

## Subject 602

### Extensions of Time to File

If you will not be able to file your tax return by April 15<sup>th</sup>, you may receive an automatic six-month extension of time to file by requesting a federal automatic extension on Form 4868 by April 15<sup>th</sup>. It is not necessary to attach the federal extension to your Arkansas return. When your Arkansas return is complete and ready to file, simply **check the extension box on the front of the return** and mail it by the extended due date. (Do not mail an incomplete **AR1000F** to claim the extension to file.)

If you do not apply for a federal extension, you may request an Arkansas extension on Form **AR1055**. The **AR1055** must be approved and is valid for a maximum of 180 days. Attach a copy of your approved Arkansas extension to the front of your tax return when you file and check the box on front of the return indicating that you had an extension.

An extension of time to file is not an extension of time to pay. **The date the return is due is the deadline for payment.** You will be charged penalty and interest on taxes owed but not paid by April 15<sup>th</sup>. You can avoid paying interest by estimating how much tax, if any, you will owe and making that payment on Form **AR1000ES, Voucher 5**, by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Do not request an extension if your return is complete but you are unable to pay the tax due. File your return by April 15<sup>th</sup> and pay as much as you can. We will send you a notice for the balance. This may include additional charges for interest and/or penalty.

**Because the penalty for not filing on time (5% per month) is greater than the penalty for not paying on time (1% per month), you should file the tax return on time even if you cannot pay the tax liability.**