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**HOUSE BILL NO. 2459**

Offered January 10, 2001

Prefiled January 10, 2001

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 58.1-2259 of the Code of Virginia, relating to fuels tax refunds for rural U. S. mail carriers.*

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 Patron—Phillips
 

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Referred to Committee on Finance

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That § 58.1-2259 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 58.1-2259. (Effective January 1, 2001) Fuel uses eligible for refund.

A. A refund shall be granted in accordance with the provisions of § 58.1-2261 to any person who establishes to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that such person has paid the tax levied pursuant to this chapter upon any fuel:

1. Sold and delivered to a governmental entity for its exclusive use;
2. Used by a governmental entity, provided persons operating under contract with a governmental entity shall not be eligible for such refund;
3. Sold and delivered to an organization described in subdivision 2 of § 58.1-2226 or subdivision 2 of § 58.1-2250 for its exclusive use in the operation of an aircraft;
4. Used by an organization described in subdivision 2 of § 58.1-2226 or subdivision 2 of § 58.1-2250 for its exclusive use in the operation of an aircraft, provided persons operating under contract with such an organization shall not be eligible for such refund;
5. Purchased by a licensed exporter and subsequently transported and delivered by such licensed exporter to another state for sales or use outside the boundaries of the Commonwealth if the tax applicable in the destination state has been paid, provided a refund shall not be granted pursuant to this section on any fuel which is transported and delivered outside of the Commonwealth in the fuel supply tank of a highway vehicle or an aircraft;
6. Used by any person performing transportation under contract or lease with any transportation district for use in a highway vehicle controlled by a transportation district created under the Transportation District Act of 1964 (§ 15.2-4500 et seq.) and used in providing transit service by the transportation district by contract or lease, provided the refund shall be paid to the person performing such transportation;
7. Used by any private, nonprofit agency on aging, designated by the Department for the Aging, providing transportation services to citizens in highway vehicles owned, operated or under contract with such agency;
8. Used in operating or propelling highway vehicles owned by a nonprofit organization that provides specialized transportation to various locations for elderly or disabled individuals to secure essential services and to participate in community life according to the individual's interest and abilities;
9. Used in operating or propelling buses owned and operated by a county or the school board thereof while being used to transport children to and from public school or from school to and from educational or athletic activities;
10. Used by buses owned or solely used by a private, nonprofit, nonsectarian school while being used to transport children to and from such school or from such school to and from educational or athletic activities;
11. Used by any county or city school board or any private, nonprofit, nonsectarian school contracting with a private carrier to transport children to and from public schools or any private, nonprofit, nonsectarian school, provided the tax shall be refunded to the private carrier performing such transportation;
12. Used in operating or propelling the equipment of volunteer firefighting companies and of volunteer rescue squads within this Commonwealth used actually and necessarily for firefighting and rescue purposes;
13. Used in operating or propelling motor equipment belonging to counties, cities and towns, if actually used in public activities;
14. Used for a purpose other than in operating or propelling highway vehicles, watercraft or aircraft;
15. Used off-highway in self-propelled equipment manufactured for a specific off-road purpose, which is used on a job site and the movement of which on any highway is incidental to the purpose for which it was designed and manufactured;

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59 16. Proven to be lost by accident, including the accidental mixing of (i) dyed diesel fuel with  
60 tax-paid motor fuel, (ii) gasoline with diesel fuel, or (iii) undyed diesel fuel with dyed kerosene, but  
61 excluding fuel lost through personal negligence or theft;

62 17. Used in operating or propelling vehicles used solely for racing other vehicles on a racetrack;

63 18. Used in operating or propelling unlicensed highway vehicles and other unlicensed equipment  
64 used exclusively for agricultural or horticultural purposes on lands owned or leased by the owner or  
65 lessee of such vehicles and not operated on or over any highway for any purpose other than to move it  
66 in the manner and for the purpose mentioned. The amount of refund shall be equal to the amount of the  
67 taxes paid less one-half cent per gallon on such fuel so used which shall be paid by the Commissioner  
68 into the state treasury to the credit of the Virginia Agricultural Foundation Fund;

69 19. Used in operating or propelling commercial watercraft or recreational and pleasure boats and  
70 ships. The amount of refund shall be equal to the amount of the taxes paid less one and one-half cents  
71 per gallon on such fuel so used which shall be paid by the Commissioner into the state treasury to be  
72 credited as provided in subsection D of § 58.1-2289. If any applicant so requests, the Commissioner  
73 shall pay into the state treasury, to the credit of the Game Protection Fund, the entire seventeen and  
74 one-half cents per gallon tax paid by such applicant for the purposes specified in subsection D of  
75 § 58.1-2289. If any applicant who is an operator of commercial watercraft or recreational and pleasure  
76 boats and ships so requests, the Commissioner shall pay into the state treasury, to the credit of the  
77 Marine Fishing Improvement Fund, the entire seventeen and one-half cents per gallon tax paid by such  
78 applicant for the purposes specified in § 28.2-208; or

79 20. Used in operating stationary engines, or pumping or mixing equipment on a highway vehicle if  
80 the fuel used to operate such equipment is stored in an auxiliary tank separate from the fuel tank used to  
81 propel the highway vehicle, and the highway vehicle is mechanically incapable of self-propulsion while  
82 fuel is being used from the auxiliary tank; or

83 21. *Used in privately-owned vehicles by rural mail carriers when delivering the United States mail.*

84 B. Any person purchasing fuel for consumption in a solid waste compacting or ready-mix concrete  
85 highway vehicle, or a bulk feed delivery truck, where the vehicle's equipment is mechanically or  
86 hydraulically driven by an internal combustion engine that propels the vehicle, is entitled to a refund in  
87 an amount equal to thirty-five percent of the tax paid on such fuel. For purposes of this section, a "bulk  
88 feed delivery truck" means bulk animal feed delivery trucks utilizing power take-off (PTO) driven auger  
89 or air feed discharge systems for off-road deliveries of animal feed.

90 C. Any person purchasing any fuel on which tax imposed pursuant to this chapter has been paid may  
91 apply for a refund of the tax if such fuel was consumed by a highway vehicle used in operating an  
92 urban or suburban bus line or a taxicab service. This refund also applies to a common carrier of  
93 passengers which has been issued a certificate of public convenience and necessity pursuant to  
94 §§ 46.2-2007 and 58.1-2204 providing regular route service over the highways of the Commonwealth.  
95 No refund shall be granted unless the majority of the passengers using such bus line, taxicab service or  
96 common carrier of passengers do so for travel of a distance of not more than forty miles, one way, in a  
97 single day between their place of abode and their place of employment, shopping areas or schools.

98 If the applicant for a refund is a taxicab service, he shall hold a valid permit from the Department to  
99 engage in the business of a taxicab service. No applicant shall be denied a refund by reason of the fee  
100 arrangement between the holder of the permit and the driver or drivers, if all other conditions of this  
101 section have been met.

102 Under no circumstances shall a refund be granted more than once for the same fuel. The amount of  
103 refund under this subsection shall be equal to the amount of the taxes paid, except refunds granted on  
104 the tax paid on fuel used by a taxicab service shall be in an amount equal to the tax paid less one cent  
105 per gallon on the fuel used.

106 Any refunds made under this subsection shall be deducted from the urban highway funds allocated to  
107 the highway construction district, pursuant to Article 1.1 (§ 33.1-23.01 et seq.) of Chapter 1 of Title  
108 33.1, in which the recipient has its principal place of business.

109 Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, all provisions of law applicable to the refund of fuel  
110 taxes by the Commissioner generally shall apply to the refunds authorized by this subsection. Any  
111 county having withdrawn its roads from the secondary system of state highways under provisions of  
112 § 11 Chapter 415 of the Acts of 1932 shall receive its proportionate share of such special funds as is  
113 now provided by law with respect to other fuel tax receipts.