situation, please contact our office.



About Pugh CPAs

We got our start in Knoxville, Tennessee in 1969 and have grown into a regional firm with global connections. We've been in business a LONG time and that means we've worked with a diverse group of industries and clients. Of course, we do tax planning, compliance, auditing, and accounting but our passion is collaborating with our clients to ensure that your business and financial goals are met. It's critical for your business advisors to understand how your business operates within your industry—we get that! Our longevity is connected to the relationships we build with our clients and that's how we build trust. You can be confident that Pugh CPAs has the knowledge, skills and abilities to help you achieve your goals. Brilliant people with servant hearts work here.



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