

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1377

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deter the smuggling of tobacco products into the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2005

Mr. DOGGETT (for himself, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ANDREWS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FARR, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HONDA, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. KIND, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MATHESON, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. OLVER, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. ROTHMAN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SNYDER, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. STARK, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. TIERNEY, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WATERS, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WEINER, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. WU) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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 deter the smuggling of tobacco products into the United States, 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 “Smuggled Tobacco
5 Prevention Act of 2005”.

6 **TITLE I—AMENDMENTS TO IN-**
7 **TERNAL REVENUE CODE OF**
8 **1986**

9 **SEC. 101. AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.**

10 Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in
11 this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms
12 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-
13 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a
14 section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code
15 of 1986.

16 **SEC. 102. IMPROVED MARKING AND LABELING; EXPORT**
17 **BONDS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 5723
19 (relating to marks, labels, and notices) is amended—

20 (1) by striking “, if any,” and

1 (2) by adding at the end the following: “Such
2 marks, labels, and notices shall include marks and
3 notices relating to the following:

4 “(1) IDENTIFICATION.—Each person who is a
5 manufacturer or importer of tobacco products shall
6 (in accordance with regulations prescribed by the
7 Secretary) legibly print a unique serial number on
8 all packages of tobacco products manufactured or
9 imported by such person for sale or distribution.
10 Such serial number shall be designed to enable the
11 Secretary to identify the manufacturer of the prod-
12 uct (and, in the case of importation, the manufac-
13 turer and importer of the product), the location and
14 date of manufacture (and, if imported, the location
15 and date of importation), and any other information
16 the Secretary determines necessary or appropriate
17 for the proper administration of the chapter. The
18 Secretary shall determine the size and location of
19 the serial number.

20 “(2) MARKING REQUIREMENTS FOR EX-
21 PORTS.—Each package of a tobacco product that is
22 exported shall be marked for export from the United
23 States and shall be marked as to the foreign country
24 which is to be the final destination of such product.
25 Such marking shall be visible and prominent and

1 shall be in English and in the primary language of
2 such foreign country. The Secretary shall promul-
3 gate regulations to determine the size and location
4 of the mark.”.

5 (b) SALES ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS; PACKAGE DE-
6 FINED.—Section 5723 is amended by adding at the end
7 the following new subsections:

8 “(f) SALES ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS.—Each pack-
9 age of a tobacco product that is sold on an Indian reserva-
10 tion (as defined in section 403(9) of the Indian Child Pro-
11 tection and Family Violence Prevention Act (25 U.S.C.
12 3202(9)) shall be visibly and prominently labeled as such.
13 The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the
14 Interior, shall promulgate regulations with respect to such
15 labeling, including requirements for the size and location
16 of the label.

17 “(g) DEFINITION OF PACKAGE.—For purposes of
18 this section, the term ‘package’ means the innermost
19 sealed container visible from the outside of the individual
20 container irrespective of the material from which such con-
21 tainer is made, in which a tobacco product is placed by
22 the manufacturer and in which such tobacco product is
23 offered for sale to a member of the general public.”.

24 (c) REQUIREMENTS FOR TRACKING OF TOBACCO
25 PRODUCTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter B of chapter 52
2 is amended by adding at the end the following new
3 section:

4 **“SEC. 5714. EXPORT BONDS.**

5 “(a) POSTING OF BOND.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for any
7 person to export any tobacco product unless such
8 person—

9 “(A) has posted with the Secretary a to-
10 bacco product bond in accordance with this sec-
11 tion for such product that contains a disclosure
12 of the country to which such product will be ex-
13 ported; and

14 “(B) receives a written statement from the
15 recipient of the tobacco products involved that
16 such person—

17 “(i) will not knowingly and willfully
18 violate or cause to be violated any law or
19 regulation of such country, the United
20 States, any State, the District of Colum-
21 bia, or any possession of the United States
22 with respect to such products; and

23 “(ii) has never been convicted of any
24 offense with respect to tobacco products.

1 “(2) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall pro-
2 mulgate regulations that determine the frequency
3 and the amount of each bond that must be posted
4 under paragraph (1), but in no case shall such
5 amount be less than an amount equal to the tax im-
6 posed under this chapter on the value of the ship-
7 ment of the products involved if such products were
8 consumed within the United States.

9 “(3) EXPORT.—For purposes of this subsection,
10 property shall be treated as exported if it is shipped
11 to a foreign country, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Is-
12 lands, or a possession of the United States, or for
13 consumption beyond the jurisdiction of the internal
14 revenue laws of the United States.

15 “(b) RETURN OF BOND.—The Secretary shall return
16 a bond posted under subsection (a)—

17 “(1) upon a determination by the Secretary
18 (based on documentation provided by the person who
19 posted the bond in accordance with regulations pro-
20 mulgated by the Secretary) that the items to which
21 the bond applies have been received in the country
22 of final destination as designated in the bond, or

23 “(2) under such other circumstance as the Sec-
24 retary may specify.”.

1 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 2 tions for such subchapter B is amended by adding
 3 at the end the following new item:

“Sec. 5714. Export bonds.”.

4 **SEC. 103. WHOLESALERS REQUIRED TO HAVE PERMIT.**

5 Section 5712 (relating to application for permit) is
 6 amended by inserting “, wholesaler,” after “manufac-
 7 turer”.

8 **SEC. 104. CONDITIONS OF PERMIT.**

9 Subsection (a) of section 5713 (relating to issuance
 10 of permit) is amended to read as follows:

11 “(a) ISSUANCE.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A person shall not engage
 13 in business as a manufacturer, wholesaler, or im-
 14 porter of tobacco products or as an export ware-
 15 house proprietor without a permit to engage in such
 16 business. Such permit shall be issued in such form
 17 and in such manner as the Secretary shall by regula-
 18 tion prescribe, to every person properly qualified
 19 under sections 5711 and 5712. A new permit may
 20 be required at such other time as the Secretary shall
 21 by regulation prescribe.

22 “(2) CONDITIONS.—The issuance of a permit
 23 under this section shall be conditioned upon the
 24 compliance with the requirements of—

25 “(A) this chapter,

1 “(B) the Contraband Cigarette Trafficking
2 Act (18 U.S.C. chapter 114),

3 “(C) the Act of October 19, 1949 (15
4 U.S.C. chapter 10A),

5 “(D) any regulations issued pursuant to
6 such statutes, and

7 “(E) any other federal laws or regulations
8 relating to the taxation, sale, or transportation
9 of tobacco products.”.

10 **SEC. 105. RECORDS TO BE MAINTAINED.**

11 Section 5741 (relating to records to be maintained)
12 is amended—

13 (1) by inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—” before
14 “Every manufacturer”,

15 (2) by inserting “every wholesaler,” after
16 “every importer,”,

17 (3) by striking “such records” and inserting
18 “records concerning the chain of custody of the to-
19 bacco products (including the foreign country of
20 final destination for packages marked for export)
21 and such other records”, and

22 (4) by adding at the end the following new sub-
23 section:

24 “(b) RETAILERS.—Retailers shall maintain records
25 of receipt of tobacco products, and such records shall be

1 available to the Secretary for inspection and audit. An or-
 2 dinary commercial record or invoice shall satisfy the re-
 3 quirements of this subsection if such record shows the date
 4 of receipt, from whom tobacco products were received, and
 5 the quantity of tobacco products received. The preceding
 6 provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to limit
 7 or preclude other recordkeeping requirements imposed on
 8 any retailer.”.

9 **SEC. 106. REPORTS.**

10 Section 5722 (relating to reports) is amended—

11 (1) by inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—” before
 12 “Every manufacturer”, and

13 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
 14 section:

15 “(b) REPORTS BY EXPORT WAREHOUSE PROPRI-
 16 ETORS.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Prior to exportation of to-
 18 bacco products from the United States, the export
 19 warehouse proprietor shall submit a report (in such
 20 manner and form as the Secretary may by regula-
 21 tion prescribe) to enable the Secretary to identify
 22 the shipment and assure that it reaches its intended
 23 destination.

24 “(2) AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGN GOVERN-
 25 MENTS.—Notwithstanding section 6103 of this title,

1 the Secretary is authorized to enter into agreements
2 with foreign governments to exchange or share infor-
3 mation contained in reports received from export
4 warehouse proprietors of tobacco products if—

5 “(A) the Secretary believes that such
6 agreement will assist in—

7 “(i) ensuring compliance with the pro-
8 visions of this chapter or regulations pro-
9 mulgated thereunder, or

10 “(ii) preventing or detecting violations
11 of the provisions of this chapter or regula-
12 tions promulgated thereunder, and

13 “(B) the Secretary obtains assurances
14 from such government that the information will
15 be held in confidence and used only for the pur-
16 poses specified in clauses (i) and (ii) of sub-
17 paragraph (A).

18 No information may be exchanged or shared with
19 any government that has violated such assurances.”.

20 **SEC. 107. FRAUDULENT OFFENSES.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 5762
22 (relating to fraudulent offenses) is amended by striking
23 paragraph (1) and redesignating paragraphs (2) through
24 (6) as paragraphs (1) through (5), respectively.

1 (b) OFFENSES RELATING TO DISTRIBUTION OF TO-
2 BACCO PRODUCTS.—Section 5762 is amended—

3 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
4 section (c),

5 (2) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated), by in-
6 serting “or (b)” after “(a)”, and

7 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
8 lowing new subsection:

9 “(b) OFFENSES RELATING TO DISTRIBUTION OF TO-
10 BACCO PRODUCTS.—It shall be unlawful—

11 “(1) for any person to engage in the business
12 as a manufacturer or importer of tobacco products
13 or cigarette papers and tubes, or to engage in the
14 business as a wholesaler or an export warehouse pro-
15 prietor, without filing the bond and obtaining the
16 permit where required by this chapter or regulations
17 thereunder;

18 “(2) for a manufacturer, importer, or whole-
19 saler permitted under this chapter intentionally to
20 ship, transport, deliver, or receive any tobacco prod-
21 ucts from or to any person other than a person per-
22 mitted under this chapter or a retailer, except a per-
23 mitted importer may receive foreign tobacco prod-
24 ucts from a foreign manufacturer or a foreign dis-

1 tributor that have not previously entered the United
2 States;

3 “(3) for any person (other than the original
4 manufacturer of such tobacco products or an export
5 warehouse proprietor authorized to receive any to-
6 bacco products that have previously been exported
7 and returned to the United States) to receive any to-
8 bacco products that have previously been exported
9 and returned to the United States;

10 “(4) for any export warehouse proprietor inten-
11 tionally to ship, transport, sell, or deliver for sale
12 any tobacco products to any person other than the
13 original manufacturer of such tobacco products, an-
14 other export warehouse proprietor, or a foreign pur-
15 chaser;

16 “(5) for any person (other than a manufacturer
17 or an export warehouse proprietor permitted under
18 this chapter) intentionally to ship, transport, receive,
19 or possess, for purposes of resale, any tobacco prod-
20 uct in packages marked pursuant to regulations
21 issued under section 5723, other than for direct re-
22 turn to a manufacturer for repacking or for re-ex-
23 portation or to an export warehouse proprietor for
24 re-exportation;

1 “(6) for any manufacturer, importer, export
2 warehouse proprietor, or wholesaler permitted under
3 this chapter to make intentionally any false entry in,
4 to fail willfully to make appropriate entry in, or to
5 fail willfully to maintain properly any record or re-
6 port that such person is required to keep as required
7 by this chapter or the regulations promulgated
8 thereunder;

9 “(7) for any person to alter, mutilate, destroy,
10 obliterate, or remove any mark or label required
11 under this chapter upon a tobacco product held for
12 sale, except pursuant to regulations of the Secretary
13 authorizing relabeling for purposes of compliance
14 with the requirements of this section or of State law;
15 and

16 “(8) for any person to sell at retail more than
17 5,000 cigarettes in a single transaction or in a series
18 of related transactions, or, in the case of other to-
19 bacco products, an equivalent quantity as deter-
20 mined by regulation.

21 Any person violating any of the provisions of this sub-
22 section shall, upon conviction, be fined as provided in sec-
23 tion 3571 of title 18, United States Code, imprisoned for
24 not more than 5 years, or both.”.

1 (c) INTENTIONALLY DEFINED.—Section 5762 is
2 amended by adding at the end the following:

3 “(d) DEFINITION OF INTENTIONALLY.—For pur-
4 poses of this section and section 5761, the term ‘inten-
5 tionally’ means doing an act, or omitting to do an act,
6 deliberately, and not due to accident, inadvertence, or mis-
7 take, regardless of whether the person knew that the act
8 or omission constituted an offense.”.

9 **SEC. 108. CIVIL PENALTIES.**

10 Subsection (a) of section 5761 (relating to civil pen-
11 alties) is amended—

12 (1) by striking “willfully” and inserting “inten-
13 tionally”, and

14 (2) by striking “\$1,000” and inserting
15 “\$10,000”.

16 **SEC. 109. DEFINITIONS.**

17 (a) EXPORT WAREHOUSE PROPRIETOR.—Subsection
18 (i) of section 5702 (relating to definition of export ware-
19 house proprietor) is amended by inserting before the pe-
20 riod the following: “or any person engaged in the business
21 of exporting tobacco products from the United States for
22 purposes of sale or distribution. Any duty free store that
23 sells, offers for sale, or otherwise distributes to any person
24 in any single transaction more than 30 packages of ciga-
25 rettes, or its equivalent for other tobacco products as the

1 Secretary shall by regulation prescribe, shall be deemed
 2 an export warehouse proprietor under this chapter”.

3 (b) RETAILER; WHOLESALER.—Section 5702 is
 4 amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(p) RETAILER.—The term ‘retailer’ means any deal-
 6 er who sells, or offers for sale, any tobacco product at re-
 7 tail. The term ‘retailer’ includes any duty-free store that
 8 sells, offers for sale, or otherwise distributes at retail in
 9 any single transaction 30 or fewer packages of cigarettes
 10 or its equivalent for other tobacco products.

11 “(q) WHOLESALER.—The term ‘wholesaler’ means
 12 any person engaged in the business of purchasing tobacco
 13 products for resale at wholesale, or any person acting as
 14 an agent or broker for any person engaged in the business
 15 of purchasing tobacco products for resale at wholesale.”.

16 **SEC. 110. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

17 The amendments made by this title shall take effect
 18 on January 1, 2006.

19 **TITLE II—AMENDMENTS TO THE**
 20 **CONTRABAND CIGARETTE**
 21 **TRAFFICKING ACT**

22 **SEC. 201. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONTRABAND CIGARETTE**
 23 **TRAFFICKING ACT.**

24 (a) EXPANSION OF ACT TO COVER OTHER TOBACCO
 25 PRODUCTS.—

1 (1) Paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 2341 of
2 title 18, United States Code, are amended to read
3 as follows:

4 “(1) the term ‘tobacco product’ has the mean-
5 ing given to such term by section 5702 of the Inter-
6 nal Revenue Code of 1986;

7 “(2) the term ‘contraband tobacco product’
8 means any tobacco product if—

9 “(A)(i) in the case of cigarettes, such ciga-
10 rettes are in a quantity in excess of 2,000 ciga-
11 rettes; or

12 “(ii) in the case of a tobacco product other
13 than a cigarette, such product is in a quantity
14 in excess of the equivalent of 2,000 cigarettes
15 as determined under rules made by the Attor-
16 ney General;

17 “(B)(i) if the State in which such tobacco
18 product is found requires a stamp, impression,
19 or other indication to be placed on packages or
20 other containers of product to evidence payment
21 of tobacco taxes, such tobacco product bears no
22 evidence of such payment; or

23 “(ii) if such State has no such require-
24 ment, applicable tobacco taxes are found to be
25 not paid; and

1 “(C) such tobacco product is in the posses-
2 sion of any person other than—

3 “(i) a person holding a permit issued
4 pursuant to chapter 52 of the Internal
5 Revenue Code of 1986 as a manufacturer
6 or importer of tobacco products or as an
7 export warehouse proprietor, or a person
8 operating a customs bonded warehouse
9 pursuant to section 311 or 555 of the Tar-
10 iff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1311 or 1555)
11 or an agent of such person;

12 “(ii) a common or contract carrier
13 transporting the tobacco product involved
14 under a proper bill of lading or freight bill
15 which states the quantity, source, and des-
16 tination of such product;

17 “(iii) a person—

18 “(I) who is licensed or otherwise
19 authorized by the State where the to-
20 bacco product is found to account for
21 and pay tobacco taxes imposed by
22 such State; and

23 “(II) who has complied with the
24 accounting and payment requirements
25 relating to such license or authoriza-

1 tion with respect to the tobacco prod-
 2 uct involved; or

3 “(iv) an officer, employee, or other
 4 agent of the United States or a State, or
 5 any department, agency, or instrumentality
 6 of the United States or a State (including
 7 any political subdivision of a State) having
 8 possession of such tobacco product in con-
 9 nection with the performance of official du-
 10 ties;”.

11 (2) Section 2345 of title 18, United States
 12 Code, is amended—

13 (A) by striking “cigarette tax laws” each
 14 place it appears and inserting “tobacco tax
 15 laws”, and

16 (B) by striking “cigarettes” and inserting
 17 “tobacco products”.

18 (b) UNLAWFUL ACTS.—Section 2342 of title 18,
 19 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

20 **“§ 2342. Unlawful acts**

21 “(a) It shall be unlawful for any person knowingly
 22 to ship, transport, receive, possess, sell, distribute, or pur-
 23 chase contraband tobacco products.

24 “(b)(1) It shall be unlawful for any person know-
 25 ingly—

1 “(A) to make any false statement or represen-
2 tation with respect to the information required by
3 this chapter to be kept in the records or reports of
4 any person who ships, sells, or distributes (in a sin-
5 gle transaction or in a series of related transactions)
6 any quantity of tobacco product in excess of the
7 quantity specified in or pursuant to section
8 2341(2)(A) with respect to such product, or

9 “(B) to fail to maintain records or reports,
10 alter or obliterate required markings, or interfere
11 with any inspection, required under this chapter,
12 with respect to such quantity of tobacco product.

13 “(c) It shall be unlawful for any person knowingly
14 to transport tobacco products under a false bill of lading
15 or without any bill of lading.”.

16 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RELATING TO REC-
17 ORDKEEPING.—

18 (1) Subsections (a) and (b) of section 2343 of
19 title 18, United States Code, are each amended by
20 striking “any quantity of cigarettes in excess of
21 60,000 in a single transaction” and inserting “(in a
22 single transaction or in a series of related trans-
23 actions) any quantity of tobacco product in excess of
24 the quantity specified in or pursuant to section
25 2341(2)(A) with respect to such product”.

1 (d) PENALTIES.—Section 2344 of title 18, United
2 States Code, is amended—

3 (1) in subsection (b), by inserting “or (c)” after
4 “section 2342(b)”; and

5 (2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the
6 following new subsection:

7 “(c) Any contraband tobacco products involved in any
8 violation of this chapter shall be subject to seizure and
9 forfeiture, and all provisions of section 9703(o) of title 31,
10 United States Code, shall, so far as applicable, extend to
11 seizures and forfeitures under this chapter.”.

12 (e) JENKINS ACT AMENDMENTS.—

13 (1) Section 4 of the Act of October 19, 1949
14 (15 U.S.C. 378) is amended by adding at the end
15 the following: “A State tobacco tax authority may
16 commence a civil action to obtain appropriate relief
17 with respect to a violation of this Act.”.

18 (2) Paragraph (2) of section 1 of such Act is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 “(2) The term ‘tobacco product’ has the mean-
21 ing given to such term by section 5702 of the Inter-
22 nal Revenue Code of 1986.”.

23 (3) Such Act is further amended by striking
24 “cigarette” and “cigarettes” each place either ap-

1 pears and inserting “tobacco product” and “tobacco
2 products” respectively.

3 (f) NON-PREEMPTION.—Nothing in this title or the
4 amendments made by this title shall be construed to pro-
5 hibit an authorized State official from proceeding in State
6 court on the basis of an alleged violation of State law.

7 **TITLE III—WHISTLEBLOWER** 8 **PROTECTION PROVISIONS**

9 **SEC. 301. WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 73 of title 18, United
11 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1514
12 the following:

13 **“§ 1514B. Civil action to protect against retaliation in** 14 **contraband tobacco cases**

15 “(a) WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION FOR CONTRA-
16 BAND TOBACCO.—No person may discharge, demote, sus-
17 pend, threaten, harass, or in any other manner discrimi-
18 nate against an employee in the terms and conditions of
19 employment because of any lawful act done by the em-
20 ployee—

21 “(1) to provide information, cause information
22 to be provided, or otherwise assist in an investiga-
23 tion regarding any conduct which the employee rea-
24 sonably believes constitutes a violation of section
25 2342 or any other provision of Federal law relating

1 to contraband tobacco, when the information or as-
2 sistance is provided to or the investigation is con-
3 ducted by—

4 “(A) a Federal regulatory or law enforce-
5 ment agency;

6 “(B) any Member of Congress or any com-
7 mittee of Congress; or

8 “(C) a person with supervisory authority
9 over the employee (or such other person work-
10 ing for the employer who has the authority to
11 investigate, discover, or terminate misconduct);
12 or

13 “(2) to file, cause to be filed, testify, participate
14 in, or otherwise assist in a proceeding filed or about
15 to be filed (with any knowledge of the employer) re-
16 lating to an alleged violation of section 2342, or any
17 provision of Federal law relating to contraband to-
18 bacco.

19 “(b) ENFORCEMENT ACTION.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A person who alleges dis-
21 charge or other discrimination by any person in vio-
22 lation of subsection (a) may seek relief under sub-
23 section (c), by—

24 “(A) filing a complaint with the Secretary
25 of Labor; or

1 “(B) if the Secretary has not issued a final
2 decision within 180 days of the filing of the
3 complaint and there is no showing that such
4 delay is due to the bad faith of the claimant,
5 bringing an action at law or equity for de novo
6 review in the appropriate district court of the
7 United States, which shall have jurisdiction
8 over such an action without regard to the
9 amount in controversy.

10 “(2) PROCEDURE.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An action under para-
12 graph (1)(A) shall be governed under the rules
13 and procedures set forth in section 42121(b) of
14 title 49, United States Code.

15 “(B) EXCEPTION.—Notification made
16 under section 42121(b)(1) of title 49, United
17 States Code, shall be made to the person named
18 in the complaint and to the employer.

19 “(C) BURDENS OF PROOF.—An action
20 brought under paragraph (1)(B) shall be gov-
21 erned by the legal burdens of proof set forth in
22 section 42121(b) of title 49, United States
23 Code.

24 “(D) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—An ac-
25 tion under paragraph (1) shall be commenced

1 not later than 90 days after the date on which
2 the violation occurs.

3 “(c) REMEDIES.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An employee prevailing in
5 any action under subsection (b)(1) shall be entitled
6 to all relief necessary to make the employee whole.

7 “(2) COMPENSATORY DAMAGES.—Relief for any
8 action under paragraph (1) shall include—

9 “(A) reinstatement with the same seniority
10 status that the employee would have had, but
11 for the discrimination;

12 “(B) the amount of back pay, with inter-
13 est; and

14 “(C) compensation for any special damages
15 sustained as a result of the discrimination, in-
16 cluding litigation costs, expert witness fees, and
17 reasonable attorney fees.

18 “(d) RIGHTS RETAINED BY EMPLOYEE.—Nothing in
19 this section shall be deemed to diminish the rights, privi-
20 leges, or remedies of any employee under any Federal or
21 State law, or under any collective bargaining agreement.”.

22 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
23 at the beginning of chapter 73 of title 18, United States
24 Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to
25 section 1514 the following new item:

“1514B. Civil action to protect against retaliation in contraband tobacco cases.”.

