

**§ 11501. Tax discrimination against rail transportation property**

(a) In this section—

(1) the term “assessment” means valuation for a property tax levied by a taxing district;

(2) the term “assessment jurisdiction” means a geographical area in a State used in determining the assessed value of property for ad valorem taxation;

(3) the term “rail transportation property” means property, as defined by the Board, owned or used by a rail carrier providing transportation subject to the jurisdiction of the Board under this part; and

(4) the term “commercial and industrial property” means property, other than transportation property and land used primarily for agricultural purposes or timber growing, devoted to a commercial or industrial use and subject to a property tax levy.

(b) The following acts unreasonably burden and discriminate against interstate commerce, and a State, subdivision of a State, or authority acting for a State or subdivision of a State may not do any of them:

(1) Assess rail transportation property at a value that has a higher ratio to the true market value of the rail transportation property than the ratio that the assessed value of other commercial and industrial property in the same assessment jurisdiction has to the true market value of the other commercial and industrial property.

(2) Levy or collect a tax on an assessment that may not be made under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(3) Levy or collect an ad valorem property tax on rail transportation property at a tax rate that exceeds the tax rate applicable to commercial and industrial property in the same assessment jurisdiction.

(4) Impose another tax that discriminates against a rail carrier providing transportation subject to the jurisdiction of the Board under this part.

(c) Notwithstanding section 1341 of title 28 and without regard to the amount in controversy or citizenship of the parties, a district court of the United States has jurisdiction, concurrent with other jurisdiction of courts of the United States and the States, to prevent a violation of subsection (b) of this section. Relief may be granted under this subsection only if the ratio of assessed value to true market value of rail transportation property exceeds by at least 5 percent the ratio of assessed value to true market value of other commercial and industrial property in the same assessment jurisdiction. The burden of proof in determining assessed value and true market value is governed by State law. If the ratio of the assessed value of other commercial and industrial property in the assessment jurisdiction to the true market value of all other commercial and industrial property cannot be determined to the satisfaction of the district court through the random-sampling method known as a sales assessment ratio study (to be carried out under statistical principles applicable to such a study), the court shall find, as a violation of this section—

(1) an assessment of the rail transportation property at a value that has a higher ratio to the true market value of the rail transportation property than the assessed value of all other property subject to a property tax levy in the assessment jurisdiction has to the true market value of all other commercial and industrial property; and

(2) the collection of an ad valorem property tax on the rail transportation property at a tax rate that exceeds the tax ratio rate applicable to taxable property in the taxing district.

(Added Pub. L. 104-88, title I, §102(a), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 843.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 11503 of this title prior to the general amendment of this subtitle by Pub. L. 104-88, §102(a).

A prior section 11501, Pub. L. 95-473, Oct. 17, 1978, 92 Stat. 1444; Pub. L. 96-448, title II, §214(a)-(c)(1), Oct. 14, 1980, 94 Stat. 1913, 1915; Pub. L. 97-261, §17(a), Sept. 20, 1982, 96 Stat. 1117; Pub. L. 99-521, §11(a), Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2997; Pub. L. 103-272, §4(j)(34), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1370; Pub. L. 103-305, title VI, §601(c), Aug. 23, 1994, 108 Stat. 1606; Pub. L. 103-311, title II, §211(b)(2), Aug. 26, 1994, 108 Stat. 1689, related to Interstate Commerce Commission authority over intrastate transportation, prior to the general amendment of this subtitle by Pub. L. 104-88, §102(a). See section 14501 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Chapter effective Jan. 1, 1996, except as otherwise provided in Pub. L. 104-88, see section 2 of Pub. L. 104-88, set out as a note under section 701 of this title.

**§ 11502. Withholding State and local income tax by rail carriers**

(a) No part of the compensation paid by a rail carrier providing transportation subject to the jurisdiction of the Board under this part to an employee who performs regularly assigned duties as such an employee on a railroad in more than one State shall be subject to the income tax laws of any State or subdivision of that State, other than the State or subdivision thereof of the employee's residence.

(b) A rail carrier withholding pay from an employee under subsection (a) of this section shall file income tax information returns and other reports only with the State and subdivision of residence of the employee.

(Added Pub. L. 104-88, title I, §102(a), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 844.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 11504 of this title prior to the general amendment of this subtitle by Pub. L. 104-88, §102(a).

Prior sections 11502 to 11507 were omitted in the general amendment of this subtitle by Pub. L. 104-88, §102(a).

Section 11502, Pub. L. 95-473, Oct. 17, 1978, 92 Stat. 1445, related to conferences and joint hearings with State authorities.

Section 11503, Pub. L. 95-473, Oct. 17, 1978, 92 Stat. 1445, related to tax discrimination against rail transportation property. See section 11501 of this title.

Section 11503a, added Pub. L. 96-296, §31(a)(1), July 1, 1980, 94 Stat. 823; amended Pub. L. 97-261, §20, Sept. 20, 1982, 96 Stat. 1122, related to tax discrimination against motor carrier transportation property. See section 14502 of this title.

Section 11504, Pub. L. 95-473, Oct. 17, 1978, 92 Stat. 1446; Pub. L. 97-261, §29(d), Sept. 20, 1982, 96 Stat. 1128; Pub. L. 101-322, §7, July 6, 1990, 104 Stat. 296; Pub. L. 103-272, §5(m)(33), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1378, related to withholding State and local income tax by certain carriers. See sections 11502 and 14503 of this title.

Section 11505, Pub. L. 95-473, Oct. 17, 1978, 92 Stat. 1448; Pub. L. 99-521, §11(b), Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2998, related to State action to enjoin rail carriers from certain actions.

Section 11506, Pub. L. 95-473, Oct. 17, 1978, 92 Stat. 1448; Pub. L. 102-240, title IV, §4005, Dec. 18, 1991, 105 Stat. 2146, related to registration of motor carriers by a State.

Section 11507, Pub. L. 95-473, Oct. 17, 1978, 92 Stat. 1449; Pub. L. 98-473, title II, §233, Oct. 12, 1984, 98 Stat. 2031, related to prison-made property governed by State law.

#### CHAPTER 117—ENFORCEMENT: INVESTIGATIONS, RIGHTS, AND REMEDIES

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#### § 11701. General authority

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this part, the Board may begin an investigation under this part only on complaint. If the Board finds that a rail carrier is violating this part, the Board shall take appropriate action to compel compliance with this part.

(b) A person, including a governmental authority, may file with the Board a complaint about a violation of this part by a rail carrier providing transportation or service subject to the jurisdiction of the Board under this part. The complaint must state the facts that are the subject of the violation. The Board may dismiss a complaint it determines does not state reasonable grounds for investigation and action. However, the Board may not dismiss a complaint made against a rail carrier providing transportation subject to the jurisdiction of the Board under this part because of the absence of direct damage to the complainant.

(c) A formal investigative proceeding begun by the Board under subsection (a) of this section is dismissed automatically unless it is concluded by the Board with administrative finality by the end of the third year after the date on which it was begun.

(Added Pub. L. 104-88, title I, §102(a), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 845.)

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 11701, Pub. L. 95-473, Oct. 17, 1978, 92 Stat. 1449; Pub. L. 96-296, §26(a), July 1, 1980, 94 Stat. 818; Pub. L. 98-554, title II, §226(c)(4), Oct. 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 2851; Pub. L. 99-521, §12(a), Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2998; Pub. L. 100-690, title IX, §9111(i), Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4534; Pub. L. 103-272, §5(m)(34), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1378, related to general authority of Interstate Commerce Commission to enforce this subtitle, prior to the general amendment of this subtitle by Pub. L.

104-88, §102(a). See sections 11701, 14701, and 15901 of this title.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Chapter effective Jan. 1, 1996, except as otherwise provided in Pub. L. 104-88, see section 2 of Pub. L. 104-88, set out as a note under section 701 of this title.

#### § 11702. Enforcement by the Board

The Board may bring a civil action—

(1) to enjoin a rail carrier from violating sections 10901 through 10906 of this title, or a regulation prescribed or order or certificate issued under any of those sections;

(2) to enforce subchapter II of chapter 113 of this title and to compel compliance with an order of the Board under that subchapter; and

(3) to enforce an order of the Board, except a civil action to enforce an order for the payment of money, when it is violated by a rail carrier providing transportation subject to the jurisdiction of the Board under this part.

(Added Pub. L. 104-88, title I, §102(a), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 845.)

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 11702, Pub. L. 95-473, Oct. 17, 1978, 92 Stat. 1450; Pub. L. 96-296, §§15(c), 16(c), July 1, 1980, 94 Stat. 809, 810; Pub. L. 97-261, §25(e), Sept. 20, 1982, 96 Stat. 1125; Pub. L. 98-554, title II, §226(c)(5), Oct. 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 2851; Pub. L. 100-690, title IX, §9111(j), Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4534, related to authority of Interstate Commerce Commission to bring a civil action to enforce various provisions of this subtitle, prior to the general amendment of this subtitle by Pub. L. 104-88, §102(a). See sections 11702, 14702, and 15902 of this title.

#### § 11703. Enforcement by the Attorney General

(a) The Attorney General may, and on request of the Board shall, bring court proceedings to enforce this part, or a regulation or order of the Board or certificate issued under this part, and to prosecute a person violating this part or a regulation or order of the Board or certificate issued under this part.

(b) The United States Government may bring a civil action on behalf of a person to compel a rail carrier providing transportation subject to the jurisdiction of the Board under this part to provide that transportation to that person in compliance with this part at the same rate charged, or on conditions as favorable as those given by the rail carrier, for like traffic under similar conditions to another person.

(Added Pub. L. 104-88, title I, §102(a), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 845.)

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 11703, Pub. L. 95-473, Oct. 17, 1978, 92 Stat. 1450, related to authority of Attorney General and United States Government to bring civil actions to enforce this subtitle, prior to the general amendment of this subtitle by Pub. L. 104-88, §102(a). See sections 11703, 14703, and 15903 of this title.

#### § 11704. Rights and remedies of persons injured by rail carriers

(a) A person injured because a rail carrier providing transportation or service subject to the jurisdiction of the Board under this part does not obey an order of the Board, except an order