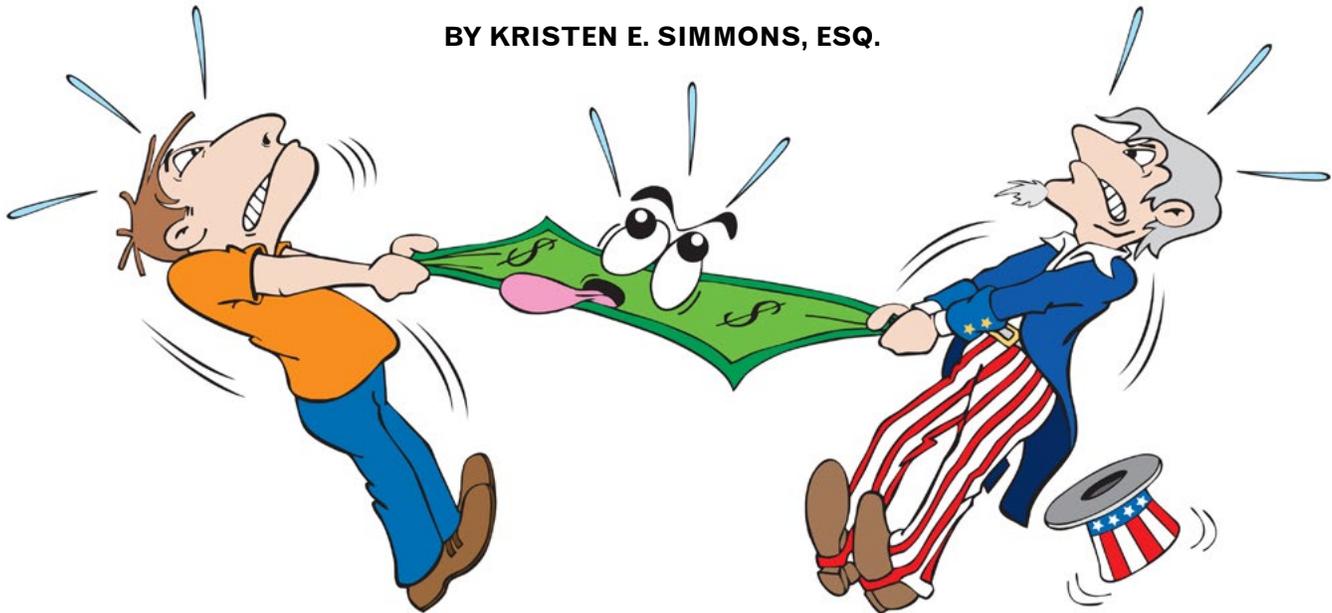


BACK STORY

True or False: Somewhere in the United States there is a Tax for That?!

BY KRISTEN E. SIMMONS, ESQ.



Flushing the Toilet

True: In Maryland, both businesses and homeowners pay a “flush tax” in the form of the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fee. In fact, in 2012, the Maryland General Assembly increased the tax from \$2.50 per month to \$5 per month!

Slicing your Bagel

True: In New York, the mecca of bagels, you may buy a whole bagel without paying a sales tax, but ask the vendor to slice it or put on some schmear, and *voila*, it’s time to ante up. Prepared foods, or foods intended to be enjoyed while dining in, are subject to the sales tax, while foods that are sold for consumption at home are exempt.

A Deck of Cards

True: Here in Nevada, a deck of cards generates revenue for our casinos. In Alabama, a consumer purchasing a deck of cards must pay an additional \$.10 tax.

*“It was as true ...
as taxes is.
And nothing’s
truer than them.”*

– Charles Dickens –

Candy

True: In Illinois, the saying “give me some sugar” may refer to the additional 5 percent tax the state charges on sales of candy. For candy lovers, note that candy containing flour is exempt from the tax. Other states, such as Washington and Tennessee, differentiate candy (without flour) from other food and subject candy to the state sales tax (while exempting food products).

Body Decorations – Tattoos and Piercings

True: They may be all the rage for today’s youth, but go to a tattoo or piercing parlor in Arkansas and you will pay a 6 percent tax for the ink on, or hole in, your body.

Keeping up with Tax Law in Nevada Lawyer

FALSE: We hope you enjoyed this lighthearted article and found the information on tax law informative to your practice. ■

More information about strange taxes in the United States can be found in the USA Today online at <http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/personalfinance/2013/03/31/odd-state-tax-laws/1951911/>

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