

NEW YORK AND PENNSYLVANIA AMNESTY PROGRAMS

States are still trying to find revenue wherever they can to assist in balancing their budget. One way states attempt this is to offer an amnesty program to delinquent taxpayers giving them a chance to wipe the slate clean without penalties and with reduced interest. Many times interest and penalties on old liabilities are larger than the liability itself.

New York's amnesty program kicked off on January 15th and runs until March 15th. The New York program offers an 80% reduction of accrued penalty and interest on unpaid bills issued on or before December 31, 2003 and a 50% reduction for unpaid bills issued after December 31, 2003 and on or before December 31, 2006.

Pennsylvania's amnesty program begins April 26th and runs through June 18th. Pennsylvania's program has a limited look back period of five years and offers a 50% reduction of interest and no penalty. The city of Philadelphia is also considering an amnesty program to run concurrently with Pennsylvania's but it has not passed as of yet.