
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TAXATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. While section 251-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
2 pertains to surcharge taxes for rental motor vehicles and tour
3 vehicles, the legislature finds that in 1999, it temporarily
4 increased the daily surcharge tax on rental motor vehicles and
5 not tour vehicles. This temporary tax increase of \$1 generates
6 about \$14,000,000 a year for the highway fund and this increase
7 is scheduled to sunset on August 31, 2007. The highway fund is
8 in need of revenues and would suffer from the loss of revenues
9 if this sunset provision took place.

10 The purpose of this Act is to avoid the loss of revenues by
11 extending the sunset provision deadline by one year while a
12 study is being conducted. In calling for a study the
13 legislature finds that when these surcharge taxes were first
14 established in 1991, there appeared to be no clearly stated
15 basis or rationale for the establishment of the taxes and in
16 particular the relationship or the amount of the taxes between
17 rental motor vehicles and tour vehicles. In addition, the study



1 shall include and not be limited to exploring the present and
2 future needs of the highway fund and alternative means of
3 increasing revenues from vehicles other than just rental and
4 tour vehicles.

5 SECTION 2. Section 251-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

7 "(a) There is levied and shall be assessed and collected
8 each month a rental motor vehicle surcharge tax of \$2 a day,
9 except that for the period of September 1, 1999, to August 31,
10 [~~2007~~] 2008, the tax shall be \$3 a day, or any portion of a day
11 that a rental motor vehicle is rented or leased. The rental
12 motor vehicle surcharge tax shall be levied upon the lessor;
13 provided that the tax shall not be levied on the lessor if:

- 14 (1) The lessor is renting the vehicle to replace a vehicle
15 of the lessee that is being repaired; and
16 (2) A record of the repair order for the vehicle is
17 retained either by the lessor for two years for
18 verification purposes or by a motor vehicle repair
19 dealer for two years as provided in section 437B-16."

20 SECTION 3. (a) There shall be a joint senate and house of
21 representatives task force, appointed by the president of the
22 senate and the speaker of the house of representatives, to



1 conduct a review of the financial requirements of the state
2 highway fund, with an emphasis on the adequacy and equity of
3 revenues generated by one or more revenues sources pursuant to
4 section 251-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, compared with other
5 revenue sources contributing to or that could be contributing to
6 the highway fund.

7 (b) The review may include but shall not be limited to
8 discussions and meetings with representatives of different
9 interest groups and present contributors of revenues to the
10 highway fund and may also include:

- 11 (1) Past, present, and projected revenues of the state
12 highway fund;
- 13 (2) The ability of the department of transportation to
14 plan, implement, and expend funds on a timely basis;
- 15 (3) An analysis of the actual revenue needs of the
16 department of transportation;
- 17 (4) Other revenue sources of the state highway fund and
18 their nexus to the fund; and
- 19 (5) Other governmental matching funds.

20 (c) The review shall include but not limited to data from
21 the 2000-2001 fiscal year to present and may include any data,
22 information, or conclusions reported by task forces or groups



1 that have discussed or met in the past to evaluate at least in
2 part the fiscal needs or viability of the state highway fund.

3 (d) The joint task force shall submit a report of its
4 findings to the legislature twenty days prior to the convening
5 of the regular session of 2008.

6 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
7 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon approval.



S.B. NO. 1133
S.D. 3
H.D. 1
C.D. 1

Report Title:

Taxes; Rental Motor Vehicle and Tour Vehicle Surcharge

Description:

Extends the sunset of the \$3 surcharge period from August 31, 2007, to August 31, 2008; establishes a joint senate and house of representatives task force to conduct a review of the state highway fund. (CD1)

