

By the Committee on Business Development & International
Trade and Representatives Turnbull and Valdes

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to air carriers; amending s.
3 206.9825, F.S.; providing for a refund or
4 credit for the aviation fuel tax for
5 wholesalers or terminal suppliers that deliver
6 aviation fuel to an air carrier that offers jet
7 passenger service, or maintains or increases
8 scheduled service, to the state capital;
9 requiring a wholesaler or terminal supplier
10 that receives such refund or credit, or that
11 receives the refund or credit for fuel
12 delivered to certain air carriers that increase
13 their Florida workforce, to pass the refund or
14 credit on to the air carrier; directing the
15 Department of Management Services to evaluate
16 the state contract for air carrier service for
17 state employees, undertake a pilot program, and
18 evaluate the pilot program; providing an
19 effective date.
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21 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Florida to
22 attract and retain quality affordable air carrier service for
23 its citizens, and
24 WHEREAS, dependable and affordable air service is an
25 important factor in stimulating economic development and
26 promoting efficient and accountable government service, and
27 WHEREAS, citizens require affordable and efficient
28 access to state government and elected officials in the state
29 capital to promote an open democracy, and
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1 WHEREAS, safe and affordable air travel from the state
2 capital to all parts of Florida is necessary to ensure the
3 continued operation of state programs, and

4 WHEREAS, incentives need to be identified to attract
5 and retain quality air service to the state capital from all
6 major airports in Florida to meet the needs of government and
7 industry, and

8 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the need to provide
9 support to air carriers that provide this valuable service,
10 NOW, THEREFORE,

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12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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14 Section 1. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (1) of
15 section 206.9825, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, are
16 amended to read:

17 206.9825 Aviation fuel tax.--

18 (1)

19 (b)1. Any licensed wholesaler or terminal supplier
20 that delivers aviation fuel to an air carrier offering
21 transcontinental jet service and that, after January 1, 1996,
22 increases the air carrier's Florida workforce by more than
23 1000 percent and by 250 or more full-time equivalent employee
24 positions, may receive a credit or refund as the ultimate
25 vendor of the aviation fuel for the 6.9 cents excise tax
26 previously paid, provided that the air carrier has no facility
27 for fueling highway vehicles from the tank in which the
28 aviation fuel is stored. In calculating the new or additional
29 Florida full-time equivalent employee positions, any full-time
30 equivalent employee positions of parent or subsidiary
31 corporations which existed before January 1, 1996, shall not

1 be counted toward reaching the Florida employment increase
2 thresholds. The refund allowed under this subparagraph
3 ~~paragraph~~ is in furtherance of the goals and policies of the
4 State Comprehensive Plan set forth in s. 187.201(17)(a),
5 (b)1., 2., (18)(a), (b)1., 4., (20)(a), (b)5., (22)(a), (b)1.,
6 2., 4., 7., 9., and 12. This subparagraph ~~paragraph~~ will
7 expire on July 1, 2001.

8 2. Any licensed wholesaler or terminal supplier that
9 delivers aviation fuel to an air carrier that offers jet
10 passenger service, or maintains or increases scheduled
11 passenger service, to the state capital, based on available
12 seats averaged annually, may receive a credit or refund as the
13 ultimate vendor of the aviation fuel for the 6.9 cents excise
14 tax previously paid, provided that the air carrier has no
15 facility for fueling highway vehicles from the tank in which
16 the aviation fuel is stored. This refund or credit shall be
17 applied only to fuel used, in the case of interstate flights,
18 for those flight segments traveling in or out of the state
19 capital, and in the case of intrastate flights, for those
20 multiple flight segments connecting to and from the state
21 capital by air carriers headquartered within the State of
22 Florida.

23 3. A licensed wholesaler or terminal supplier that
24 receives a credit or refund pursuant to subparagraph 1. or
25 subparagraph 2. is required to pass on the full exemption or
26 credit to the air carrier purchasing the fuel.

27 (c) If, before July 1, 2001, the number of full-time
28 equivalent employee positions created or added to the air
29 carrier's Florida workforce falls below 250, the exemption
30 granted pursuant to subparagraph (b)1. ~~this section~~ shall not
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1 apply during the period in which the air carrier has fewer
2 than the 250 additional employees.

3 Section 2. State air carrier contract.--Pursuant to s.
4 287.042, Florida Statutes, the Department of Management
5 Services shall analyze and evaluate the state contract for air
6 carrier service for state employees to determine how to
7 improve the quality, availability, and cost of air service to
8 state employees and other citizens. The department shall
9 undertake a pilot program based on this analysis that shall
10 include, but is not limited to, the suspension of any such
11 contract and the provision of any incentives necessary to
12 attract qualified air carriers flying within Florida to the
13 state capital. In implementing this pilot program, the
14 department shall take into consideration the provisions of s.
15 112.061(7)(a)2., Florida Statutes. The department shall
16 evaluate the impact of this pilot program on increased
17 scheduled service, costs, fare structures, and expanded jet
18 service to and from the state capital, and be prepared to
19 report annually to the Speaker of the House of Representatives
20 and the President of the Senate.

21 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1997.
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