

Sec.	
6532.	Periods of limitation on suits.
6533.	Cross references.

§ 6531. Periods of limitation on criminal prosecutions

No person shall be prosecuted, tried, or punished for any of the various offenses arising under the internal revenue laws unless the indictment is found or the information instituted within 3 years next after the commission of the offense, except that the period of limitation shall be 6 years—

(1) for offenses involving the defrauding or attempting to defraud the United States or any agency thereof, whether by conspiracy or not, and in any manner;

(2) for the offense of willfully attempting in any manner to evade or defeat any tax or the payment thereof;

(3) for the offense of willfully aiding or assisting in, or procuring, counseling, or advising, the preparation or presentation under, or in connection with any matter arising under, the internal revenue laws, of a false or fraudulent return, affidavit, claim, or document (whether or not such falsity or fraud is with the knowledge or consent of the person authorized or required to present such return, affidavit, claim, or document);

(4) for the offense of willfully failing to pay any tax, or make any return (other than a return required under authority of part III of subchapter A of chapter 61) at the time or times required by law or regulations;

(5) for offenses described in sections 7206(1) and 7207 (relating to false statements and fraudulent documents);

(6) for the offense described in section 7212(a) (relating to intimidation of officers and employees of the United States);

(7) for offenses described in section 7214(a) committed by officers and employees of the United States; and

(8) for offenses arising under section 371 of Title 18 of the United States Code, where the object of the conspiracy is to attempt in any manner to evade or defeat any tax or the payment thereof.

The time during which the person committing any of the various offenses arising under the internal revenue laws is outside the United States or is a fugitive from justice within the meaning of section 3290 of Title 18 of the United States Code, shall not be taken as any part of the time limited by law for the commencement of such proceedings. (The preceding sentence shall also be deemed an amendment to section 3748(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1939, and shall apply in lieu of the sentence in section 3748(a) which relates to the time during which a person committing an offense is absent from the district wherein the same is committed, except that such amendment shall apply only if the period of limitations under section 3748 would, without the application of such amendment, expire more than 3 years after the date of enactment of this title, and except that such period shall not, with the application of this amendment, expire prior to the date which is 3 years after the date of enactment of this title.) Where

a complaint is instituted before a commissioner of the United States within the period above limited, the time shall be extended until the date which is 9 months after the date of the making of the complaint before the commissioner of the United States. For the purpose of determining the periods of limitation on criminal prosecutions, the rules of section 6513 shall be applicable.

(Aug. 16, 1954, ch. 736, 68A Stat. 815.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 3748(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1939, referred to in text, was classified to section 3748(a) of former Title 26, Internal Revenue Code. For table of comparisons of the 1939 Code to the 1986 Code, see Table I preceding section 1 of this title. See, also, section 7851(a)(6)(B) of this title for applicability of section 3748 of former Title 26. See also section 7851(e) for provision that references in the 1986 Code to a provision of the 1939 Code, not then applicable, shall be deemed a reference to the corresponding provision of the 1986 Code, which is then applicable.

The date of enactment of this title, referred to in text, is Aug. 16, 1986 [formerly I.R.C. 1954], the date of enactment of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

§ 6532. Periods of limitation on suits

(a) Suits by taxpayers for refund

(1) General rule

No suit or proceeding under section 7422(a) for the recovery of any internal revenue tax, penalty, or other sum, shall be begun before the expiration of 6 months from the date of filing the claim required under such section unless the Secretary renders a decision thereon within that time, nor after the expiration of 2 years from the date of mailing by certified mail or registered mail by the Secretary to the taxpayer of a notice of the disallowance of the part of the claim to which the suit or proceeding relates.

(2) Extension of time

The 2-year period prescribed in paragraph (1) shall be extended for such period as may be agreed upon in writing between the taxpayer and the Secretary.

(3) Waiver of notice of disallowance

If any person files a written waiver of the requirement that he be mailed a notice of disallowance, the 2-year period prescribed in paragraph (1) shall begin on the date such waiver is filed.

(4) Reconsideration after mailing of notice

Any consideration, reconsideration, or action by the Secretary with respect to such claim following the mailing of a notice by certified mail or registered mail of disallowance shall not operate to extend the period within which suit may be begun.

(5) Cross reference

For substitution of 120-day period for the 6-month period contained in paragraph (1) in a title 11 case, see section 505(a)(2) of title 11 of the United States Code.

(b) Suits by United States for recovery of erroneous refunds

Recovery of an erroneous refund by suit under section 7405 shall be allowed only if such suit is

begun within 2 years after the making of such refund, except that such suit may be brought at any time within 5 years from the making of the refund if it appears that any part of the refund was induced by fraud or misrepresentation of a material fact.

(c) Suits by persons other than taxpayers

(1) General rule

Except as provided by paragraph (2), no suit or proceeding under section 7426 shall be begun after the expiration of 2 years from the date of the levy or agreement giving rise to such action.

(2) Period when claim is filed

If a request is made for the return of property described in section 6343(b), the 2-year period prescribed in paragraph (1) shall be extended for a period of 12 months from the date of filing of such request or for a period of 6 months from the date of mailing by registered or certified mail by the Secretary to the person making such request of a notice of disallowance of the part of the request to which the action relates, whichever is shorter.

(Aug. 16, 1954, ch. 736, 68A Stat. 816; Pub. L. 85-866, title I, § 89(b), Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1665; Pub. L. 89-719, title I, § 110(b), Nov. 2, 1966, 80 Stat. 1144; Pub. L. 94-455, title XIX, § 1906(b)(13)(A), Oct. 4, 1976, 90 Stat. 1834; Pub. L. 96-589, § 6(d)(4), Dec. 24, 1980, 94 Stat. 3408; Pub. L. 115-97, title I, § 11071(b), Dec. 22, 2017, 131 Stat. 2091.)

AMENDMENTS

2017—Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 115-97, § 11071(b)(1), substituted “2 years” for “9 months”.

Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 115-97, § 11071(b)(2), substituted “2-year” for “9-month”.

1980—Subsec. (a)(5). Pub. L. 96-589 added par. (5).

1976—Pub. L. 94-455 struck out “or his delegate” after “Secretary” wherever appearing.

1966—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 89-719 added subsec. (c).

1958—Subsec. (a)(1), (4). Pub. L. 85-866 inserted “certified mail or” before “registered mail” wherever appearing.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2017 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 115-97 applicable to levies made after Dec. 22, 2017, and levies made on or before Dec. 22, 2017, if the 9-month period has not expired under section 6343(b) of this title (without regard to section 11071 of Pub. L. 115-97) as of such date, see section 11071(c) of Pub. L. 115-97, set out as a note under section 6343 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-589 effective Oct. 1, 1979, but not applicable to proceedings under Title 11, Bankruptcy, commenced before Oct. 1, 1979, see section 7(e) of Pub. L. 96-589, set out as a note under section 108 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1966 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 89-719 applicable after Nov. 2, 1966, regardless of when title or lien of United States arose or when lien or interest of another person was acquired, with certain exceptions, see section 114(a)-(c) of Pub. L. 89-719, set out as a note under section 6323 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1958 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 85-866 applicable only if mailing occurs after Sept. 2, 1958, see section 89(d) of Pub.

L. 85-866, set out as a note under section 7502 of this title.

§ 6533. Cross references

(1) For period of limitation in respect of civil actions for fines, penalties, and forfeitures, see section 2462 of Title 28 of the United States Code.

(2) For extensions of time by reason of armed service in a combat zone, see section 7508.

(3) For suspension of running of statute until 3 years after termination of hostilities, see section 3287 of Title 18.

(Aug. 16, 1954, ch. 736, 68A Stat. 816.)

CHAPTER 67—INTEREST

Subchapter	Sec. ¹
A. Interest on underpayments	6601
B. Interest on overpayments	6611
C. Determination of interest rate; compounding of interest	6621
D. Notice requirements	6631

AMENDMENTS

1998—Pub. L. 105-206, title III, § 3308(b), July 22, 1998, 112 Stat. 745, added item for subchapter D.

1982—Pub. L. 97-248, title III, § 344(b)(3)(B), Sept. 3, 1982, 96 Stat. 636, inserted “; compounding of interest” after “rate” in item for subchapter C.

1975—Pub. L. 93-625, § 7(d)(5), Jan. 3, 1975, 88 Stat. 2115, added item for subchapter C.

Subchapter A—Interest on Underpayments

Sec.	
6601.	Interest on underpayment, nonpayment, or extensions of time for payment, of tax.
6602.	Interest on erroneous refund recoverable by suit.
6603.	Deposits made to suspend running of interest on potential underpayments, etc.

AMENDMENTS

2004—Pub. L. 108-357, title VIII, § 842(b), Oct. 22, 2004, 118 Stat. 1599, added item 6603.

§ 6601. Interest on underpayment, nonpayment, or extensions of time for payment, of tax

(a) General rule

If any amount of tax imposed by this title (whether required to be shown on a return, or to be paid by stamp or by some other method) is not paid on or before the last date prescribed for payment, interest on such amount at the underpayment rate established under section 6621 shall be paid for the period from such last date to the date paid.

(b) Last date prescribed for payment

For purposes of this section, the last date prescribed for payment of the tax shall be determined under chapter 62 with the application of the following rules:

(1) Extensions of time disregarded

The last date prescribed for payment shall be determined without regard to any extension of time for payment or any installment agreement entered into under section 6159.

(2) Installment payments

In the case of an election under section 6156(a)¹ to pay the tax in installments—

¹ Section numbers editorially supplied.

¹ See References in Text note below.