

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015

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SENATE BILL 20  
Finance Committee Substitute Adopted 2/10/15

Short Title: IRC Update/Motor Fuel Tax Changes.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 4, 2015

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO UPDATE THE REFERENCE TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, TO  
3 DECOUPLE FROM CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE FEDERAL TAX INCREASE  
4 PREVENTION ACT OF 2014, TO MODIFY THE MOTOR FUELS TAX RATE, AND  
5 TO MAKE CERTAIN REDUCTIONS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF  
6 TRANSPORTATION FOR THE 2014-2015 FISCAL YEAR.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8  
9 **PART I: IRC UPDATE**

10 **SECTION 1.1** G.S. 105-228.90(b)(1b) reads as rewritten:

11 "(1b) Code. – The Internal Revenue Code as enacted as of ~~December 31, 2013~~, January 1,  
12 2015, including any provisions enacted as of that date that become effective either before or  
13 after that date."

14 **SECTION 1.2.(a)** G.S. 105-130.5B(c) reads as rewritten:

15 "**§ 105-130.5B. Adjustments when State decouples from federal accelerated depreciation**  
16 **and expensing.**

17 ...

18 (c) Section 179 Expense. – For purposes of this subdivision, the definition of section  
19 179 property has the same meaning as under section 179 of the Code as of ~~January 2, 2013~~.  
20 January 1, 2015. A taxpayer who places section 179 property in service during a taxable year  
21 listed in the table below must add to the taxpayer's federal taxable income eighty-five percent  
22 (85%) of the amount by which the taxpayer's expense deduction under section 179 of the Code  
23 exceeds the dollar and investment limitation listed in the table below for the taxable year.

24 A taxpayer is allowed to deduct twenty percent (20%) of the add-back in each of the first  
25 five taxable years following the year the taxpayer is required to include the add-back in income.

26 **Taxable Year of Dollar Limitation Investment Limitation**  
27 **85% Add-Back**

28 2010	\$250,000	\$800,000
29 2011	\$250,000	\$800,000
30 2012	\$250,000	\$800,000
31 2013	\$25,000	\$200,000
32 <u>2014</u>	<u>\$25,000</u>	<u>\$200,000</u>

33 **SECTION 1.2.(b)** G.S. 105-153.6(c) reads as rewritten:

34 "**§ 105-153.6. Adjustments when State decouples from federal accelerated depreciation**  
35 **and expensing.**

36 ...



(c) Section 179 Expense. – For purposes of this subdivision, the definition of section 179 property has the same meaning as under section 179 of the Code as of ~~January 2, 2013.~~ January 1, 2015. A taxpayer who places section 179 property in service during a taxable year listed in the table below must add to the taxpayer's federal taxable income or adjusted gross income, as appropriate, eighty-five percent (85%) of the amount by which the taxpayer's expense deduction under section 179 of the Code exceeds the dollar and investment limitation listed in the table below for that taxable year. For taxable years before 2012, the taxpayer must add the amount to the taxpayer's federal taxable income. For taxable year 2012 and after, the taxpayer must add the amount to the taxpayer's adjusted gross income.

A taxpayer is allowed to deduct twenty percent (20%) of the add-back in each of the first five taxable years following the year the taxpayer is required to include the add-back in income.

Taxable Year of 85% Add-Back	Dollar Limitation	Investment Limitation
2010	\$250,000	\$800,000
2011	\$250,000	\$800,000
2012	\$250,000	\$800,000
2013	\$25,000	\$200,000
2014	\$25,000	\$200,000"

**SECTION 1.3.** G.S. 105-153.5 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 105-153.5. Modifications to adjusted gross income.**

(a) Deduction Amount. – In calculating North Carolina taxable income, a taxpayer may deduct from adjusted gross income either the standard deduction amount provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection or the itemized deduction amount provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection that the taxpayer claimed under the Code. The deduction amounts are as follows:

- (1) Standard deduction amount. – The standard deduction amount is zero for a person who is not eligible for a standard deduction under section 63 of the Code. For all other taxpayers, the standard deduction amount is equal to the amount listed in the table below based on the taxpayer's filing status:

Filing Status	Standard Deduction
Married, filing jointly	\$15,000
Head of Household	12,000
Single	7,500
Married, filing separately	7,500.

- (2) Itemized deduction amount. – An amount equal to the sum of the items listed in this subdivision. The amounts allowed under this subdivision are not subject to the overall limitation on itemized deductions under section 68 of the Code:

- a. The amount allowed as a deduction for charitable contributions under section 170 of the Code for that taxable year. For taxable year 2014, a taxpayer who elected to take the income exclusion under section 408(d)(8) of the Code for a qualified charitable distribution from an individual retirement plan by a person who has attained the age of 70 1/2 may deduct the amount that would have been allowed as a charitable deduction under section 170 of the Code had the taxpayer not elected to take the income exclusion.

- b. The amount allowed as a deduction for interest paid or accrued during the taxable year under section 163(h) of the Code with respect to any qualified residence plus the amount claimed by the taxpayer as a deduction for property taxes paid or accrued on real estate under section 164 of the Code for that taxable year. For taxable year 2014,

1                    the amount allowed as a deduction for interest paid or accrued during  
2                    the taxable year under section 163(h) of the Code with respect to any  
3                    qualified residence shall not include the amount for mortgage  
4                    insurance premiums treated as qualified residence interest. The  
5                    amount allowed under this sub-subdivision may not exceed twenty  
6                    thousand dollars (\$20,000). For spouses filing as married filing  
7                    separately or married filing jointly, the total mortgage interest and  
8                    real estate taxes claimed by both spouses combined may not exceed  
9                    twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000). For spouses filing as married  
10                    filing separately with a joint obligation for mortgage interest and real  
11                    estate taxes, the deduction for these items is allowable to the spouse  
12                    who actually paid them. If the amount of the mortgage interest and  
13                    real estate taxes paid by both spouses exceeds twenty thousand  
14                    dollars (\$20,000), these deductions must be prorated based on the  
15                    percentage paid by each spouse. For joint obligations paid from joint  
16                    accounts, the proration is based on the income reported by each  
17                    spouse for that taxable year.

18                    ...  
19                    (d) Decoupling Adjustments. – In calculating North Carolina taxable income, a  
20                    taxpayer must add to the taxpayer's adjusted gross income any of the following items that are  
21                    not included in the taxpayer's adjusted gross income:

- 22                    (1) For taxable year 2014, the amount excluded from the taxpayer's gross  
23                    income for the discharge of qualified principal residence indebtedness under  
24                    section 108 of the Code. The purpose of this subdivision is to decouple from  
25                    the extension of the income exclusion under section 102 of the Tax Increase  
26                    Prevention Act of 2014.  
27                    (2) For taxable year 2014, the amount of the taxpayer's deduction for qualified  
28                    tuition and related expenses under section 222 of the Code. The purpose of  
29                    this subdivision is to decouple from the extension of the federal  
30                    above-the-line deduction under section 107 of the Tax Increase Prevention  
31                    Act of 2014.  
32                    (3) For taxable year 2014, the amount excluded from the taxpayer's gross  
33                    income for a qualified charitable distribution from an individual retirement  
34                    plan by a person who has attained age 70 1/2 under section 408(d)(8) of the  
35                    Code. The purpose of this subdivision is to decouple from the extension of  
36                    the income exclusion under section 108 of the Tax Increase Prevention Act  
37                    of 2014.

38                    ~~(d)~~(e) S Corporations. – Each shareholder's pro rata share of an S Corporation's income is  
39                    subject to the adjustments provided in this section and in G.S. 105-153.6."

40                    **SECTION 1.4.** This Part is effective when the act becomes law. Notwithstanding  
41                    Section 1 of this act, any amendments to the Internal Revenue Code enacted after December  
42                    31, 2013, that increase North Carolina taxable income for the 2014 taxable year are effective  
43                    for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2015.

## 44 45 **PART II: MOTOR FUEL TAX CHANGES**

46                    **SECTION 2.1** Effective March 1, 2015, and notwithstanding G.S. 105-449.80, the  
47                    motor fuel excise tax rate is thirty-five cents (35¢) a gallon.

48                    **SECTION 2.2.** G.S. 105-449.108(c) reads as rewritten:

49                    "(c) Sales Tax Amount. – Article 5 of Subchapter I of this Chapter determines the  
50                    amount of State sales and use tax to be deducted under this section from a motor fuel excise tax  
51                    refund. Articles 39, 40, and 42 of Subchapter VIII of this Chapter and the Mecklenburg First

1 1% Sales Tax Act determine the amount of local sales and use tax to be deducted under this  
 2 section from a motor fuel excise tax refund. The sales price and the cost price of motor fuel to  
 3 be used in determining the amount to deduct is the average of the wholesale prices used under  
 4 G.S. 105-449.80 to determine the excise tax ~~rates~~ rate in effect for the ~~two six month periods of~~  
 5 ~~the~~ calendar year for which the refund is claimed."

6 **SECTION 2.3.** G.S. 105-449.80 reads as rewritten:

7 "**§ 105-449.80. Tax rate.**

8 (a) Rate. – The motor fuel excise tax rate is a flat rate of seventeen and one-half cents  
 9 (17 1/2¢) a gallon plus a variable wholesale component. The variable wholesale component is  
 10 ~~either the greater of three seventeen and one-half cents (3 1/2¢)(17 1/2¢) a gallon or seven~~  
 11 ~~percent (7%)~~ nine and nine-tenths percent (9.9%) of the average wholesale price of motor fuel  
 12 for the applicable base ~~period, whichever is greater.~~ period.

13 ~~The two base periods are six month periods; one ends on September 30 and one ends on~~  
 14 ~~March 31. period is a twelve-month period ending September 30.~~ The Secretary must set the  
 15 tax rate ~~twice~~ for a year based on the wholesale price for each base period. A tax rate set by the  
 16 Secretary using information for the base period ~~that ends on September 30~~ applies to the  
 17 ~~six month period~~ calendar year that begins the following January 1. ~~A tax rate set by the~~  
 18 ~~Secretary using information for the base period that ends on March 31 applies to the six month~~  
 19 ~~period that begins the following July 1.~~

20 (b) Wholesale Price. – The Secretary must determine the average wholesale price of  
 21 motor fuel for each base period. To do this, the Secretary must use information on refiner and  
 22 gas plant operator sales prices of finished motor gasoline and No. 2 diesel fuel for resale,  
 23 published by the United States Department of Energy in the "Monthly Energy Review", or  
 24 equivalent data.

25 The Secretary must compute the average sales price of finished motor gasoline for the base  
 26 period, compute the average sales price for No. 2 diesel fuel for the base period, and then  
 27 compute a weighted average of the results of the first two computations based on the proportion  
 28 of tax collected on each under this Article for the base period. The Secretary must then convert  
 29 the weighted average price to a cents-per-gallon rate and round the rate to the nearest one-tenth  
 30 of a cent (1/10¢). If the converted cents-per-gallon rate is exactly between two-tenths of a cent  
 31 (2/10¢) the Secretary must round the rate up to the higher of the two.

32 (c) Notification. – The Secretary must notify affected taxpayers of the tax rate to be in  
 33 effect for each ~~six month period~~ calendar year beginning January 1 ~~and July 1.~~"

34 **SECTION 2.4.(a)** Section 4.1 of S.L. 2014-100 reads as rewritten:

35 "**SECTION 4.1.** Appropriations from the State Highway Trust Fund for the maintenance  
 36 and operation of the Department of Transportation and for other purposes as enumerated are  
 37 adjusted for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, according to the following schedule.  
 38 Amounts set out in parentheses are reductions from Highway Trust Fund Appropriations for the  
 39 2014-2015 fiscal year.  
 40

<b>Current Operations – Highway Trust Fund</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>
Program Administration	(\$11,000,000)
Aid to Municipalities	0
Intrastate	0
Secondary Roads	0
Urban Loops	0
Mobility Fund	0
Turnpike Authority	0
Transfer to General Fund	0
Transfer to Highway Fund	0

1	Debt Service	0
2	Strategic Prioritization Funding Plan for Transportation Investments	<del>67,993,140</del> 59,738,140

4	<b>Total Highway Trust Fund Appropriations</b>	<b>\$ 1,162,393,140</b> <del>1,154,138,140</del> "
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5           **SECTION 2.4.(b)** Section 4.2 of S.L. 2014-100 reads as rewritten:

6           **"SECTION 4.2.** Section 4.2 of S.L. 2013-360 is repealed. The Highway Trust Fund  
7 availability used in developing the 2014-2015 fiscal year budget is shown below:

9	<b>Highway Trust Fund Availability Statement</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>
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11	Unreserved Fund Balance	\$ 0
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12	Estimated Revenue	1,162,370,000
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13           Adjustment to Revenue Availability:

14	Motor Fuel Tax Refund Repeal (Taxi Cabs)	23,140
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16	<b>Total Highway Trust Fund Availability</b>	<b>\$ 1,162,393,140</b> <del>1,154,138,140</del>
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18	Unappropriated Balance	\$ 0"
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19           **SECTION 2.4.(c)** Section 3.1 of S.L. 2014-100 reads as rewritten:

20           **"SECTION 3.1.** Appropriations from the State Highway Fund for the maintenance and  
21 operation of the Department of Transportation and for other purposes as enumerated are  
22 adjusted for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, according to the following schedule.  
23 Amounts set out in parentheses are reductions from Highway Fund Appropriations for the  
24 2014-2015 fiscal year.

26	<b>Current Operations – Highway Fund</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>
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28	Department of Transportation	
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29	Administration	\$ 1,949,344
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31	Division of Highways	
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32	Administration	0
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33	Construction	0
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34	Maintenance	53,407,586
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35	Planning and Research	0
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36	OSHA Program	(7,307)
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38	Ferry Operations	(1,542,317)
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40	State Aid to Municipalities	9,453,990
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42	Intermodal Divisions	
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43	Public Transportation	0
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44	Aviation	(800,000)
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45	Rail	(960,325)
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46	Bicycle and Pedestrian	(30,043)
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48	Governor's Highway Safety	(5,699)
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50	Division of Motor Vehicles	(988,255)
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1	Other State Agencies, Reserves, Transfers	7,354,812
2		
3	Capital Improvements	0
4		
5	<u>Reductions Made Pursuant to Senate Bill 20:</u>	
6	<u>"IRC Update/Motor Fuel Tax Changes," 2015 Regular Session</u>	<u>(24,765,000)</u>
7		
8	<b>Total Highway Fund Appropriations</b>	<b><u>\$1,984,142,286</u><u>1,959,377,286"</u></b>

9 **SECTION 2.4.(d)** Section 3.2 of S.L. 2014-100 reads as rewritten:

10 **"SECTION 3.2.** Section 3.2 of S.L. 2013-360 is repealed. The Highway Fund availability  
 11 used in adjusting the 2014-2015 fiscal year budget is shown below:

13	<b>Highway Fund Availability Statement</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>
15	Unreserved Fund Balance	\$ 12,000,000
16	Estimated Revenue	1,973,750,000
17	Adjustment to Revenue Availability:	
18	Motor Fuel Tax (Shallow Draft Navigation Channel Dredging Fund)	(1,677,134)
19	Motor Fuel Tax Refund Repeal (Taxi Cabs)	69,420
20	<u>Reductions Made Pursuant to Senate Bill 20:</u>	
21	<u>"IRC Update/Motor Fuel Tax Changes," 2015 Regular Session</u>	<u>(24,765,000)</u>
22	<b>Revised Total Highway Fund Availability</b>	<b><u>\$1,984,142,286</u><u>1,959,377,286</u></b>

24 **Unappropriated Balance** **\$ 0"**

25 **SECTION 2.4.(e)** For the 2014-2015 fiscal year, appropriations to each certified  
 26 fund code within the Highway Fund are hereby reduced by two and one hundred seventy-five  
 27 thousandths percent (2.175%), which shall amount to a total reduction of nine million  
 28 ninety-two thousand six hundred sixteen dollars (\$9,092,616). In making the reductions  
 29 required by this subsection, the following fund codes shall not be reduced:

- 30 (1) 84210-0852
- 31 (2) 84210-0862
- 32 (3) 84210-0864
- 33 (4) 84210-0865
- 34 (5) 84210-0867
- 35 (6) 84210-0868
- 36 (7) 84210-0871
- 37 (8) 84210-0873
- 38 (9) 84210-0877
- 39 (10) 84210-0878
- 40 (11) 84210-0881
- 41 (12) 84210-0882
- 42 (13) 84210-0885
- 43 (14) 84210-0889
- 44 (15) 84210-0892
- 45 (16) 84210-0893
- 46 (17) 84210-0933
- 47 (18) 84210-0934
- 48 (19) 84210-0935
- 49 (20) 84210-0937
- 50 (21) 84210-1165
- 51 (22) 84210-1260

- 1 (23) 84210-7040
- 2 (24) 84210-7615
- 3 (25) 84210-7818
- 4 (26) 84210-7821
- 5 (27) 84210-7822
- 6 (28) 84210-7824
- 7 (29) 84210-7825
- 8 (30) 84210-7826
- 9 (31) 84210-7827
- 10 (32) 84210-7828
- 11 (33) 84210-7834
- 12 (34) 84210-7836
- 13 (35) 84210-7839
- 14 (36) 84210-7841

15 **SECTION 2.4.(f)** For the 2014-2015 fiscal year, appropriations to each of the  
16 following certified fund codes within the Highway Fund are hereby reduced by one percent  
17 (1%), which shall amount to a total reduction of four million six hundred eighty-seven  
18 thousand six hundred thirty dollars (\$4,687,630):

- 19 (1) 84210-7821
- 20 (2) 84210-7822
- 21 (3) 84210-7841

22 **SECTION 2.4.(g)** For the 2014-2015 fiscal year, and notwithstanding any  
23 provision of law to the contrary, the Director of the Budget and the Secretary of Revenue shall  
24 make the following reductions:

- 25 (1) Two million five hundred seventy-five thousand five hundred sixty dollars  
26 (\$2,575,560) to the total amount of funds appropriated pursuant to  
27 G.S. 136-41.1.
- 28 (2) Forty-one thousand two hundred seventy-five dollars (\$41,275) to the total  
29 amount of funds credited to the Wildlife Resources Fund pursuant to  
30 G.S. 105-449.126.
- 31 (3) Forty-one thousand two hundred seventy-five dollars (\$41,275) to the total  
32 amount of funds credited to the Shallow Draft Navigation Channel and Lake  
33 Dredging Fund pursuant to G.S. 105-449.126.

34 **SECTION 2.4.(h)** By March 1, 2015, the Secretary of the Department of  
35 Transportation shall reduce its workforce by eliminating 500 filled, full-time positions within  
36 the Department of Transportation, which shall amount to a total reduction of six million two  
37 hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$6,250,000). The Secretary of the Department of Transportation  
38 shall eliminate positions under this subsection in the following priority order:

- 39 (1) Departmental administration staff, including positions within units and  
40 divisions with unmet outsourcing targets.
- 41 (2) Positions that allow the Department of Transportation to plan for future  
42 outsourcing of maintenance activities. The term "maintenance activities"  
43 includes, but is not limited to, pavement preservation, winter weather  
44 treatments, roadside environmental, and preconstruction activities.
- 45 (3) Positions that allow the Department of Transportation to reduce management  
46 layers.

47 **SECTION 2.4.(i)** Notwithstanding G.S. 126-7.1, the Secretary of the Department  
48 of Transportation shall provide notice as soon as practicable to any employee affected by the  
49 reduction in its workforce under subsection (h) of this section.

50 **SECTION 2.4.(j)** The Secretary of the Department of Transportation shall  
51 eliminate a minimum of 50 vacant positions within the Department of Transportation to

1 achieve a total reduction of two million seventy-six thousand six hundred forty-four dollars  
2 (\$2,076,644). The Secretary of the Department of Transportation may use lapsed salaries to  
3 meet the reduction required under this subsection.

4 **SECTION 2.4.(k)** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the total  
5 amount of funds generated by the reductions in this act shall be used to support the  
6 maintenance and operation of the Department of Transportation and for other purposes as  
7 enumerated for the Department of Transportation in S.L. 2014-100. To the extent any of the  
8 funds generated by the reductions in this act are deemed unappropriated, these funds are hereby  
9 appropriated. The Director of the Budget shall modify the certified budget to reflect the  
10 reductions to appropriations made in this act.

11 **SECTION 2.5.** Section 2.4 of this act is effective when the act becomes law.  
12 Section 2.1 of this act expires January 1, 2016. The remainder of this Part becomes effective  
13 March 1, 2015.

14  
15 **PART III: EFFECTIVE DATE**

16 **SECTION 3.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes  
17 law.