

## New York Could Give Congress Trump's State Tax Returns (1)

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1. N.Y. Senate to vote on bill that could allow state tax department to share Trump's state returns
2. Comes after Treasury Department refuses to release federal returns

The New York Senate is planning a vote on legislation that could give Congress access to President Donald Trump's state tax returns, even as his administration refuses to turn his federal returns over to committees investigating him.

The Democratic-led Senate is expected to take up the bill (S. 5072) May 8, according to an announcement from the Senate majority. If passed by both chambers and signed by the governor, the legislation would create an exemption to the state's current tax law, which prohibits the sharing of tax return information except under certain circumstances. The new exemption would authorize the state to share tax returns upon request from a congressional committee.

Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie (D) will discuss the measure further with the Democratic majority conference "in the near future," majority spokesman Mike Whyland said. The Assembly version of the bill (A. 7194) is in committee.

The White House declined to comment on the bill. William Consovoy, Trump's personal attorney, has said that it is Trump's right as a citizen to keep his returns private.

The vote comes after Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said May 6 that his department wouldn't release Trump's personal and business tax returns to Congress. House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard E. Neal (D-Mass.), who requested the release of six years of the president's returns, could now decide to take more forceful actions like issuing a subpoena or filing a lawsuit.

Experts say the New York law would provide another avenue for Congress to get a hold of Trump's returns.

### 'Enormously Consequential'

The bill's passage could be "enormously consequential," Gerald Benjamin, distinguished professor of political science at the State University of New York at New Paltz told Bloomberg Tax May 7.

"A decision by New York to release Trump's New York returns would effectively release portions of his federal returns, and probably very revealing portions, as much of the background that's required for claiming tax benefits would be on federal forms," Benjamin said.