

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4178

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that periods of leave required to be permitted by the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 shall be treated as hours of service for purposes of the pension participation and vesting rules.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 1998

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that periods of leave required to be permitted by the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 shall be treated as hours of service for purposes of the pension participation and vesting rules.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Family Leave Pension
5 Relief Act of 1998”.

1 **SEC. 2. PERIODS OF FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE TREAT-**
2 **ED AS HOURS OF SERVICE FOR PENSION**
3 **PARTICIPATION AND VESTING.**

4 (a) AMENDMENTS OF INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.—

5 (1) PARTICIPATION.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (3) of sec-
7 tion 410(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of
8 1986 (relating to minimum participation stand-
9 ards) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing new subparagraph:

11 “(E) FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE TREAT-
12 ED AS SERVICE.—

13 “(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of
14 this subsection, in the case of an individual
15 who is absent from work on leave required
16 to be given to such individual under the
17 Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993,
18 the plan shall treat as hours of service—

19 “(I) the hours of service which
20 otherwise would normally have been
21 credited to such individual but for
22 such absence, or

23 “(II) in any case in which the
24 plan is unable to determine the hours
25 described in subclause (I), 8 hours of
26 service per day of absence.

1 “(ii) YEAR TO WHICH HOURS ARE
2 CREDITED.—The hours described in clause
3 (i) shall be treated as hours of service as
4 provided in this subparagraph—

5 “(I) only in the year in which the
6 absence from work begins, if a partici-
7 pant would have a year of service sole-
8 ly because the period of absence is
9 treated as hours of service as provided
10 in clause (i); or

11 “(II) in any other case, in the
12 immediately following year.”

13 (B) COORDINATION WITH TREATMENT OF
14 MATERNITY AND PATERNITY ABSENCES UNDER
15 BREAK IN SERVICE RULES.—Subparagraph (E)
16 of section 410(a)(5) of such Code is amended—

17 (i) by inserting “NOT UNDER FAMILY
18 AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT OF 1993” after
19 “ABSENCES” in the heading, and

20 (ii) by adding at the end of clause (i)
21 the following new sentence: “The preceding
22 sentence shall apply to an absence from
23 work only if no part of such absence is re-
24 quired to be given under the Family and
25 Medical Leave Act of 1993.”

1 (2) VESTING.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (5) of sec-
3 tion 411(a) of such Code (relating to minimum
4 vesting standards) is amended by adding at the
5 end the following new subparagraph:

6 “(E) FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE TREAT-
7 ED AS SERVICE.—

8 “(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of
9 this subsection, in the case of an individual
10 who is absent from work on leave required
11 to be given to such individual under the
12 Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993,
13 the plan shall treat as hours of service—

14 “(I) the hours of service which
15 otherwise would normally have been
16 credited to such individual but for
17 such absence, or

18 “(II) in any case in which the
19 plan is unable to determine the hours
20 described in subclause (I), 8 hours of
21 service per day of absence.

22 “(ii) YEAR TO WHICH HOURS ARE
23 CREDITED.—The hours described in clause
24 (i) shall be treated as hours of service as
25 provided in this subparagraph—

1 “(I) only in the year in which the
 2 absence from work begins, if a partici-
 3 pant would have a year of service sole-
 4 ly because the period of absence is
 5 treated as hours of service as provided
 6 in clause (i); or

7 “(II) in any other case, in the
 8 immediately following year.”

9 (B) COORDINATION WITH TREATMENT OF
 10 MATERNITY AND PATERNITY ABSENCES UNDER
 11 BREAK IN SERVICE RULES.—Subparagraph (E)
 12 of section 411(a)(6) of such Code is amended—

13 (i) by inserting “NOT UNDER FAMILY
 14 AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT OF 1993” after
 15 “ABSENCES” in the heading, and

16 (ii) by adding at the end of clause (i)
 17 the following new sentence: “The preceding
 18 sentence shall apply to an absence from
 19 work only if no part of such absence is re-
 20 quired to be given under the Family and
 21 Medical Leave Act of 1993.”

22 (b) AMENDMENTS OF ERISA.—

23 (1) PARTICIPATION.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (3) of sec-
 25 tion 202(a) of the Employee Retirement Income

1 Security Act of 1974 (relating to minimum par-
2 ticipation standards) is amended by adding at
3 the end the following new subparagraph:

4 “(E)(i) For purposes of this subsection, in the case
5 of an individual who is absent from work on leave required
6 to be given to such individual under the Family and Medi-
7 cal Leave Act of 1993, the plan shall treat as hours of
8 service—

9 “(I) the hours of service which otherwise would
10 normally have been credited to such individual but
11 for such absence, or

12 “(II) in any case in which the plan is unable to
13 determine the hours described in subclause (I), 8
14 hours of service per day of absence.

15 “(ii) The hours described in clause (i) shall be treated
16 as hours of service as provided in this subparagraph—

17 “(I) only in the year in which the absence from
18 work begins, if a participant would have a year of
19 service solely because the period of absence is treat-
20 ed as hours of service as provided in clause (i); or

21 “(II) in any other case, in the immediately fol-
22 lowing year.”

23 (B) COORDINATION WITH TREATMENT OF
24 MATERNITY AND PATERNITY ABSENCES UNDER
25 BREAK IN SERVICE RULES.—Subparagraph (A)

1 of section 202(b)(5) of such Act is amended by
2 adding at the end of clause (i) the following
3 new sentence: “The preceding sentence shall
4 apply to an absence from work only if no part
5 of such absence is required to be given under
6 the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.”

7 (2) VESTING.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of sec-
9 tion 203(b) of such Act (relating to minimum
10 vesting standards) is amended by adding at the
11 end the following new subparagraph:

12 “(E)(i) For purposes of this subsection, in the case
13 of an individual who is absent from work on leave required
14 to be given to such individual under the Family and Medi-
15 cal Leave Act of 1993, the plan shall treat as hours of
16 service—

17 “(I) the hours of service which otherwise would
18 normally have been credited to such individual but
19 for such absence, or

20 “(II) in any case in which the plan is unable to
21 determine the hours described in subclause (I), 8
22 hours of service per day of absence.

23 “(ii) The hours described in clause (i) shall be treated
24 as hours of service as provided in this subparagraph—

1 “(I) only in the year in which the absence from
 2 work begins, if a participant would have a year of
 3 service solely because the period of absence is treat-
 4 ed as hours of service as provided in clause (i); or
 5 “(II) in any other case, in the immediately fol-
 6 lowing year.”

7 (B) COORDINATION WITH TREATMENT OF
 8 MATERNITY AND PATERNITY ABSENCES UNDER
 9 BREAK IN SERVICE RULES.—Clause (i) of sec-
 10 tion 203(b)(3)(E) of such Act is amended by
 11 adding at the end of clause (i) the following
 12 new sentence: “The preceding sentence shall
 13 apply to an absence from work only if no part
 14 of such absence is required to be given under
 15 the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.”

16 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 17 this section shall apply with respect to plan years begin-
 18 ning on or after January 1, 1999.

19 **SEC. 3. PROVISIONS RELATING TO PLAN AMENDMENTS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—If this section applies to any plan
 21 amendment—

22 (1) such plan shall be treated as being operated
 23 in accordance with the terms of the plan during the
 24 period described in subsection (b)(2)(A), and

(2) such plan shall not fail to meet the requirements of section 411(d)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or section 204(g) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 by reason of such amendment.

(b) AMENDMENTS TO WHICH SECTION APPLIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—This section shall apply to any amendment to any plan which is made—

(A) pursuant to any amendment made by section 2, and

(B) before the first day of the first plan year beginning on or after January 1, 2000.

In the case of a governmental plan (as defined in section 414(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986), this paragraph shall be applied by substituting “2001” for “2000”.

(2) CONDITIONS.—This section shall not apply to any amendment unless—

(A) during the period—

(i) beginning on the date the legislative amendment described in paragraph (1)(A) takes effect (or in the case of a plan amendment not required by such legislative amendment, the effective date specified by the plan), and

1 (ii) ending on the date described in
2 paragraph (1)(B) (or, if earlier, the date
3 the plan amendment is adopted),
4 the plan is operated as if such plan amendment
5 were in effect, and
6 (B) such plan amendment applies retro-
7 actively for such period.

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