

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES—CONTINUED

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
60302(b)	46 App.:121 (4th sentence words before proviso).	
60302(c)	46 App.:121 (4th sentence proviso).	Mar. 4, 1915, ch. 171, §1, 38 Stat. 1193.

In subsections (a) and (b), the words “Regardless of whether a tax is imposed under section 60301 of this title” are added for clarity. See 19 C.F.R. §4.20(c) (2003).

In subsection (a)(1), the word “owned” is substituted for “belonging” for consistency in the revised title.

In subsection (a)(3), the words “vessel of the United States” are substituted for “vessel” for clarity.

In subsection (c), the words “The tax of 50 cents per ton” are substituted for “no such duty” in 46 App. U.S.C. 121 to conform more closely to the language in section 1 of the Act of March 4, 1915 (ch. 171, 38 Stat. 1193). The word “documented” is substituted for “registered” for consistency in the revised title.

The words “In addition to the tonnage-duty above imposed, there shall be paid a tax, at the rate of thirty cents per ton, on vessels which shall be entered at any custom-house within the United States from any foreign port or place” in R.S. §4219 were omitted from the original codification of R.S. §4219 in 46 U.S.C. 121 (1926 edition, 44 Stat. 1467). A codification note which first appeared in the 1958 edition of the United States Code for 46 U.S.C. 121 says that the words apparently were omitted as superseded and repealed by section 14 of the Act of June 26, 1884 (ch. 121, 23 Stat. 57), as amended by section 11 of the Act of June 19, 1886 (ch. 421, 24 Stat. 81), and section 1 of the Act of April 4, 1888 (ch. 61, 25 Stat. 80).

§ 60303. Light money

(a) IMPOSITION OF TAX.—A tax of 50 cents per ton, to be called “light money”, is imposed on a vessel not of the United States at each entry in a port of the United States. This tax shall be imposed and collected under the same regulations that apply to tonnage taxes.

(b) EXCEPTION FOR VESSELS OWNED BY CITIZENS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) does not apply to a vessel owned only by citizens of the United States if—

(A) the vessel is carrying a regular document issued by a customhouse of the United States proving the vessel to be owned only by citizens of the United States; and

(B) on entry of the vessel from a foreign port, the individual designated under paragraph (2) states under oath that—

(i) the document contains the names of all the owners of the vessel; or

(ii) part of the ownership has been transferred since the document was issued and, to the best of that individual’s knowledge and belief, the vessel is still owned only by citizens of the United States.

(2) PERSON TO MAKE STATEMENT.—The statement under paragraph (1)(B) shall be made by—

(A) an owner if one resides at the port of entry; or

(B) the master if an owner does not reside at the port of entry.

(c) EXCEPTION FOR VESSELS BECOMING DOCUMENTED.—Subsection (a) does not apply to a vessel that—

(1) is owned only by citizens of the United States; and

(2) after entering a port of the United States, becomes documented as a vessel of the United States before leaving that port.

(Pub. L. 109–304, §9(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1678; Pub. L. 115–232, div. C, title XXXV, §3546(v), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 2327.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
60303(a)	46 App.:128 (words before proviso).	R.S. §4225.
60303(b)	46 App.:129.	R.S. §4226.
60303(c)	46 App.:128 (proviso).	Mar. 4, 1915, ch. 171, §1, 38 Stat. 1193.

In subsection (a), the word “tax” is substituted for “duty”, and the word “imposed” is substituted for “levied and collected”, for consistency in the chapter. The words “in the same manner” are omitted as unnecessary.

In subsection (b)(1), before subparagraph (A), the words “does not apply to” are substituted for “shall not be deemed to operate upon” to eliminate unnecessary words. The word “unregistered” is omitted as unnecessary. The word “only” is added for clarity and for consistency in the revised title. In subparagraph (A), the words “owned only by citizens of the United States” are substituted for “American property” for consistency. In subparagraph (B)(ii), the words “sold or” are omitted as unnecessary. The words “owned only by citizens of the United States” are substituted for “no foreign subject or citizen has . . . any share, by way of trust, confidence, or otherwise” to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsection (b)(2), subparagraph (A) is substituted for “if the same shall be at the port at which the owner or any of the part owners reside”, and subparagraph (B) is substituted for “If the owner or any part owner does not reside at the port or place at which such vessel shall enter, then the master shall make oath to the like effect”, to eliminate unnecessary words.

AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 115–232 substituted “Subsection (a) does” for “Subsection (a) section does”.

§ 60304. Presidential suspension of tonnage taxes and light money

If the President is satisfied that the government of a foreign country does not impose discriminating or countervailing duties to the disadvantage of the United States, the President shall suspend the imposition of special tonnage taxes and light money under sections 60302 and 60303 of this title on vessels of that country.

(Pub. L. 109–304, §9(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1678.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
60304	46 App.:121 (5th sentence words after semicolon).	R.S. §4219 (4th sentence words after semicolon); Feb. 27, 1877, ch. 69, §1, 19 Stat. 250.

The words “If the President is satisfied . . . the President shall suspend the imposition” are substituted for “none of the duties . . . shall be levied . . . if the President of the United States shall be satisfied”, the words “does not impose” are substituted for “have been abolished”, and the words “special tonnage taxes and light money” are substituted for “duties on tonnage above mentioned”, for clarity.

§ 60305. Vessels in distress

A vessel is exempt from tonnage taxes and light money when it enters because it is in distress.

(Pub. L. 109–304, §9(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1678.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
60305	46 App.:121 (3d sentence related to distress).	Aug. 5, 1909, ch. 6, §36 (2d sentence related to distress), 36 Stat. 111; Pub. L. 101–508, title X, §10402(a), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1388–398; Pub. L. 103–66, title IX, §9001(a)(3), (c)(1), Aug. 10, 1993, 107 Stat. 402.

The words “and light money” are added for clarity and consistency. See 19 C.F.R. §4.21 (2003).

§ 60306. Vessels not engaged in trade

A vessel is exempt from tonnage taxes and light money when not engaged in trade.

(Pub. L. 109–304, §9(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1678.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
60306	46 App.:121 (3d sentence related to trade).	Aug. 5, 1909, ch. 6, §36 (2d sentence related to trade), 36 Stat. 111; Pub. L. 101–508, title X, §10402(a), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1388–398; Pub. L. 103–66, title IX, §9001(a)(3), (c)(1), Aug. 10, 1993, 107 Stat. 402.

The words “and light money” are added for clarity and consistency. See 19 C.F.R. §4.21 (2003).

§ 60307. Vessels engaged in coastwise trade or the fisheries

A vessel with a registry endorsement or a coastwise endorsement, trading from one port in the United States to another port in the United States or employed in the bank, whale, or other fisheries, is exempt from tonnage taxes and light money.

(Pub. L. 109–304, §9(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1678.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
60307	46 App.:122.	R.S. §4220.

The words “with a registry endorsement or a coastwise endorsement” are substituted for “if such vessel be licensed, registered, or enrolled” for consistency with chapter 121 of the revised title. The words “belonging to any citizen of the United States” are omitted as unnecessary because, under chapter 121 as amended by this bill, ownership by a citizen of the United States is a requirement for documentation. The words “and light money” are added for clarity and consistency. See 19 C.F.R. §4.21 (2003).

§ 60308. Vessels engaged in Great Lakes trade

A documented vessel with a registry endorsement, engaged in foreign trade on the Great Lakes or their tributary or connecting waters in trade with Canada, does not become subject to tonnage taxes or light money because of that trade.

(Pub. L. 109–304, §9(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1679.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
60308	46 App.:123.	R.S. §2793; Sept. 25, 1941, ch. 423, 55 Stat. 733; Pub. L. 103–182, title VI, §686(a)(1), Dec. 8, 1993, 107 Stat. 2220; Pub. L. 104–324, title XI, §1115(b)(4), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3972.

The words “or light money” are added for clarity and consistency. See 19 C.F.R. §4.21 (2003).

The statutory source for this section, R.S. §2793, is amended by section 13(a) of this bill. See the explanation in this report for that amendment.

§ 60309. Passenger vessels making trips between ports of the United States and foreign ports

A passenger vessel making at least 3 trips per week between a port of the United States and a foreign port is exempt from tonnage taxes and light money.

(Pub. L. 109–304, §9(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1679.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
60309	46 App.:124.	R.S. §2792; May 28, 1908, ch. 212, §1, 35 Stat. 424.

The words “at least 3 trips per week” are substituted for “triweekly or oftener” for clarity. The words “and light money” are added for clarity and consistency. See 19 C.F.R. §4.21 (2003). The words “while such service triweekly or oftener is maintained” are omitted as unnecessary.

§ 60310. Vessels making daily trips on interior waters

A vessel making regular daily trips between a port of the United States and a port of Canada only on interior waters not navigable to the ocean is exempt from tonnage taxes and light money, except on its first clearing each year.

(Pub. L. 109–304, §9(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1679.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
60310	46 App.:125.	R.S. §4221.

The words “is exempt from tonnage taxes” are substituted for “no tonnage fees shall be charged” for consistency in the revised chapter. The words “and light money” are added for clarity and consistency. See 19 C.F.R. §4.21 (2003). The words “by the officers of the United States” are omitted as unnecessary.

§ 60311. Hospital vessels in time of war

In time of war, a hospital vessel is exempt from tonnage taxes, light money, and pilotage charges in the ports of the United States if the vessel is one for which the conditions of the international convention for the exemption of hospital ships from taxation in time of war, concluded at The Hague on December 21, 1904, are satisfied. The President by proclamation shall name the vessels for which the conditions are satisfied and state when the exemption begins and ends.