

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - E I G H T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 1461

H. P. 1029

House of Representatives, April 2, 1957.

Referred to Committee on Taxation. Sent up for concurrence and 1000 copies ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Tarbox of Gouldsboro.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Decreasing the Tax on Gasoline.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 16, § 160, amended. Section 160 of chapter 16 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 1 of chapter 436 of the public laws of 1955, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 160. Tax levied; rebates. An excise tax is levied and imposed at the rate of ~~7e~~ **6c** per gallon upon internal combustion engine fuel sold or used within this State, including such sales when made to the State or any political subdivision thereof, for any purpose whatsoever, excepting, however, such internal combustion engine fuel sold or used in such form and under such circumstances as shall preclude the collection of this tax by reason of the provisions of the laws of the United States, or sold wholly for exportation from the State, or brought into the State in the ordinary standardized equipment fuel tank attached to and forming a part of a motor vehicle and used in the operation of such vehicle within the State; provided, however, that on the same fuel only one tax shall be paid to the State, for which tax the distributor first receiving the fuel in the State shall be primarily liable to the State, except when such fuel has been sold and delivered to another distributor in the State, in which case the purchasing distributor shall be primarily liable to the State for the tax; and provided further, that ~~6e~~ **5c** of the tax so paid, and no more upon such internal combustion fuel used in motor boats, in tractors used for agricultural purposes not operating on public ways, or in such vehicles as run only on rails or tracks, or in stationary engines or in the mechanical or industrial arts, shall be refunded as hereinafter provided; and provided further, that 8 mills of the tax so paid on fuel used in motor boats, which is not refunded under the provisions of section 166, shall

be paid to the Treasurer of State, to be made available to the Commissioner of Sea and Shore Fisheries for the purpose of conducting research, development and propagation activities of the Department.

It is the responsibility of said Commissioner to select activities and projects that will be most beneficial to the commercial fisheries of the State.'

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 16, § 162, amended. Section 162 of chapter 16 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 2 of chapter 436 of the public laws of 1955, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

'**Sec. 162. Distributor entitled to collect 6c additional.** Each distributor paying or becoming liable to pay the tax imposed by sections 158 to 168, inclusive, shall be entitled to charge and collect ~~7c~~ 6c per gallon only as a part of the selling price of the internal combustion engine fuels subject to the tax.'

Sec. 3. R. S., c. 16, § 163, amended. The 3rd, 4th and 5th sentences of section 163 of chapter 16 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 3 of chapter 436 of the public laws of 1955, are hereby further amended to read as follows: 'At the time of the filing of said report each distributor shall pay to the State Tax Assessor a tax of ~~7c~~ 6c upon each gallon so reported as sold, distributed or used and the State Tax Assessor shall pay over all receipts from such tax to the Treasurer of State daily. If such report is not filed by the last day of the month such distributor shall be liable to a penalty of \$5 a day for each day in arrears, due on demand by the State Tax Assessor and recoverable in an action of debt. Each distributor shall, within 15 days after demand made on him by the State Tax Assessor, pay a tax of ~~7c~~ 6c per gallon upon each gallon of such fuel upon which the tax has not been paid, which upon an audit the State Tax Assessor may find to have been received into the State during the preceding year by the distributor and not properly accounted for in a distributor's report or in accordance with law.'

Sec. 4. R. S., c. 16, § 166, amended. Section 166 of chapter 16 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 4 of chapter 436 of the public laws of 1955, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

'**Sec. 166. Refund of 5/6 of tax collected in certain cases; time limit for application.** Any person, association of persons, firm or corporation who shall buy and use any internal combustion engine fuel as defined in sections 158 to 168, inclusive, for the purpose of operating or propelling motor boats, tractors used for agricultural purposes not operating on public ways, or in such vehicles as run only on rails or tracks, or in stationary engines, or in the mechanical or industrial arts, or for any other commercial use except in motor vehicles operated or intended to be operated upon any of the public highways of this State, or turnpikes operated and maintained by the Maine Turnpike Authority, or except, as provided in section 167, for the use in the operation of aircraft, and who shall have paid any tax on internal combustion engine fuel levied or directed to be paid as provided by sections 158 to 168, inclusive, either directly by the collection of such tax by the vendor from such consumer, or indirectly by the collection of such tax by the vendor from such consumer, or indirectly by adding the amount of such tax to the price of such fuel and paid by such consumer, shall be reimbursed and repaid to the extent of ~~6/7~~ 5/6 of the amount of such tax

paid by him upon presenting to the State Tax Assessor a sworn statement accompanied by the original invoices showing such purchases, which statement shall show the total amount of such fuel so purchased and used by such consumer other than in motor vehicles operated or intended to be operated upon any of the public highways of the State and in the operation of aircraft.

Provided that applications for refunds as provided herein must be filed with the State Tax Assessor within 9 months from the date of purchase.'

Sec. 5. R. S., c. 16, § 167, amended. Section 167 of chapter 16 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 4-A of chapter 436 of the public laws of 1955, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 167. Provision for refund of 1/3 of tax paid by users of aircraft. Any person, association of persons, firm or corporation who shall buy and use any internal combustion engine fuel as defined in sections 158 to 168, inclusive, for the purpose of operating aircraft, and who shall have paid any tax on internal combustion engine fuel levied or directed to be paid as provided by sections 158 to 168, inclusive, either directly by the collection of such tax by the vendor from such consumer, or indirectly by adding the amount of such tax to the price of such fuel and paid by such consumer, shall be reimbursed and repaid to the extent of ~~3/7~~ 1/3 of the amount of such tax paid by him upon presenting to the State Tax Assessor a statement accompanied by the original invoices showing such purchases. Provided that applications for refunds as provided herein must be filed with the State Tax Assessor within 9 months from the date of purchase.'

Sec. 6. R. S., c. 16, § 172, amended. Section 172 of chapter 16 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 5 of chapter 436 of the public laws of 1955, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 172. Levy of tax and exemptions. An excise tax is imposed on all users of fuel upon the use of such fuel by any person within this State, only when such fuel is used in an internal combustion engine for the generation of power to propel motor vehicles of any kind or character on the public highways or turnpikes operated and maintained by the Maine Turnpike Authority, at the rate of ~~7e~~ 6c per gallon, to be computed in the manner set forth in sections 173 to 187, inclusive; provided, however, that no tax is imposed upon the use of any fuel if the Constitution of the United States or of this State precludes such tax.'

Sec. 7. R. S., c. 16, § 182, amended. The 3rd, 4th and 5th paragraphs of section 182 of chapter 16 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 5-A of chapter 436 of the public laws of 1955, are hereby further amended to read as follows:

'At the time of the filing of said report each use fuel dealer shall pay to the State Tax Assessor a tax of ~~7e~~ 6c upon each gallon so reported as sold or used, and the State Tax Assessor shall pay over all receipts from such tax to the Treasurer of State daily. If such report is not filed by the last day of the month such dealer shall be liable to a penalty of \$5 a day for each day in arrears, due on demand by the State Tax Assessor and recoverable in an action of debt.

Each dealer shall, within 15 days after demand made on him by the State Tax Assessor, pay a tax of ~~7e~~ 6c per gallon upon each gallon of such fuels upon which the tax has not been paid which, upon an audit, the State Tax Assessor may find to have been received into the State during the preceding year by the dealer and not properly accounted for in a dealer's report or in accordance with law.

Each dealer paying or becoming liable to pay the tax imposed by this section shall be entitled to charge and collect ~~7e~~ 6c per gallon only as a part of the selling price of the fuels subject to the tax.'

Sec. 8. Collection of taxes. No tax imposed by the provisions of this act shall be levied prior to September 1, 1957. With respect to internal combustion engine fuel as defined in section 159 of chapter 16 of the Revised Statutes, this act shall apply only to such fuel which the distributor shall sell, distribute or use on and after September 1, 1957.