

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1437

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the establishment of an intercity passenger rail trust fund, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 24, 1997

Mr. CASTLE (for himself, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. OLVER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the establishment of an intercity passenger rail trust fund, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Intercity Passenger
5 Rail Trust Fund Act of 1997”.

1 **SEC. 2. INTERCITY PASSENGER RAIL TRUST FUND.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUST FUND.—Subchapter
3 A of chapter 98 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
4 (relating to trust fund code) is amended by adding at the
5 end the following new section:

6 **“SEC. 9512. INTERCITY PASSENGER RAIL TRUST FUND.**

7 “(a) CREATION OF TRUST FUND.—There is estab-
8 lished in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund
9 to be known as the ‘Intercity Passenger Rail Trust Fund’,
10 consisting of such amounts as may be transferred or cred-
11 ited to the Trust Fund as provided in this section or sec-
12 tion 9602(b).

13 “(b) TRANSFER TO INTERCITY PASSENGER RAIL
14 TRUST FUND OF AMOUNTS EQUIVALENT TO CERTAIN
15 TAXES.—There are hereby appropriated to the Intercity
16 Passenger Rail Trust Fund amounts equivalent to the
17 taxes received in the Treasury at the rate of .5 cent for
18 each gallon with respect to which tax is imposed under
19 section 4041 or 4081 after September 30, 1997, and be-
20 fore October 1, 2002, but only to the extent such taxes
21 are not attributable to the Highway Trust Fund financing
22 rate.

23 “(c) EXPENDITURES FROM TRUST FUND.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts in the Intercity
25 Passenger Rail Trust Fund shall be available with-

1 out fiscal year limitation to finance qualified ex-
2 penses of—

3 “(A) the National Railroad Passenger Cor-
4 poration, and

5 “(B) each non-Amtrak State, to the extent
6 determined under paragraph (2).

7 “(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF FUNDS TO NON-AM-
8 TRAK STATES.—Each non-Amtrak State shall re-
9 ceive under this subsection an amount equal to the
10 lesser of—

11 “(A) the State’s qualified expenses for the
12 fiscal year, or

13 “(B) the product of—

14 “(i) $\frac{1}{12}$ of 1 percent of the lesser of—

15 “(I) the aggregate amounts
16 transferred and credited to the Inter-
17 city Passenger Rail Trust Fund under
18 subsection (a) for such fiscal year, or

19 “(II) the aggregate amounts ap-
20 propriated from the Intercity Pas-
21 senger Rail Trust Fund for such fiscal
22 year, and

23 “(ii) the number of months such State
24 is a non-Amtrak State in such fiscal year.

1 If the amount determined under subparagraph (B)
2 exceeds the amount under subparagraph (A) for any
3 fiscal year, the amount under subparagraph (B) for
4 the following fiscal year shall be increased by the
5 amount of such excess.

6 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

7 “(1) QUALIFIED EXPENSES.—The term ‘quali-
8 fied expenses’ means expenses incurred, with respect
9 to obligations made, after September 30, 1997, and
10 before October 1, 2002—

11 “(A) for—

12 “(i) in the case of the National Rail-
13 road Passenger Corporation, the acquisi-
14 tion of equipment, rolling stock, and other
15 capital improvements, the upgrading of
16 maintenance facilities, and the mainte-
17 nance of existing equipment, in intercity
18 passenger rail service, and the payment of
19 interest and principal on obligations in-
20 curred for such acquisition, upgrading, and
21 maintenance, and

22 “(ii) in the case of a non-Amtrak
23 State, the acquisition of equipment, rolling
24 stock, and other capital improvements, the
25 upgrading of maintenance facilities, and

1 the maintenance of existing equipment, in
2 intercity passenger rail or bus service, and
3 the payment of interest and principal on
4 obligations incurred for such acquisition,
5 upgrading, and maintenance, and

6 “(B) certified by the Secretary of Trans-
7 portation on October 1 as meeting the require-
8 ments of subparagraph (A) and as qualified for
9 payment under subsection (e) for the fiscal year
10 beginning on such date.

11 “(2) NON-AMTRAK STATE.—The term ‘non-Am-
12 trak State’ means any State which does not receive
13 intercity passenger rail service from the National
14 Railroad Passenger Corporation.

15 “(e) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any
16 other provision of law, the Secretary of Transportation
17 shall certify expenses as qualified for a fiscal year on Octo-
18 ber 1 of such year, in an amount not to exceed the amount
19 of receipts estimated by the Secretary of the Treasury to
20 be transferred to the Intercity Passenger Rail Trust Fund
21 for such fiscal year. Such certification shall result in a
22 contractual obligation of the United States for the pay-
23 ment of such expenses.

24 “(f) TAX TREATMENT OF TRUST FUND EXPENDI-
25 TURES.—With respect to any payment of qualified ex-

1 penses from the Intercity Passenger Rail Trust Fund dur-
 2 ing any taxable year to a taxpayer—

3 “(1) such payment shall not be included in the
 4 gross income of the taxpayer for such taxable year,

5 “(2) no deduction shall be allowed to the tax-
 6 payer with respect to any amount paid or incurred
 7 which is attributable to such payment, and

8 “(3) the basis of any property shall be reduced
 9 by the portion of the cost of such property which is
 10 attributable to such payment.

11 “(g) TERMINATION.—The Secretary shall determine
 12 and retain, not later than October 1, 2002, the amount
 13 in the Intercity Passenger Rail Trust Fund necessary to
 14 pay any outstanding qualified expenses, and shall transfer
 15 any amount not so retained to the general fund of the
 16 Treasury.”

17 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 18 tions for subchapter A of chapter 98 of such Code (relat-
 19 ing to trust fund code) is amended by adding at the end
 20 the following new item:

“Sec. 9512. Intercity Passenger Rail Trust Fund.”

21 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 22 this section shall apply with respect to taxes imposed after
 23 September 30, 1997.

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