

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3650

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal joint and several liability of spouses on joint returns of Federal income tax, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 1, 1998

Mr. EHRLICH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal joint and several liability of spouses on joint returns of Federal income tax, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. REPEAL OF JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITY ON**
4 **JOINT RETURNS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (3) of section 6013(d)
6 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to special
7 rules) is amended to read as follows:

1 “(3) if a joint return is made, the tax shall be
2 computed on the aggregate income, and liability for
3 tax shall be determined under subsection (e).”

4 (b) DETERMINATION OF PROPORTIONAL OR SEPA-
5 RATE LIABILITY FOR PAYMENT OF TAX WITH RESPECT
6 TO JOINT RETURNS.—Section 6013(e) of the Internal
7 Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to spouse relieved of liabil-
8 ity in certain cases) is amended to read as follows:

9 “(e) LIABILITY FOR PAYMENT OF TAX WITH RE-
10 SPECT TO JOINT RETURNS.—When spouses elect to file
11 a joint return for a taxable year, the liability for tax with
12 respect to that year shall be determined as follows:

13 “(1) TAX REPORTED ON THE RETURN.—The li-
14 ability for the tax computed with respect to income
15 and deductions as reported on the return shall be in
16 proportion to the tax liability which each spouse
17 would have incurred if each had reported his or her
18 apportionable items on a separate return of a mar-
19 ried individual, provided that a payment by one
20 spouse in excess of such spouse’s proportionate
21 share of liability for the tax reported on the return
22 shall not be refunded unless there is an overpayment
23 with respect to the return.

1 “(2) LIABILITY FOR DEFICIENCIES IMPOSED ON
2 THE RESPONSIBLE SPOUSE.—Liability for a defi-
3 ciency shall be imposed as follows:

4 “(A) With respect to an item of income, on
5 the individual spouse to whom the item is
6 apportionable.

7 “(B) With respect to an item of deduction,
8 on the individual spouse to whom the item is
9 apportionable to the extent that income appor-
10 tioned to such spouse was offset by the deduc-
11 tion.

12 Liability for deficiency in excess of the amount allo-
13 cated under subparagraph (B) shall be imposed on
14 the other spouse.

15 “(3) APPORTIONABLE ITEMS.—A taxpayer’s
16 apportionable items shall be the taxpayer’s share of
17 the income and deductions reportable on the joint
18 return of the taxpayer and his spouse, apportioned
19 in the same manner as income and deductions are
20 apportioned under section 861 (determination of in-
21 come from sources within the United States). The
22 Secretary may prescribe regulations under which
23 simplified apportionment methods are authorized in
24 making these determinations.”

1 **SEC. 2. COMMUNITY PROPERTY LAWS DISREGARDED IN**
 2 **DETERMINING TAX LIABILITY.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 66 of the Internal Reve-
 4 nue Code of 1986 (relating to treatment of community in-
 5 come) is amended to read as follows:

6 **“SEC. 66. COMMUNITY PROPERTY LAWS.**

7 “(a) TAX LIABILITY.—For the purpose of determin-
 8 ing the tax liability of an individual under this chapter,
 9 community property laws shall be disregarded.

10 “(b) ATTRIBUTION OF INCOME AND DEDUCTIONS
 11 UNDER COMMUNITY PROPERTY LAW.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of chapter 1,
 13 the income and deductions of a taxpayer and his
 14 spouse under community property law shall be allo-
 15 cated between the spouses under rules similar to the
 16 allocation rules of section 879(a) (relating to treat-
 17 ment of community income of nonresident alien indi-
 18 viduals).

19 “(2) INCOME DERIVED FROM PROPERTY ALLO-
 20 CATED ACCORDING TO TITLE.—Notwithstanding
 21 paragraph (1), community income which is derived
 22 from property shall be allocated in the same manner
 23 as the spouses hold title to such property and not
 24 as provided in paragraph (4) of section 879(a).”

25 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 26 tions for part I of subchapter B of chapter 1 of the Inter-

1 nal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking the item
2 relating to section 66 and inserting:

“Sec. 66. Community property laws.”

3 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

4 The amendments made by this Act shall apply to tax-
5 able years beginning before, on, or after the date of the
6 enactment of this Act.

