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46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SPECIAL SESSION, 2003 INTRODUCED BY

Earlene Roberts

## AN ACT

RELATING TO TAXATION; REFORMING TAX ADMINISTRATION PROCEDURES BY AMENDING AND ENACTING SECTIONS OF THE GASOLINE TAX ACT; CHANGING THE INCIDENCE OF THE GASOLINE TAX; PROVIDING FOR REIMBURSEMENTS FOR NONTAXABLE SALES AND USES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 7-13-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1971, Chapter 207, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

**"7-13-2.** DEFINITIONS. -- As used in the Gasoline Tax Act:

"aviation gasoline" means gasoline sold for use in aircraft propelled by engines other than turbo-prop or jettype engines;

"department" means the taxation and revenue В. department, the secretary of taxation and revenue or any employee of the department exercising authority lawfully

delegated to that employee by the secretary;

- C. "distributor" means [any] a person, not including the United States of America or any of its agencies except to the extent now or hereafter permitted by the constitution and laws thereof, who [receives gasoline in this state] transports, distributes and sells for resale gasoline purchased from a refinery or pipeline terminal in New Mexico or imports gasoline for resale in New Mexico; "distributor" shall be construed so that a person simultaneously may be both a distributor and a retailer or importer;
- D. "drip gasoline" means a combustible hydrocarbon liquid formed as a product of condensation from either associated or nonassociated natural or casing head gas and that remains a liquid at room temperature and pressure;
- E. "ethanol blended fuel" means gasoline containing a minimum of ten percent by volume of denatured ethanol, of at least one hundred ninety-nine proof, exclusive of denaturants;
- F. "fuel supply tank" means [any] a tank or other receptacle in which or by which fuel may be carried and supplied to the fuel-furnishing device or apparatus of the propulsion mechanism of a motor vehicle when the tank or receptacle either contains gasoline or gasoline is delivered into it;
- G. "gallon" means the quantity of liquid necessary to fill a standard United States gallon liquid measure or that .148695.1

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same quantity adjusted to a temperature of sixty degrees fahrenheit at the election of [any] a distributor, but [a] the distributor shall report on the same basis for a period of at least one year;

- "gasoline" means [any] <u>a</u> flammable liquid hydrocarbon used primarily as fuel for the propulsion of motor vehicles, motorboats or aircraft except for diesel engine fuel, kerosene, liquefied petroleum gas, compressed or liquefied natural gas and products specially prepared and sold for use in aircraft propelled by turbo-prop or jet-type engines;
- "government-licensed vehicle" means a motor vehicle lawfully displaying a registration plate, as defined in the Motor Vehicle Code, issued by the United States or any state, identifying the motor vehicle as belonging to the United States or any of its agencies or instrumentalities or an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo or any of its political subdivisions, agencies or instrumentalities;
- "highway" means every road, highway, thoroughfare, street or way, including toll roads, generally open to the use of the public as a matter of right for the purpose of motor vehicle travel regardless of whether it is temporarily closed for the purpose of construction, reconstruction, maintenance or repair;
- "motor vehicle" means [any] <u>a</u> self-propelled K. vehicle or device that is either subject to registration under

Section 66-3-1 NMSA 1978 or used or that may be used on the public highways in whole or in part for the purpose of transporting persons or property and includes [any]  $\underline{a}$  connected trailer or semitrailer;

L. "person" means an individual or any other entity, including, to the extent permitted by law, any federal, state or other government or any department, agency, instrumentality or political subdivision of any federal, state or other government;

M "rack operator" means the operator of a refinery in this state or the owner of gasoline stored at a pipeline terminal in this state; "rack operator" shall be construed so that a person simultaneously may be a rack operator and a distributor;

N. "registered Indian tribal distributor" means an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo recognized by the United States whose reservation or pueblo grant lies wholly or partly in this state, a corporation or other enterprise wholly owned by that Indian nation, tribe or pueblo or a corporation or other enterprise wholly owned by one or more members of that Indian nation, tribe or pueblo that is registered with the department as a distributor pursuant to the Gasoline Tax Act; provided that the department shall register a corporation or other enterprise as an Indian tribal distributor only upon certification by the Indian nation, tribe or pueblo that the

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corporation or other enterprise is wholly owned by that nation, tribe or pueblo or wholly owned by one or more of its members;

- 0. "retailer" means a person who sells gasoline generally in quantities of thirty-five gallons or less and delivers such gasoline into the fuel supply tanks of motor vehicles. "Retailer" shall be construed so that a person simultaneously may be both a retailer and a distributor or wholesaler:
- P. "secretary" means the secretary of taxation and revenue or the secretary's delegate;
- Q. "taxpayer" means a person required to pay gasoline tax;
- R. "unloaded" means removal of gasoline from tank cars, tank trucks, tank wagons or other types of transportation equipment into a nonmobile container at the place at which the unloading takes place; and
- S. "wholesaler" means a person who is not a distributor and who sells gasoline in quantities of thirty-five gallons or more and does not deliver such gasoline into the fuel supply tanks of motor vehicles. "Wholesaler" shall be construed so that a person simultaneously may be a wholesaler and a retailer."
- Section 2. Section 7-13-2.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1999, Chapter 190, Section 2) is amended to read:
  - "7-13-2.1. WHEN GASOLINE RECEIVED AND BY WHOM --

A. Gasoline that is produced, refined,
manufactured, blended or compounded at a refinery in this state
or stored at a pipeline terminal in this state by a person is
received by that person when it is loaded there into tank cars,
tank trucks, tank wagons or other types of transportation
equipment, or when it is placed there into a tank or other
container from which sales or deliveries not involving
transportation are made; however,

[(1) when gasoline is delivered at the refinery or pipeline terminal to a person registered as a distributor pursuant to the Gasoline Tax Act, then it is received there by the distributor to whom it is delivered at the time of the delivery;

(2) when gasoline is delivered at the refinery or pipeline terminal to a person not registered as a distributor pursuant to the Gasoline Tax Act for the account of a person that is registered as a distributor, it is received there by the distributor for whose account it is delivered at the time of delivery; and

(3) gasoline is not received when it is shipped from one refinery or pipeline terminal to another refinery or pipeline terminal.

B. Gasoline imported into New Mexico by any means other than in the fuel supply tank of a motor vehicle or by pipeline is received at the time and place it is imported into

this state. The person who owns the gasoline at the time of importation receives the gasoline at the time and place of importation [unless the gasoline is delivered to a person who is registered as a distributor pursuant to the Gasoline Tax Act, in which case the distributor is deemed to have received the gasoline at the time and place of importation].

- C. Any product other than gasoline that is blended in this state to produce gasoline other than at a refinery or pipeline terminal is received by the person who is the owner of the gasoline at the time and place the blending is completed.
- D. If gasoline is received within the exterior boundaries of an Indian reservation or pueblo grant and the gasoline tax is not paid with respect to the gasoline by the person receiving the gasoline within the exterior boundaries of the Indian reservation or pueblo grant, the gasoline is also received when the gasoline is transported off the reservation or pueblo grant by any means other than in the fuel supply tank of a motor vehicle. In such a case, the person who owns the gasoline immediately after the time of transportation off the reservation or pueblo grant [or, if the gasoline is delivered to a person registered as a distributor pursuant to the Gasoline Tax Act, the distributor] receives the gasoline at the time and place the gasoline is transported off the reservation or pueblo grant."

Section 3. Section 7-13-3.5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1997, .148695.1

Chapter 192, Section 3) is amended to read:

"7-13-3.5. BOND REQUIRED OF TAXPAYERS. --

- A. [Except as provided in Subsection II of this section] Every taxpayer shall file with the department a bond on a form approved by the attorney general with a surety company authorized by the [state corporation] public regulation commission to transact business in this state as a surety and upon which bond the taxpayer is the principal obligor and the state the obligee. The bond shall be conditioned upon the prompt filing of true reports and the payment by the taxpayer to the department of all taxes levied by the Gasoline Tax Act, together with all applicable penalties and interest thereon.
- B. In lieu of the bond, the taxpayer may elect to file with the department cash or bonds of the United States or New Mexico or of any political subdivision of the state.
- C. The total amount of the bond, cash or securities required of any taxpayer shall be fixed by the department and may be increased or reduced by the department at any time, subject to the limitations provided in this section.
- D. In fixing the total amount of the bond, cash or securities required of any taxpayer required to post bond, the department shall require an equivalent in total amount to at least two times the amount of the department's estimate of the taxpayer's monthly gasoline tax, determined in such manner as the secretary may deem proper; provided, however, the total

amount of bond, cash or securities required of a taxpayer shall never be less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

E. In the event the department decides that the amount of the existing bond, cash or securities is insufficient to insure payment to this state of the amount of the gasoline tax and any penalties and interest for which the taxpayer is or may at any time become liable, [then] the taxpayer, upon written demand of the department mailed to the last known address of the taxpayer as shown on the records of the department, shall file an additional bond, cash or securities in the manner, form and amount determined by the department to be necessary to secure at all times the payment by the taxpayer of all taxes, penalties and interest due under the Gasoline Tax Act.

F. A surety on a bond furnished by a taxpayer as required by this section shall be released and discharged from all liability accruing on the bond after the expiration of ninety days from the date upon which the surety files with the department a written request to be released and discharged; provided, however, that such request shall not operate to release or discharge the surety from any liability already accrued or that shall accrue before the expiration of the ninety-day period, unless a new bond is filed during the ninety-day period, in which case the previous bond may be canceled as of the effective date of the new bond. On receipt

of notice of such request, the department promptly shall notify the taxpayer who furnished the bond that the taxpayer, on or before the expiration of the ninety-day period, shall file with the department a new bond with a surety satisfactory to the department in the amount and form required in this section.

- G. The taxpayer required to file bond with or provide cash or securities to the department in accordance with this section and who is required by another state law to file another bond with or provide cash or securities to the department may elect to file a combined bond or provide cash or securities applicable to the provisions of both this section and the other law, with the approval of the secretary. The amount of the combined bond, cash or securities shall be determined by the department and the form of the combined bond shall be approved by the attorney general.
- H. [Every taxpayer who, for the twenty-four month period immediately preceding July 1, 1994, has not been a delinquent taxpayer pursuant to the Gasoline Tax Act is exempt from the requirement pursuant to this section to file a bond.]

  A taxpayer required to file a bond pursuant to the provisions of this section who, for a twenty-four consecutive month period ending after July 1, [1994] 2006, has not been a delinquent taxpayer pursuant to the Gasoline Tax Act may request to be exempt from the requirement to file a bond beginning with the first day of the first month following the end of the twenty-

four month period. If a taxpayer exempted pursuant to this subsection subsequently becomes a delinquent taxpayer under the Gasoline Tax Act, the department may terminate the exemption and require the filing of a bond in accordance with this section. If the department terminates the exemption, the termination shall not be effective any earlier than ten days after the date the department notifies the taxpayer in writing of the termination."

Section 4. Section 7-13-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991, Chapter 9, Section 32, as amended) is amended to read:

"7-13-4. DEDUCTIONS--GASOLINE TAX.--In computing the gasoline tax due, the following amounts of gasoline may be deducted from the total amount of gasoline received in New Mexico during the tax period, provided satisfactory proof thereof is furnished to the department:

A. gasoline received in New Mexico, but exported from this state by a rack operator [distributor or wholesaler] other than in the fuel supply tank of a motor vehicle or sold for export by a rack operator [or distributor]; provided that, in either case:

- (1) the person exporting the gasoline is registered in or licensed by the destination state to pay that state's gasoline or equivalent fuel tax;
- (2) proof is submitted that the destination state's gasoline or equivalent fuel tax has been paid or is not . 148695.1

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due with respect to the gasoline; or

- the destination state's gasoline or equivalent fuel tax is paid to New Mexico in accordance with the terms of an agreement entered into pursuant to Section 9-11-12 NMSA 1978 with the destination state:
- gasoline received in New Mexico sold to the United States or any agency or instrumentality thereof for the exclusive use of the United States or any agency or instrumentality thereof [Gasoline sold to the United States includes gasoline delivered into the supply tank of a government-licensed vehicle of the United States;
- C. gasoline received in New Mexico sold to an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo or any political subdivision, agency or instrumentality of that Indian nation, tribe or pueblo for the exclusive use of the Indian nation, tribe or pueblo or any political subdivision, agency or instrumentality thereof. Gasoline sold to an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo includes gasoline delivered into the supply tank of a government-licensed vehicle of the Indian nation, tribe or pueblo]; and
- [D.] C. gasoline received in New Mexico that has been dyed in accordance with department regulations [and used] for use in [any] a manner other than for propulsion of motor vehicles on the highways of this state or motorboats or activities ancillary to that propulsion

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- (1) the sale occurs on the Indian reservation,
  pueblo grant or trust land of the distributor's Indian nation,
  tribe or pueblo;
- (2) the gasoline is placed into the fuel supply tank of a motor vehicle on that reservation, pueblo grant or trust land; and
- (3) the Indian nation, tribe or pueblo has certified to the department that it has in effect an excise, privilege or similar tax on the gasoline; provided that the volume of gasoline deducted pursuant to this subsection shall be the total gallons sold in accordance with the provisions of this subsection multiplied by a fraction the numerator of which is the rate of the tribal tax certified to the department by the Indian nation, tribe or pueblo and the denominator of which is the rate of the gasoline tax imposed pursuant to the Gasoline Tax Act, but if the fraction exceeds one, it shall be one for purposes of determining the deduction; and
- F. gasoline received in New Mexico and sold by a registered Indian tribal distributor from a nonmobile storage container located within that distributor's Indian reservation, pueblo grant or trust land for resale outside that distributor's Indian reservation, pueblo grant or trust land; provided the department certifies that the distributor claiming

the deduction sold no less than one million gallons of gasoline from a nonmobile storage container located within that distributor's Indian reservation, pueblo grant or trust land for resale outside that distributor's Indian reservation, pueblo grant or trust land during the period of May through August 1998; and provided further that the amount of gasoline deducted by a registered Indian tribal distributor pursuant to this subsection shall not exceed two million five hundred thousand gallons per month, calculated as a monthly average during the calendar year. Volumes deducted pursuant to Subsection E of this section shall not be deducted pursuant to this subsection]."

Section 5. A new section of the Gasoline Tax Act, Section 7-13-4.5 NMSA 1978, is enacted to read:

"7-13-4.5. [NEW MATERIAL] DISTRIBUTORS AND WHOLESALERS-TAXABLE PRESUMPTION--NONTAXABLE SALES AND USES-REIMBURSEMENT.--

A. Gasoline purchased by a distributor or wholesaler from a person who received the gasoline in New Mexico and on which the tax has been paid or is due shall be presumed to be taxable unless the distributor or wholesaler provides proof satisfactory to the department that the gasoline was sold, exported or used for one of the following nontaxable purposes:

(1) the gasoline was exported from this state

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by the distributor or wholesaler other than in the fuel supply tank of a motor vehicle or sold for export by the distributor; provided that, in either case:

- the person exporting the gasoline is registered in or licensed by the destination state to pay that state's gasoline or equivalent fuel tax;
- (b) proof is submitted that the destination state's gasoline or equivalent fuel tax has been paid or is not due with respect to the gasoline; or
- (c) the destination state's gasoline or equivalent fuel tax is paid to New Mexico in accordance with the terms of an agreement entered into pursuant to Section 9-11-12 NMSA 1978 with the destination state:
- the gasoline was sold to the United States or an agency or instrumentality thereof for the exclusive use of the United States or an agency or instrumentality thereof. Gasoline sold to the United States includes gasoline delivered into the fuel supply tank of a government-licensed vehicle of the United States:
- the gasoline was sold to an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo or a political subdivision, agency or instrumentality of that Indian nation, tribe or pueblo for the exclusive use of the Indian nation, tribe or pueblo or a political subdivision, agency or instrumentality thereof. Gasoline sold to an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo includes

gasoline delivered into the supply tank of a governmentlicensed vehicle of the Indian nation, tribe or pueblo;

- (4) the gasoline was dyed in accordance with department regulations and used in a manner other than for propulsion of motor vehicles on the highways of this state or motorboats or activities ancillary to that propulsion;
- (5) the gasoline was sold at retail by a registered Indian tribal distributor and:
- (a) the sale occurred on the Indian reservation, pueblo grant or trust land of the distributor's Indian nation, tribe or pueblo;
- (b) the gasoline was placed into the fuel supply tank of a motor vehicle on that reservation, pueblo grant or trust land; and
- has certified to the department that it has in effect an excise, privilege or similar tax on the gasoline; provided that the volume of gasoline for which a tax refund may be claimed pursuant to this paragraph shall be the total gallons sold in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph multiplied by a fraction the numerator of which is the rate of the tribal tax certified to the department by the Indian nation, tribe or pueblo and the denominator of which is the rate of the gasoline tax imposed pursuant to the Gasoline Tax Act, but if the fraction exceeds one, it shall be one for purposes of

determining the refund;

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**(6)** gasoline received in New Mexico and sold by a registered Indian tribal distributor from a nonmobile storage container located within that distributor's Indian reservation, pueblo grant or trust land for resale outside that distributor's Indian reservation, pueblo grant or trust land; provided the department certifies that the distributor claiming the refund sold no less than one million gallons of gasoline from a nonmobile storage container located within that distributor's Indian reservation, pueblo grant or trust land for resale outside that distributor's Indian reservation, pueblo grant or trust land during the period of May through August 1998; and provided further that the amount of gasoline for which a tax refund is claimed by a registered Indian tribal distributor pursuant to this paragraph shall not exceed two million five hundred thousand gallons per month, calculated as a monthly average during the calendar year. Volumes for which a tax refund is claimed pursuant to Paragraph (5) of this subsection shall not be eligible for refund pursuant to this paragraph; and

(7) the distributor is not a registered Indian tribal distributor and the gasoline was sold at retail in New Mexico and:

(a) the sale occurred on an Indian reservation, pueblo grant or trust land;

(b) the gasoline was placed into the fuel supply tank of a motor vehicle on that reservation, pueblo grant or trust land;

has certified to the department that it has in effect an excise, privilege or similar tax on gasoline; provided that the gallons of gasoline for which a tax refund may be claimed pursuant to this paragraph shall be the total gallons sold in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the rate of the tribal tax certified to the department by the Indian nation, tribe or pueblo and the denominator of which is the rate of the gasoline tax imposed pursuant to the Gasoline Tax Act, but, if the fraction exceeds one, the fraction shall be deemed to be one for purposes of determining the refund; and

- (d) the person is subject to and in compliance with the tax on gasoline imposed by the Indian nation, tribe or pueblo where the sale occurred.
- B. Upon a showing satisfactory to the department that a distributor or wholesaler purchased gasoline on which the excise tax pursuant to the Gasoline Tax Act was paid and the gasoline was subsequently sold, exported or used for a nontaxable purpose pursuant to Subsection A of this section, the distributor or wholesaler may apply to the department for a reimbursement in an amount equal to the tax paid on that

gasol i ne.

C. A distributor who is eligible to apply for a reimbursement pursuant to Subsection B of this section shall apply on a form and in the manner determined by the department. The department shall determine what documentation is necessary to establish satisfactory proof that the gasoline was sold, exported or used for a nontaxable purpose."

Section 6. Section 7-13-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1971, Chapter 207, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

"7-13-5. TAX RETURNS--PAYMENT OF TAX.--[Distributors]

Taxpayers shall file gasoline tax returns in form and content as prescribed by the secretary on or before the twenty-fifth day of the month following the month in which gasoline is received in New Mexico. Such returns shall be accompanied by payment of the amount of gasoline tax due."

Section 7. Section 7-13-12 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1971, Chapter 207, Section 11, as amended) is amended to read:

"7-13-12. MANIFEST OR BILL OF LADING REQUIRED WHEN
TRANSPORTING GASOLINE. -- Every person transporting gasoline from
a refinery or pipeline terminal in this state, importing
gasoline into this state or exporting gasoline from this state,
other than by pipeline or in the fuel supply tanks of motor
vehicles, shall carry a manifest or bill of lading in form and
content as prescribed by or acceptable to the department. The
manifest or bill of lading shall be signed by the consignor and

by every person accepting the gasoline or any part of it, with a notation as to the amount accepted. If a manifest or bill of lading is not required to be carried by the terms of this section, any person transporting gasoline without such a manifest or bill of lading shall, upon demand, furnish proof acceptable to the department that the gasoline so transported was legally acquired by a registered distributor [who assumed liability] from a person who is liable for payment of the tax imposed by the Gasoline Tax Act."

Section 8. TEMPORARY PROVISION. -- The provisions of the Gasoline Tax Act in effect prior to the effective date of this act shall apply to gasoline received, as that term was then defined in the Gasoline Tax Act, prior to the effective date of this act.

Section 9. REPEAL. -- Section 7-13-4.4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2000, Chapter 50, Section 1) is repealed.

Section 10. EFFECTIVE DATE. -- The effective date of the provisions of this act is January 1, 2005.

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