

# Vermont TaxSlayer Issues and Workarounds

## Note as of Saturday, Feb 3 at 2:00 PM:

For the past two hours, TaxSlayer production has been suffering from a severe case of *déjà vu* (shades of the TaxSlayer flu in TY2016). It also affects the Practice Lab because I can't work there, either. Thus, I am unable to test whether some of the issues below have been fixed in all regards.

## Issue 614: LC-142 E-file Certificate Number (ECN) [see also 719]

TaxSlayer does not accept the ECN for an LC-142. TaxSlayer wants 14 characters, of which the hyphen is one and it is ignored by TaxSlayer. Substituting another character (a space, an "X", etc) does not seem to work.

Workaround: None known. Omit ECN and risk delaying taxpayer's rent rebate.

Resolved as of 2/2?

Important: **Enter the entire thirteen-character number WITHOUT** including any extraneous characters (such as the space or hyphen). You will not be able to see the entire number in the field to verify but if you place the mouse cursor in the field you can horizontally scroll to the right and left with the <HOME> and <END> keys. [Thanks to JohnG.]

John also reports the ECN appears on the HS-122, line B9, allocable rent appears correctly on line B10, and the lot-rent return can be printed (a previous problem, 778). The ECN does print on the Renter Rebate Landlord's Certificate. When there are two Landlord's Certificates, the ECN does not print on either. The ECN, from Landlord's Certificate 1, prints on the HS-122 and the sum of the two allocable rents is correct.

## Issue 654: New Vermont form HI-144 for 2017

The data placement on the HI-144 form has changed significantly in 2017 from its layout in 2016 and prior years (they may look alike but they are not).

The correction for this issue includes a proposal to make all non-calculated fields on the HI-144 accessible to the preparer.

Workaround: None required; for MFJ, leave as is (spouse income in Column 2). Make other changes as appropriate. The primary concern for the Dept of Taxes is to have a correct value for the Household Income (line y).

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## Issue 655: Missing form IN-155

Resolved, but verify that form IN-155 is in your PDF when needed (itemized on Sch A and IN-155 line 11 is not \$0). Sorry, but that requires a simple hand calculation on IN-155. IN-155 should be included whenever Sch A is used, but its absence will not matter if the DoT determines that IN-155 line 11 is zero.

TaxSlayer should, but does not, print IN-155 if line 11 is zero (who knows what is submitted in the E-file).

## Issue 718: Vermont Basic Information page

Requested several changes to the Basic Information page.

Status: Believed to be implemented but unable to verify as of Feb 3.

## Issue 719: Vermont form LC-142

(a) If the landlord is a business, the name of the business does not transfer to Section A, Name of Owner or Landlord

Workaround: Enter business name in the First Name field for Owner; leave Business Name empty. Note: Providing both the First/Last names of the owner AND a Business Name will result in a validation error.

(b) Resolved. Location of the Rental Unit is no longer the 911 Address.

(c) Resolved? ECN still not handled correctly (see issue 614)

(d) Resolved, sort of. Can now enter names of up to three (should be four) tenants BUT name of Tenant (1) also populates Tenant (4) [but does not appear in the PDF]

## Issue 721: Vermont form HI-144

Two non-computational issues.

(a) Only two Other Persons on form (TS had four)

(b) Other Person #2, first and last names are reversed in the PDF

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## Issue 728: Vermont Use Tax

The current default for Use Tax (IN-111 line 27 checked "... no Use Tax is due" is unacceptable. Change the Use Tax page so that the preparer/taxpayer must address the Use Tax. Thus, on the Use Tax page, for "I certify that no Use Tax is due", make the initial state of the pull-down list "--Select--" (it currently is "Yes"). At EXIT VERMONT RETURN, display an error message if this question has not been answered.

Workaround: None. Just be certain to address Use Tax with the taxpayer.

## Issue 778: Print failure when ECN is present for Lot Rent

In the days when the ECN was 'sort of' working, a return with HS-122 and Lot Rent would consistently fail to print (Timed Out errors) if an ECN was entered on the LC-142 in TaxSlayer.

Resolved as of 2/2? Otherwise, ...

Workaround: Remove the ECN.

## Issue 779: Not all VT forms in all print sets

Form LC-142 and the Use Tax Worksheet do not appear in many of the print sets offered. They DO appear in the following:

On Office Client List page: Print Return

Summary/Print section: View/Print return works

Submission page: the *One/Two/Three copies (fed + state)* and the *One copy - State only*

Mystery: Where are Vermont's IN-155 and UseTaxWorksheet in the print set lists, including the one where you create your custom print set? They are not shown, but they do appear in the PDF (the IN-155 only makes cameo appearances--it's not very common).

Workaround: Live with it; use a print set that works for you; create your own print set.

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## **Issue 873: No Low-Income Child & Dependent Care credit**

TaxSlayer does not provide access to IN-111 line 31g, Low Income Child & Dependent Care credit (LICDC), nor does it automatically calculate the two possible Vermont CDC amounts and give the better of the CDC (IN-111 line 19) and the LICDC (IN-111 line 31g).

Workaround: You can file now; when LICDC works, file an amended return if LICDC results in a better outcome. Evaluating whether LICDC will be better takes a little hand calculating on the IN-111, but should be done while taxpayer is still present, to see if an amended return might be possible and worthwhile.

## **Issue 945: LC-142 Phantom Tenant #4**

On the LC-142, the name of Tenant #1 also populates Tenant #4. If you delete Tenant #4, the name for Tenant #1 is also deleted. The name in Tenant #4 does not print on the LC-142 in the PDF.

Workaround: Ignore TaxSlayer's entry for Tenant #4 (it doesn't print). Enter a maximum of three Tenants.

## **Issue: Vermont menu button**

On the Vermont Return main menu page, the BEGIN/EDIT button for "Homestead Declaration AND ..." does not flip to EDIT when input has been entered and saved for any of the four items listed on the "Homestead Declaration AND ..." page.

TaxSlayer response: Our production team is actively working to resolve these issues with EDIT showing when no entry has been made and BEGIN showing when an entry has been made.

## **Issue: No access to HS-122 in the Part-Year return menu**

There is no access to HS-122 for those taxpayers who file a Part-Year Vermont return for TY2017, will be a full-year resident of Vermont in 2018, and own a home that will be their domicile for 2018.

Workaround: File the Vermont Income Tax return from TaxSlayer. File the Homestead Declaration on myVTax.

Status: TaxSlayer is treating this as "an enhancement request." No Ticket number was issued.