

Natural Resources Committee

HB 1619

Brief Description: *Modifying distributions to the recreation resource account.*

Sponsors: *Representatives Hunt, Doumit, McMorris, Mulliken, Sump, Clements, Lantz and Miloscia.*

Brief Summary of Bill

- *Money is no longer distributed to the motor vehicle fund from the marine fuel tax account when the money is no longer needed for refunds from that account. All the money transferred from the marine fuel tax account is distributed to the recreation resource account.*

Hearing Date: *2/14/01*

Staff: *Bill Lynch (786-7092).*

Background:

A person who uses motor vehicle fuel for operating an engine not related to operation of a motor vehicle licensed for use on the public highways, may receive a refund for the motor vehicle fuel excise tax paid on each gallon. In order to get a refund, the person must apply for a permit from the Department of Revenue, and submit a claim to the department along with the invoices issued at the time the fuel was purchased. Claims for refunds must be at least twenty dollars. If the director approves the refund, the State Treasurer provides the person with a warrant payable out of the marine fuel tax refund account. An application for a refund must be made no later than the close of the last business day thirteen months from the date of the purchase, or the refund is barred.

At least once every four years, the Director of Licensing must determine the amount or proportion of the money paid as motor vehicle fuel tax which constitutes a tax on marine fuel because the fuel was used for marine purposes. After making this determination, the director requests the State Treasurer to refund this amount of money from the motor

vehicle fund to the marine fuel tax account. The money in the marine fuel tax account is then used to provide refunds for people who paid motor vehicle fuel excise tax on fuel not used for public highway purposes.

After the time period has expired for people to claim refunds from the marine fuel tax account, the state succeeds to the right to the refunds. The funds in the marine fuel tax account no longer needed for refunds are distributed to the motor vehicle fund and to the recreation resource account. The amount of money distributed to the recreation resource account is the amount of the motor vehicle fuel tax rate in effect on January 1, 1990. The amount of money distributed to the motor vehicle fund is the difference between the current motor vehicle fuel tax and the rate that was in effect on January 1, 1990.

The resource recreation account is divided into two equal shares. The first portion is used as grants to state agencies for acquisition of marine recreation land; capital improvement and renovation of marine recreation land; and as a match for federal funds for marine recreation lands. The second portion is used as grants to public bodies for the same purposes as the grants to state agencies.

Summary of Bill:

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Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 31, 2001.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.