

## CHAPTER 115

**AN ACT** concerning the taxation of cigarettes, amending P.L.1997, c.264 and amending and supplementing P.L.1948, c.65.

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. Section 301 of P.L.1948, c.65 (C.54:40A-8) is amended to read as follows:

C.54:40A-8 Tax imposed; rate.

301. Tax imposed; rate. A tax is hereby imposed on the sale, use or possession for sale or use within this State of all cigarettes at the rate of \$0.1025 for each cigarette.

2. a. Each retail licensee under P.L.1948, c.65 (C.54:40A-1 et seq.), shall, on or before the first day of the second month after the effective date of P.L.2003, c.115, file a return under oath or certified under the penalties of perjury with the director on forms furnished by the director, showing the amount of cigarettes in the retail licensee's possession in the State at 12:01 a.m. on the effective date of P.L.2003, c.115, and shall at the time of filing that return pay the tax to the director. Failure to obtain such forms shall not be an excuse for the failure to make a return containing the information required by the director.

b. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 401 of P.L.1948, c.65 (C.54:40A-11) to the contrary, each licensed distributor and wholesale dealer under P.L.1948, c.65 (C.54:40A-1 et seq.), shall, on or before the first day of the second month after the effective date of P.L.2003, c.115, file a return under oath or certified under the penalties of perjury with the director on forms furnished by the director, showing the amount of cigarettes in the dealer's or wholesaler's possession in the State at the close of business prior to the effective date of P.L.2003, c.115. An amount of tax shall be due equal to the additional tax on the number of cigarettes bearing stamps, and unaffixed stamps on hand. Each licensed distributor and wholesale dealer shall at the time of filing that return pay the tax to the director. Failure to obtain such forms shall not be an excuse for the failure to make a return containing the information required by the director.

3. Section 4 of P.L.1997, c.264 (C.26:2H-18.58g) is amended to read as follows:

C.26:2H-18.58g Disposition of revenue collected from cigarette tax.

4. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the contrary, commencing July 1, 1998: after the deposit required pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1982, c.40 (C.54:40A-37.1), the first \$150,000,000 of revenue collected annually from the cigarette tax imposed pursuant to P.L.1948, c.65 (C.54:40A-1 et seq.) and the first \$5,000,000 of revenue collected annually from the "Tobacco Products Wholesale Sales and Use Tax," P.L.1990, c.39 (C.54:40B-1 et seq.), shall be deposited into the Health Care Subsidy Fund established pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1992, c.160 (C.26:2H-18.58); and the next \$390,000,000 of revenue collected annually from the cigarette tax imposed pursuant to P.L.1948, c.65 (C.54:40A-1 et seq.) shall be appropriated annually for health programs, and the next \$50,000,000 of revenue collected annually from the cigarette tax imposed pursuant to P.L.1948, c.65 (C.54:40A-1 et seq.) shall be appropriated annually to the New Jersey Economic Development Authority for payment of debt service incurred by the authority for school facilities projects and in fiscal years commencing July 1, 2002 and July 1, 2003, the next \$30,000,000 of revenue collected annually from the cigarette tax imposed pursuant to P.L.1948, c.65 (C.54:40A-1 et seq.) shall be directed to the Department of Health and Senior Services to fund anti-smoking initiatives, except that the amount shall be \$40,000,000 in the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2004 and \$45,000,000 in fiscal years commencing July 1, 2005 and thereafter.

4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.

Approved July 1, 2003.