

Alabama Department of Revenue

Office of the Commissioner
Media Affairs Section
Post Office Box 327001
Montgomery, Alabama 36132-7001

For Release

For More Information Contact:
Carla A. Snellgrove
or Carolyn Blackstock
Telephone: (334) 242-1390
FAX: (334) 242-0550
www.ador.state.al.us

State Accepts Alternative Identification Number for Tax Preparers

Montgomery, Nov. 2, 1999—In a policy announcement made today by State Revenue Commissioner James P. Hayes Jr., the Alabama Department of Revenue confirmed it will accept use of Preparer Tax Identification Numbers (PTINs) by preparers on 1999 state income tax returns, filed after Dec. 31, 1999.

Section 3710 of the IRS Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 allows the IRS to provide tax return preparers with alternative identifying numbers (PTINs) to use in place of their social security numbers on federal tax returns they prepare. Alabama will follow suit with IRS guidelines in acceptance of PTINs for use on 1999 Alabama individual and corporate income tax returns.

Preparers wishing to use PTINs in place of their social security numbers must apply directly to the Internal Revenue Service. Preparers may download and print the federal form W-7P, *Application for Preparer Tax Identification Number*, from the IRS Web site, www.irs.ustreas.gov, or contact the IRS at (202) 622-4405. Once completed, the form may be either faxed or mailed to the IRS for processing.

If approved, the IRS will assign the tax preparer a nine-digit Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN). Tax preparers using PTINs will enter the number on the Alabama return's entry line marked: "Preparer's Social Security Number." Note that PTINs may not be substituted for the Employer Identification Number (EIN), used for identification purposes of firms preparing tax returns.

PTINs are not mandatory and tax preparers may continue to use their social security numbers as their state and federal tax preparer's identification number.

For more information concerning PTINs, contact the Internal Revenue Service at (202) 622-4405.