SENATE BILL NO. 2509

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 27-59-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REDUCE THE COMPRESSED GAS PRIVILEGE TAX LEVIED UPON PERSONS OPERATING ON THE HIGHWAYS OF THIS STATE, MOTOR VEHICLES USING OR CAPABLE OF USING COMPRESSED GAS AS A MOTOR FUEL AND HAVING A GROSS LICENSE TAG WEIGHT CLASSIFICATION OF 10,000 POUNDS OR LESS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. Section 27-59-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

27-59-11. (1) A tax at the rate of One-fourth Cent (1/4¢) per gallon is hereby levied upon any person engaged in business as a distributor of compressed gas, excepting natural gas, for the privilege of engaging in such business or acting as such distributor. The tax shall be based on all compressed gas, excepting natural gas, stored, used, distributed, manufactured, refined, distilled, blended or compounded in this state or received in this state for sale, storage, distribution or for any other purpose.

The tax levied herein shall become due and payable when:

(a) Compressed gas is withdrawn from storage at a refinery, marine or pipeline terminal, or underground caverns or cavities except when withdrawal is by pipeline or barge;

(b) Compressed gas imported by a common carrier is unloaded by that carrier unless the compressed gas is unloaded directly into an underground cavern or cavity for storage or directly into the storage tanks of a refinery, marine or pipeline terminal; or
(c) Compressed gas imported by any person, other than a common carrier, enters the State of Mississippi, unless the compressed gas is unloaded directly into an underground cavern or cavity for storage or directly into the storage tanks of a refinery, marine or pipeline terminal.

(2) A tax at the rate of Seventeen Cents (17¢) per gallon until the date specified in Section 65-39-35, and Thirteen and Four-tenths Cents (13.4¢) per gallon thereafter, is levied upon any distributor of compressed gas for the privilege of engaging in the business of selling or delivering compressed gas, excepting compressed natural gas and liquefied natural gas, for use in a motor vehicle or motor vehicles on the highways of this state. A tax at the rate of Eighteen Cents (18¢) per one hundred (100) cubic feet until the date specified in Section 65-39-35, and Fourteen and Four-tenths Cents (14.4¢) per one hundred (100) cubic feet thereafter, is levied upon any distributor of compressed gas for the privilege of engaging in the business of selling or delivering compressed natural gas and liquefied natural gas for use in a motor vehicle or motor vehicles on the highways of this state. A tax at the rate of Eighteen Cents (18¢) per one hundred (100) cubic feet until the date specified in Section 65-39-35, and Fourteen and Four-tenths Cents (14.4¢) per one hundred (100) cubic feet thereafter, is levied upon any public utility for the privilege of engaging in the business of selling or delivering natural gas to a user for the purpose of being used as a fuel in a motor vehicle or motor vehicles on the highways of this state, and the taxes shall be collected from the user whenever practical.

The taxes levied in this subsection shall not apply when sales or deliveries are made to persons who are holders of permitted compressed gas user's decals.

(3) Upon every person operating on the highways of this state a motor vehicle or motor vehicles using or capable of using compressed gas as a motor fuel and having a gross license tag
weight classification of ten thousand (10,000) pounds or less, there is hereby levied an annual privilege tax of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) * * * until the date specified in Section 65-39-35, and One Hundred Sixty-five Dollars ($165.00) thereafter.

(4) Upon every person operating on the highways of this state a motor vehicle or motor vehicles using or capable of using compressed gas and having a gross license tag weight classification greater than ten thousand (10,000) pounds, there is hereby levied a privilege tax of Seventeen Cents (17¢) per gallon until the date specified in Section 65-39-35, and Thirteen and Four-tenths Cents (13.4¢) per gallon thereafter, on all compressed gas, excepting compressed natural gas and liquefied natural gas, used on the highways of this state. There is hereby levied a privilege tax of Eighteen Cents (18¢) per one hundred (100) cubic feet until the date specified in Section 65-39-35, and Fourteen and Four-tenths Cents (14.4¢) per one hundred (100) cubic feet thereafter, on all compressed natural gas and liquefied natural gas used on the highways of this state. The taxes levied in this paragraph shall not apply to owners or operators classified by the commission as nonpermitted users.

(5) All owners and operators of motor vehicles that have a gross license tag weight classification greater than ten thousand (10,000) pounds, but not exceeding twenty thousand (20,000) pounds shall prepay Two Hundred Twenty-five Dollars ($225.00) of such tax annually, and all owners and operators of motor vehicles that have a gross license tag weight classification greater than twenty thousand (20,000) pounds shall prepay Three Hundred Dollars ($300.00) of such tax annually. On motor vehicles that have a gross license tag weight exceeding ten thousand (10,000) pounds, that are exclusively used by a farmer for transporting farm products produced on his own farm and also farm supplies, materials and equipment used in the growing or production of his agricultural products and have a "farm" or "F" motor vehicle
license tag, the prepaid portion of said privilege tax shall be
One Hundred Fifty Dollars ($150.00).

(6) The commission, in its discretion, may authorize or
require the owner or operator of five (5) or more motor vehicles
that use or are capable of using compressed gas on the highway to
pay the excise tax on all compressed gas purchased for any purpose
and the excise tax shall be collected by the distributor of
compressed gas at the time of sale or delivery. The owners or
operators authorized or required to do so shall be classified as
nonpermitted users.

SECTION 2. Nothing in this act shall affect or defeat any
claim, assessment, appeal, suit, right or cause of action for
taxes due or accrued under the compressed gas laws before the date
on which this act becomes effective, whether such claims,
assessments, appeals, suits or actions have been begun before the
date on which this act becomes effective or are begun thereafter;
and the provisions of the compressed gas laws are expressly
continued in full force, effect and operation for the purpose of
the assessment, collection and enrollment of liens for any taxes
due or accrued and the execution of any warrant under such laws
before the date on which this act becomes effective, and for the
imposition of any penalties, forfeitures or claims for failure to
comply with such laws.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
and after July 1, 2001.