

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 668

AN ACT

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate the Airport and Airway Trust Fund excise taxes, and for other purposes.

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To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate the Airport and Airway Trust Fund excise taxes, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Airport and Airway Trust Fund Tax Reinstatement Act
4 of 1997”.

5 (b) AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.—Except as other-
6 wise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amend-
7 ment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment
8 to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference
9 shall be considered to be made to a section or other provi-
10 sion of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

11 **SEC. 2. REINSTATEMENT OF AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST**
12 **FUND EXCISE TAXES.**

13 (a) FUEL TAXES.—

14 (1) AVIATION FUEL.—Subparagraph (A) of sec-
15 tion 4091(b)(3) is amended to read as follows:

16 “(A) The rate of tax specified in para-
17 graph (1) shall be 4.3 cents per gallon—

18 “(i) after December 31, 1996, and be-
19 fore the date which is 7 days after the date
20 of the enactment of the Airport and Air-
21 way Trust Fund Tax Reinstatement Act of
22 1997, and

23 “(ii) after September 30, 1997.”

24 (2) AVIATION GASOLINE.—Subsection (d) of
25 section 4081 is amended by striking the paragraph
26 (3) added by section 1609(a) of the Small Business

1 Job Protection Act of 1996 and by striking para-
2 graphs (1) and (2) and inserting the following new
3 paragraphs:

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The rates of tax specified
5 in clauses (i) and (iii) of subsection (a)(2)(A) shall
6 be 4.3 cents per gallon after September 30, 1999.

7 “(2) AVIATION GASOLINE.—The rate of tax
8 specified in subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii) shall be 4.3
9 cents per gallon—

10 “(A) after December 31, 1996, and before
11 the date which is 7 days after the date of the
12 enactment of the Airport and Airway Trust
13 Fund Tax Reinstatement Act of 1997, and

14 “(B) after September 30, 1997.”

15 (3) NONCOMMERCIAL AVIATION.—Paragraph
16 (3) of section 4041(c) is amended to read as follows:

17 “(3) TERMINATION.—The rate of the taxes im-
18 posed by paragraph (1) shall be 4.3 cents per gal-
19 lon—

20 “(A) after December 31, 1996, and before
21 the date which is 7 days after the date of the
22 enactment of the Airport and Airway Trust
23 Fund Tax Reinstatement Act of 1997, and

24 “(B) after September 30, 1997.”

25 (b) TICKET TAXES.—

1 (1) PERSONS.—Subsection (g) of section 4261
2 is amended to read as follows:

3 “(g) APPLICATION OF TAXES.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The taxes imposed by this
5 section shall apply to—

6 “(A) transportation beginning during the
7 period—

8 “(i) beginning on the 7th day after
9 the date of the enactment of the Airport
10 and Airway Trust Fund Tax Reinstatement
11 Act of 1997, and

12 “(ii) ending on September 30, 1997,
13 and

14 “(B) amounts paid during such period for
15 transportation beginning after such period.

16 “(2) REFUNDS.—If, as of the date any trans-
17 portation begins, the taxes imposed by this section
18 would not have applied to such transportation if
19 paid for on such date, any tax paid under paragraph
20 (1)(B) with respect to such transportation shall be
21 treated as an overpayment.”

22 (2) PROPERTY.—Subsection (d) of section 4271
23 is amended to read as follows:

24 “(d) APPLICATION OF TAX.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The tax imposed by sub-
2 section (a) shall apply to—

3 “(A) transportation beginning during the
4 period—

5 “(i) beginning on the 7th day after
6 the date of the enactment of the Airport
7 and Airway Trust Fund Tax Reinstatement
8 Act of 1997, and

9 “(ii) ending on September 30, 1997,
10 and

11 “(B) amounts paid during such period for
12 transportation beginning after such period.

13 “(2) REFUNDS.—If, as of the date any trans-
14 portation begins, the taxes imposed by this section
15 would not have applied to such transportation if
16 paid for on such date, any tax paid under paragraph
17 (1)(B) with respect to such transportation shall be
18 treated as an overpayment.”

19 (c) TRANSFERS TO AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST
20 FUND.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section
22 9502 is amended to read as follows:

23 “(b) TRANSFERS TO AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST
24 FUND.—There are hereby appropriated to the Airport and
25 Airway Trust Fund amounts equivalent to—

1 “(1) the taxes received in the Treasury under—

2 “(A) subsections (c) and (e) of section
3 4041 (relating to aviation fuels),

4 “(B) sections 4261 and 4271 (relating to
5 transportation by air),

6 “(C) section 4081 (relating to gasoline)
7 with respect to aviation gasoline (to the extent
8 that the rate of the tax on such gasoline ex-
9 ceeds 4.3 cents per gallon), and

10 “(D) section 4091 (relating to aviation
11 fuel) to the extent attributable to the Airport
12 and Airway Trust Fund financing rate, and

13 “(2) the amounts determined by the Secretary
14 of the Treasury to be equivalent to the amounts of
15 civil penalties collected under section 47107(n) of
16 title 49, United States Code.”

17 (2) TERMINATION OF FINANCING RATE.—Para-
18 graph (3) of section 9502(f) is amended to read as
19 follows:

20 “(3) TERMINATION.—Notwithstanding the pre-
21 ceding provisions of this subsection, the Airport and
22 Airway Trust Fund financing rate shall be zero with
23 respect to taxes imposed during any period that the
24 rate of the tax imposed by section 4091(b)(1) is 4.3
25 cents per gallon.”

1 (d) FLOOR STOCKS TAXES ON AVIATION GASOLINE
2 AND AVIATION FUEL.—

3 (1) IMPOSITION OF TAX.—In the case of any
4 aviation liquid on which tax was imposed under sec-
5 tion 4081 or 4091 of the Internal Revenue Code of
6 1986 before the tax effective date and which is held
7 on such date by any person, there is hereby imposed
8 a floor stocks tax of—

9 (A) 15 cents per gallon in the case of avia-
10 tion gasoline, and

11 (B) 17.5 cents per gallon in the case of
12 aviation fuel.

13 (2) LIABILITY FOR TAX AND METHOD OF PAY-
14 MENT.—

15 (A) LIABILITY FOR TAX.—A person hold-
16 ing, on the tax effective date, any aviation liq-
17 uid to which the tax imposed by paragraph (1)
18 applies shall be liable for such tax.

19 (B) METHOD OF PAYMENT.—The tax im-
20 posed by paragraph (1) shall be paid in such
21 manner as the Secretary shall prescribe.

22 (C) TIME FOR PAYMENT.—The tax im-
23 posed by paragraph (1) shall be paid on or be-
24 fore the first day of the 5th month beginning
25 after the tax effective date.

1 (3) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sub-
2 section—

3 (A) TAX EFFECTIVE DATE.—The term
4 “tax effective date” means the date which is 7
5 days after the date of the enactment of this
6 Act.

7 (B) AVIATION LIQUID.—The term “avia-
8 tion liquid” means aviation gasoline and avia-
9 tion fuel.

10 (C) AVIATION GASOLINE.—The term
11 “aviation gasoline” has the meaning given such
12 term in section 4081 of such Code.

13 (D) AVIATION FUEL.—The term “aviation
14 fuel” has the meaning given such term by sec-
15 tion 4093 of such Code.

16 (E) HELD BY A PERSON.—Aviation liquid
17 shall be considered as “held by a person” if
18 title thereto has passed to such person (whether
19 or not delivery to the person has been made).

20 (F) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
21 means the Secretary of the Treasury or the
22 Secretary’s delegate.

23 (4) EXCEPTION FOR EXEMPT USES.—The tax
24 imposed by paragraph (1) shall not apply to—

1 (A) aviation liquid held by any person on
2 the tax effective date exclusively for any use for
3 which a credit or refund of the entire tax im-
4 posed by section 4081 or 4091 of such Code (as
5 the case may be) is allowable for such liquid
6 purchased on or after such tax effective date for
7 such use, or

8 (B) aviation fuel held by any person on the
9 tax effective date exclusively for any use de-
10 scribed in section 4092(b) of such Code.

11 (5) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN AMOUNTS OF
12 FUEL.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—No tax shall be im-
14 posed by paragraph (1) on any aviation liquid
15 held on the tax effective date by any person if
16 the aggregate amount of such liquid (deter-
17 mined separately for aviation gasoline and avia-
18 tion fuel) held by such person on such date does
19 not exceed 2,000 gallons. The preceding sen-
20 tence shall apply only if such person submits to
21 the Secretary (at the time and in the manner
22 required by the Secretary) such information as
23 the Secretary shall require for purposes of this
24 paragraph.

1 (B) EXEMPT FUEL.—Any liquid to which
2 the tax imposed by paragraph (1) does not
3 apply by reason of paragraph (4) shall not be
4 taken into account under subparagraph (A).

5 (C) CONTROLLED GROUPS.—For purposes
6 of this paragraph—

7 (i) CORPORATIONS.—

8 (I) IN GENERAL.—All persons
9 treated as a controlled group shall be
10 treated as 1 person.

11 (II) CONTROLLED GROUP.—The
12 term “controlled group” has the
13 meaning given such term by sub-
14 section (a) of section 1563 of such
15 Code; except that for such purposes,
16 the phrase “more than 50 percent”
17 shall be substituted for the phrase “at
18 least 80 percent” each place it ap-
19 pears in such subsection.

20 (ii) NONINCORPORATED PERSONS
21 UNDER COMMON CONTROL.—Under regula-
22 tions prescribed by the Secretary, prin-
23 ciples similar to the principles of clause (i)
24 shall apply to a group of persons under

1 common control where 1 or more of such
2 persons is not a corporation.

3 (6) OTHER LAWS APPLICABLE.—All provisions
4 of law, including penalties, applicable with respect to
5 the taxes imposed by section 4081 or 4091 of such
6 Code shall, insofar as applicable and not inconsistent
7 with the provisions of this subsection, apply with re-
8 spect to the floor stocks taxes imposed by paragraph
9 (1) to the same extent as if such taxes were imposed
10 by such section 4081 or 4091, as the case may be.

11 (e) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

12 (1) FUEL TAXES.—The amendments made by
13 subsection (a) shall apply to periods beginning on or
14 after the 7th day after the date of the enactment of
15 this Act.

16 (2) TICKET TAXES.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made
18 by subsection (b) shall apply to transportation
19 beginning on or after such 7th day.

20 (B) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN PAY-
21 MENTS.—Except as provided in subparagraph
22 (C), the amendments made by subsection (b)
23 shall not apply to any amount paid before such
24 7th day.

1 (C) PAYMENTS OF PROPERTY TRANSPOR-
2 TATION TAX WITHIN CONTROLLED GROUP.—In
3 the case of the tax imposed by section 4271 of
4 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, subpara-
5 graph (B) shall not apply to any amount paid
6 by 1 member of a controlled group for transpor-
7 tation furnished by another member of such
8 group. For purposes of the preceding sentence,
9 all persons treated as a single employer under
10 subsection (a) or (b) of section 52 of the Inter-
11 nal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be treated as
12 members of a controlled group.

13 (f) APPLICATION OF LOOK-BACK SAFE HARBOR FOR
14 DEPOSITS.—Nothing in the look-back safe harbor pre-
15 scribed in Treasury Regulation section 40.6302(c)–1(c)(2)
16 shall be construed to permit such safe harbor to be used
17 with respect to any tax unless such tax was imposed
18 throughout the look-back period.

 Passed the House of Representatives February 26,
1997.

Attest:

Clerk.