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TaxBird — A New App for Snowbirds

TaxBird is a mobile app that helps you track your location year-round to make sure you don't exceed the residency threshold in a state with income tax.

NAPLES, Fla. (Jan. 2, 2018) — Residents of high-tax states can track their residency status with TaxBird, a mobile application that warns you when you're overstaying for tax purposes.

Launched in October by two successful tech entrepreneurs, TaxBird is ideal for anyone who owns homes in different states because it automatically tracks how many days you spend in each state. Once downloaded to a smartphone, the app runs in the background, tracking your location in real time. Come tax time, it generates a report that's valuable to your accountant and, in case of an audit, provides substantiation of your whereabouts.

"TaxBird lets you easily see the days you've spent in each state and how many you have left," says Jim Simon, co-founder of ware2now LLC, a Naples resident and the co-developer of TaxBird.

Tracking your residency is even more important now because of the recently enacted federal tax reform, which caps the amount that you can deduct in state and local income, sales and property taxes to \$10,000.

You can download the TaxBird app from iTunes (an Android version is being developed) and from a link on TaxBird's website, www.taxbird.com. After a free 30-day trial, a subscription costs \$19.99 annually.

Simon and partner Brian Ochs created TaxBird after Simon used an old-fashioned spreadsheet program to keep track of the time he spent at his homes in Naples, Fla., and Westport, Conn. Florida doesn't impose a state income tax but Connecticut's rate is as high as 6.99%.

"Recent state elections suggest state income taxes will continue to rise, so TaxBird is an essential tax-planning tool for high-net-worth individuals who own homes in multiple states," says Ochs.

Currently seven states don't impose a state income tax on residents. These include Alaska, Florida, Nevada, South Dakota, Texas, Washington and Wyoming. Tennessee is scheduled to become the eighth state with no income tax by 2022 after it eliminates taxes on dividends and interest. New Hampshire doesn't tax wage income, but it imposes a 5% tax on interest and dividend income in excess of \$2,400 or \$4,800 if married and filing jointly.

TaxBird will be especially useful for estate-planning and tax professionals who can recommend it to their clients. The company will be an exhibitor at the 52nd Annual Heckerling Institute on Estate Planning in Orlando Jan. 22 to 26, an event that bills itself as the nation's largest gathering of estate-planning professionals.

Simon and Ochs are successful entrepreneurs who founded Spire, a data marketing and analytics company focused on grocery retailers and consumer packaged goods. They sold Spire in 2014 to Datalogix, which was acquired a year later by Oracle.

About ware2now LLC

Founded by tech entrepreneurs Jim Simon and Brian Ochs, ware2now LLC developed TaxBird, a mobile application that tracks how many days you spend in each state for tax purposes. For more information, visit www.taxbird.com.



Photo Caption: *Entrepreneurs Brian Ochs (l) and Jim Simon (r) created TaxBird so those with more than one home can make sure they don't overstay the residency threshold in an income-tax state.*