105TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

H. R. 4316

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the incentives for the construction and renovation of public schools.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 23, 1998

Mr. Andrews 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 expand the incentives for the construction and renovation of public schools.

- 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 "Public School Rebuild-
- 5 ing and Improvement Act of 1998".
- 6 SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF INCENTIVES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.
- 7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part IV of subchapter U of chap-
- 8 ter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to
- 9 incentives for education zones) is amended to read as fol-
- 10 lows:

1 "PART IV—INCENTIVES FOR QUALIFIED PUBLIC

2 SCHOOL MODERNIZATION BONDS

	"Sec. 1397E. Credit to holders of qualified public school modernization bonds. "Sec. 1397F. Qualified zone academy bonds. "Sec. 1397G. Qualified school construction bonds.
3	"SEC. 1397E. CREDIT TO HOLDERS OF QUALIFIED PUBLIC
4	SCHOOL MODERNIZATION BONDS.
5	"(a) Allowance of Credit.—In the case of a tax-
6	payer who holds a qualified public school modernization
7	bond on the credit allowance date of such bond which oc-
8	curs during the taxable year, there shall be allowed as a
9	credit against the tax imposed by this chapter for such
10	taxable year the amount determined under subsection (b).
11	"(b) Amount of Credit.—
12	"(1) In general.—The amount of the credit
13	determined under this subsection with respect to any
14	qualified public school modernization bond is the
15	amount equal to the product of—
16	"(A) the credit rate determined by the Sec-
17	retary under paragraph (2) for the month in
18	which such bond was issued, multiplied by
19	"(B) the face amount of the bond held by
20	the taxpayer on the credit allowance date.
21	"(2) Determination.—During each calendar
22	month, the Secretary shall determine a credit rate
23	which shall apply to bonds issued during the follow-

ing calendar month. The credit rate for any month

1	is the percentage which the Secretary estimates will
2	on average permit the issuance of qualified public
3	school modernization bonds without discount and
4	without interest cost to the issuer.
5	"(c) Limitation Based on Amount of Tax.—
6	"(1) IN GENERAL.—The credit allowed under
7	subsection (a) for any taxable year shall not exceed
8	the excess of—
9	"(A) the sum of the regular tax liability
10	(as defined in section 26(b)) plus the tax im-
11	posed by section 55, over
12	"(B) the sum of the credits allowable
13	under part IV of subchapter A (other than sub-
14	part C thereof, relating to refundable credits).
15	"(2) Carryover of unused credit.—If the
16	credit allowable under subsection (a) exceeds the
17	limitation imposed by paragraph (1) for such taxable
18	year, such excess shall be carried to the succeeding
19	taxable year and added to the credit allowable under
20	subsection (a) for such taxable year.
21	"(d) Qualified Public School Modernization
22	BOND; CREDIT ALLOWANCE DATE.—For purposes of this
23	section—

1	"(1) Qualified public school moderniza-
2	TION BOND.—The term 'qualified public school mod-
3	ernization bond' means—
4	"(A) a qualified zone academy bond, and
5	"(B) a qualified school construction bond.
6	"(2) Credit allowance date.—The term
7	'credit allowance date' means, with respect to any
8	issue, the last day of the 1-year period beginning on
9	the date of issuance of such issue and the last day
10	of each successive 1-year period thereafter.
11	"(e) Other Definitions.—For purposes of this
12	part—
13	"(1) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term
13 14	"(1) Local educational agency has the meaning given to
14	'local educational agency' has the meaning given to
14 15	'local educational agency' has the meaning given to such term by section 14101 of the Elementary and
141516	'local educational agency' has the meaning given to such term by section 14101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. Such term in-
14151617	'local educational agency' has the meaning given to such term by section 14101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. Such term includes the local educational agency that serves the
14 15 16 17 18	'local educational agency' has the meaning given to such term by section 14101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. Such term includes the local educational agency that serves the District of Columbia but does not include any other
14 15 16 17 18	'local educational agency' has the meaning given to such term by section 14101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. Such term includes the local educational agency that serves the District of Columbia but does not include any other State agency.
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	'local educational agency' has the meaning given to such term by section 14101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. Such term includes the local educational agency that serves the District of Columbia but does not include any other State agency. "(2) BOND.—The term 'bond' includes any ob-
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	'local educational agency' has the meaning given to such term by section 14101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. Such term includes the local educational agency that serves the District of Columbia but does not include any other State agency. "(2) BOND.—The term 'bond' includes any obligation.

1	"(4) Public school facility.—The term
2	'public school facility' shall not include any stadium
3	or other facility primarily used for athletic contests
4	or exhibitions or other events for which admission is
5	charged to the general public.
6	"(f) Credit Included in Gross Income.—Gross
7	income includes the amount of the credit allowed to the
8	taxpayer under this section and the amount so included
9	shall be treated as interest income.
10	"(g) Bonds Held By Regulated Investment
11	Companies.—If any qualified public school modernization
12	bond is held by a regulated investment company, the credit
13	determined under subsection (a) shall be allowed to share-
14	holders of such company under procedures prescribed by
15	the Secretary.
16	"SEC. 1397F. QUALIFIED ZONE ACADEMY BONDS.
17	"(a) Qualified Zone Academy Bond.—For pur-
18	poses of this part—
19	"(1) In general.—The term 'qualified zone
20	academy bond' means any bond issued as part of an
21	issue if—
22	"(A) 95 percent or more of the proceeds of
23	such issue are to be used for a qualified pur-
24	pose with respect to a qualified zone academy
25	established by a local educational agency.

1	"(B) the bond is issued by a State or local
2	government within the jurisdiction of which
3	such academy is located,
4	"(C) the issuer—
5	"(i) designates such bond for purposes
6	of this section,
7	"(ii) certifies that it has written as-
8	surances that the private business con-
9	tribution requirement of paragraph (2) will
10	be met with respect to such academy, and
11	"(iii) certifies that it has the written
12	approval of the local educational agency
13	for such bond issuance, and
14	"(D) the term of each bond which is part
15	of such issue does not exceed 15 years.
16	"(2) Private business contribution re-
17	QUIREMENT.—
18	"(A) In general.—For purposes of para-
19	graph (1), the private business contribution re-
20	quirement of this paragraph is met with respect
21	to any issue if the local educational agency that
22	established the qualified zone academy has writ-
23	ten commitments from private entities to make
24	qualified contributions having a present value
25	(as of the date of issuance of the issue) of not

1	less than 10 percent of the proceeds of the
2	issue.
3	"(B) Qualified contributions.—For
4	purposes of subparagraph (A), the term 'quali-
5	fied contribution' means any contribution (of a
6	type and quality acceptable to the local edu-
7	cational agency) of—
8	"(i) equipment for use in the qualified
9	zone academy (including state-of-the-art
10	technology and vocational equipment),
11	"(ii) technical assistance in developing
12	curriculum or in training teachers in order
13	to promote appropriate market driven tech-
14	nology in the classroom,
15	"(iii) services of employees as volun-
16	teer mentors,
17	"(iv) internships, field trips, or other
18	educational opportunities outside the acad-
19	emy for students, or
20	"(v) any other property or service
21	specified by the local educational agency.
22	"(3) Qualified zone academy.—The term
23	'qualified zone academy' means any public school (or
24	academic program within a public school) which is
25	established by and operated under the supervision of

1	a local educational agency to provide education or
2	training below the postsecondary level if—
3	"(A) such public school or program (as the
4	case may be) is designed in cooperation with
5	business to enhance the academic curriculum,
6	increase graduation and employment rates, and
7	better prepare students for the rigors of college
8	and the increasingly complex workforce,
9	"(B) students in such public school or pro-
10	gram (as the case may be) will be subject to the
11	same academic standards and assessments as
12	other students educated by the local educational
13	agency,
14	"(C) the comprehensive education plan of
15	such public school or program is approved by
16	the local educational agency, and
17	"(D)(i) such public school is located in an
18	empowerment zone or enterprise community
19	(including any such zone or community des-
20	ignated after the date of the enactment of this
21	section), or
22	"(ii) there is a reasonable expectation (as
23	of the date of issuance of the bonds) that at
24	least 35 percent of the students attending such
25	school or participating in such program (as the

1	case may be) will be eligible for free or reduced-
2	cost lunches under the school lunch program es-
3	tablished under the National School Lunch Act.
4	"(4) Qualified purpose.—The term 'quali-
5	fied purpose' means, with respect to any qualified
6	zone academy—
7	"(A) constructing, rehabilitating, or repair-
8	ing the public school facility in which the acad-
9	emy is established,
10	"(B) providing equipment for use at such
11	academy,
12	"(C) developing course materials for edu-
13	cation to be provided at such academy, and
14	"(D) training teachers and other school
15	personnel in such academy.
16	"(5) Temporary Period Exception.—A bond
17	shall not be treated as failing to meet the require-
18	ment of paragraph (1)(A) solely by reason of the
19	fact that the proceeds of the issue of which such
20	bond is a part are invested for a reasonable tem-
21	porary period (but not more than 36 months) until
22	such proceeds are needed for the purpose for which
23	such issue was issued. Any earnings on such pro-
24	ceeds during such period shall be treated as proceeds

1	of the issue for purposes of applying paragraph
2	(1)(A).
3	"(b) Limitations on Amount of Bonds Des-
4	IGNATED.—
5	"(1) In general.—There is a national zone
6	academy bond limitation for each calendar year.
7	Such limitation is—
8	"(A) \$400,000,000 for 1998,
9	"(B) \$1,400,000,000 for 1999,
10	"(C) $$1,400,000,000$ for 2000, and
11	"(D) except as provided in paragraph (3),
12	zero after 2000.
13	"(2) Allocation of Limitation.—
14	"(A) Allocation among states.—
15	"(i) 1998 LIMITATION.—The national
16	zone academy bond limitation for calendar
17	year 1998 shall be allocated by the Sec-
18	retary among the States on the basis of
19	their respective populations of individuals
20	below the poverty line (as defined by the
21	Office of Management and Budget).
22	"(ii) Limitation after 1998.—The
23	national zone academy bond limitation for
24	any calendar year after 1998 shall be allo-
25	cated by the Secretary among the States in

1	the manner prescribed by section
2	1397G(d); except that, in making the allo-
3	cation under this clause, the Secretary
4	shall take into account Basic Grants at-
5	tributable to large local educational agen-
6	cies (as defined in section 1397G(e)) or to
7	high-growth local educational agencies (as
8	defined in section $1397G(f)$).
9	"(B) Allocation to local edu-
10	CATIONAL AGENCIES.—The limitation amount
11	allocated to a State under subparagraph (A)
12	shall be allocated by the State education agency
13	to qualified zone academies within such State.
14	"(C) Designation subject to limita-
15	TION AMOUNT.—The maximum aggregate face
16	amount of bonds issued during any calendar
17	year which may be designated under subsection
18	(a) with respect to any qualified zone academy
19	shall not exceed the limitation amount allocated
20	to such academy under subparagraph (B) for
21	such calendar year.
22	"(3) Carryover of unused limitation.—If
23	for any calendar year—
24	"(A) the limitation amount under this sub-
25	section for any State, exceeds

1	"(B) the amount of bonds issued during
2	such year which are designated under sub-
3	section (a) with respect to qualified zone acad-
4	emies within such State,
5	the limitation amount under this subsection for such
6	State for the following calendar year shall be in-
7	creased by the amount of such excess. The preceding
8	sentence shall not apply if such following calendar
9	year is after 2002.
10	"SEC. 1397G. QUALIFIED SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BONDS.
11	"(a) Qualified School Construction Bond.—
12	For purposes of this part, the term 'qualified school con-
13	struction bond' means any bond issued as part of an issue
14	if—
15	"(1) 95 percent or more of the proceeds of such
16	issue are to be used for the construction, rehabilita-
17	tion, or repair of a public school facility,
18	"(2) the bond is issued by a State or local gov-
19	ernment within the jurisdiction of which such school
20	is located,
21	"(3) the issuer designates such bond for pur-
22	poses of this section, and
23	"(4) the term of each bond which is part of
24	such issue does not exceed 15 years.

- 1 Rules similar to the rules of section 1397F(a)(5) shall
- 2 apply for purposes of paragraph (1).
- 3 "(b) Limitation on Amount of Bonds Des-
- 4 IGNATED.—The maximum aggregate face amount of
- 5 bonds issued during any calendar year which may be des-
- 6 ignated under subsection (a) by any issuer shall not exceed
- 7 the sum of—
- 8 "(1) the limitation amount allocated under sub-
- 9 section (d) for such calendar year to such issuer,
- 10 and
- "(2) if such issuer is a large local educational
- agency (as defined in subsection (e)) or is issuing on
- behalf of such an agency, the limitation amount allo-
- cated under subsection (e) for such calendar year to
- such agency.
- 16 "(c) National Limitation on Amount of Bonds
- 17 Designated.—There is a national qualified school con-
- 18 struction bond limitation for each calendar year. Such lim-
- 19 itation is—
- 20 "(1) \$13,700,000,000 for 1999,
- 21 ((2) \$13,700,000,000 for 2000, and
- 22 "(3) except as provided in subsection (g), zero
- 23 after 2000.
- 24 "(d) One-Third of Limitation Allocated
- 25 Among States.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—One-third of the limitation applicable under subsection (c) for any calendar year shall be allocated among the States under paragraph (2) by the Secretary. The limitation amount allocated to a State under the preceding sentence shall be allocated by the State education agency to issuers within such State and such allocations may be made only if there is an approved State application.

"(2) Allocation formula.—The amount to be allocated under paragraph (1) for any calendar year shall be allocated among the States in proportion to the respective amounts each such State received for Basic Grants under subpart 2 of part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6331 et seq.) for the most recent fiscal year ending before such calendar year. For purposes of the preceding sentence, Basic Grants attributable to large local educational agencies (as defined in subsection (e)), and Basic Grants attributable to high-growth local educational agencies (as defined in subsection (f)), shall be disregarded.

"(3) Minimum allocations to states.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall adjust the allocations under this subsection for

1	any calendar year for each State to the extent
2	necessary to ensure that the sum of—
3	"(i) the amount allocated to such
4	State under this subsection for such year,
5	and
6	"(ii) the aggregate amounts allocated
7	under subsections (e) and (f) to local edu-
8	cational agencies in such State for such
9	year,
10	is not less than an amount equal to such
11	State's minimum percentage of one-third of the
12	national qualified school construction bond limi-
13	tation under subsection (c) for the calendar
14	year.
15	"(B) MINIMUM PERCENTAGE.—A State's
16	minimum percentage for any calendar year is
17	the minimum percentage described in section
18	1124(d) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
19	cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6334(d)) for
20	such State for the most recent fiscal year end-
21	ing before such calendar year.
22	"(4) Allocations to certain posses-
23	SIONS.—The amount to be allocated under para-
24	graph (1) to any possession of the United States
25	other than Puerto Rico shall be the amount which

1	would have been allocated if all allocations under
2	paragraph (1) were made on the basis of respective
3	populations of individuals below the poverty line (as
4	defined by the Office of Management and Budget).
5	In making other allocations, the amount to be allo-
6	cated under paragraph (1) shall be reduced by the
7	aggregate amount allocated under this paragraph to
8	possessions of the United States.
9	"(5) Approved state application.—For
10	purposes of paragraph (1), the term 'approved State
11	application' means an application which is approved
12	by the Secretary of Education and which includes—
13	"(A) the results of a recent publicly-avail-
14	able survey (undertaken by the State with the
15	involvement of local education officials, mem-
16	bers of the public, and experts in school con-
17	struction and management) of such State's
18	needs for public school facilities, including de-
19	scriptions of—
20	"(i) health and safety problems at
21	such facilities,
22	"(ii) the capacity of public schools in
23	the State to house projected enrollments,
24	and

1	"(iii) the extent to which the public
2	schools in the State offer the physical in-
3	frastructure needed to provide a high-qual-
4	ity education to all students, and
5	"(B) a description of how the State will al-
6	locate to local educational agencies, or other-
7	wise use, its allocation under this subsection to
8	address the needs identified under subpara-
9	graph (A), including a description of how it
10	will—
11	"(i) give highest priority to localities
12	with the greatest needs, as demonstrated
13	by inadequate school facilities coupled with
14	a low level of resources to meet those
15	needs,
16	"(ii) use its allocation under this sub-
17	section to assist localities that lack the fis-
18	cal capacity to issue bonds on their own,
19	and
20	"(iii) ensure that its allocation under
21	this subsection is used only to supplement,
22	and not supplant, the amount of school
23	construction, rehabilitation, and repair in
24	the State that would have occurred in the
25	absence of such allocation.

- 1 Any allocation under paragraph (1) by a State edu-
- 2 cation agency shall be binding if such agency reason-
- ably determined that the allocation was in accord-
- 4 ance with the plan approved under this paragraph.
- 5 "(e) ONE-THIRD OF LIMITATION ALLOCATED
- 6 Among Largest School Districts.—
- 7 "(1) IN GENERAL.—One-third of the limitation 8 applicable under subsection (c) for any calendar year 9 shall be allocated under paragraph (2) by the Sec-10 retary among local educational agencies which are 11 large local educational agencies for such year. No 12 qualified school construction bond may be issued by 13 reason of an allocation to a large local educational 14 agency under the preceding sentence unless such 15 agency has an approved local application.
 - "(2) Allocation formula.—The amount to be allocated under paragraph (1) for any calendar year shall be allocated among large local educational agencies in proportion to the respective amounts each such agency received for Basic Grants under subpart 2 of part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6331 et seq.) for the most recent fiscal year ending before such calendar year.

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1 "(3) Large local educational agency.—
2 For purposes of this section, the term 'large local
3 educational agency' means, with respect to a cal4 endar year, any local educational agency (other than
5 a high-growth local educational agency, as defined in
6 subsection (f)) if such agency is—

- "(A) among the 100 local educational agencies with the largest numbers of children aged 5 through 17 from families living below the poverty level, as determined by the Secretary using the most recent data available from the Department of Commerce that are satisfactory to the Secretary, or
- "(B) 1 of not more than 25 local educational agencies (other than those described in clause (i)) that the Secretary of Education determines (based on the most recent data available satisfactory to the Secretary) are in particular need of assistance, based on a low level of resources for school construction, a high level of enrollment growth, or such other factors as the Secretary deems appropriate.
- "(4) APPROVED LOCAL APPLICATION.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term 'approved local

1	application' means an application which is approved
2	by the Secretary of Education and which includes—
3	"(A) the results of a recent publicly-avail-
4	able survey (undertaken by the local educational
5	agency with the involvement of school officials,
6	members of the public, and experts in school
7	construction and management) of such agency's
8	needs for public school facilities, including de-
9	scriptions of—
10	"(i) the overall condition of the local
11	educational agency's school facilities, in-
12	cluding health and safety problems,
13	"(ii) the capacity of the agency's
14	schools to house projected enrollments, and
15	"(iii) the extent to which the agency's
16	schools offer the physical infrastructure
17	needed to provide a high-quality education
18	to all students,
19	"(B) a description of how the local edu-
20	cational agency will use its allocation under this
21	subsection to address the needs identified under
22	subparagraph (A), and
23	"(C) a description of how the local edu-
24	cational agency will ensure that its allocation
25	under this subsection is used only to supple-

ment, and not supplant, the amount of school
construction, rehabilitation, or repair in the locality that would have occurred in the absence
of such allocation.

A rule similar to the rule of the last sentence of subsection (d)(5) shall apply for purposes of this subsection.

8 "(f) One-Third of Limitation Allocated Among
9 High-Growth School Districts.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—One-third of the limitation applicable under subsection (c) for any calendar year shall be allocated under paragraph (2) by the Secretary among local educational agencies which are high-growth local educational agencies for such year. No qualified school construction bond may be issued by reason of an allocation to a high-growth local educational agency under the preceding sentence unless such agency has an approved local application (as defined in subsection (e)(4)). A rule similar to the rule of the last sentence of subsection (d)(5) shall apply for purposes of this subsection.

"(2) Allocation formula.—The amount to be allocated under paragraph (1) for any calendar year shall be allocated among high-growth local educational agencies in proportion to the respective

1	amounts each such agency received for Basic Grants
2	under subpart 2 of part A of title I of the Elemen-
3	tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
4	U.S.C. 6331 et seq.) for the most recent fiscal year
5	ending before such calendar year.
6	"(3) High-growth local educational
7	AGENCY.—For purposes of this section, the term
8	'high-growth local educational agency' means, with
9	respect to a calendar year, any local educational
10	agency if—
11	"(A) there has been at least a 7.5 percent
12	increase in such agency's enrollment during the
13	5-year period ending with the preceding cal-
14	endar year, and
15	"(B) such enrollment increase exceeds 150
16	students.
17	"(g) Carryover of Unused Limitation.—If for
18	any calendar year—
19	"(1) the amount allocated under subsection (d)
20	to any State, exceeds
21	"(2) the amount of bonds issued during such
22	year which are designated under subsection (a) pur-
23	suant to such allocation,
24	the limitation amount under such subsection for such
25	State for the following calendar year shall be increased

1	by the amount of such excess. A similar rule shall apply
2	to the amounts allocated under subsections (e) and (f).
3	The subsection shall not apply if such following calendar
4	year is after 2002.".
5	(b) Reporting.—Subsection (d) of section 6049 of
6	such Code (relating to returns regarding payments of in-
7	terest) is amended by adding at the end the following new
8	paragraph:
9	"(8) Reporting of credit on qualified
10	PUBLIC SCHOOL MODERNIZATION BONDS.—
11	"(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of sub-
12	section (a), the term 'interest' includes amounts
13	includible in gross income under section
14	1397E(f) and such amounts shall be treated as
15	paid on the credit allowance date (as defined in
16	section $1397E(d)(2)$).
17	"(B) Reporting to corporations,
18	ETC.—Except as otherwise provided in regula-
19	tions, in the case of any interest described in
20	subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, subsection
21	(b)(4) of this section shall be applied without
22	regard to subparagraphs (A), (H), (I), (J), (K),
23	and (L)(i).
24	"(C) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The Sec-
25	retary may prescribe such regulations as are

necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this paragraph, including regulations which require more frequent or more detailed reporting."

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The table of parts for subchapter U of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by striking the item relating to part IV and inserting the following new item:

"Part IV. Incentives for qualified public school modernization bonds.".

- (2) Part V of subchapter U of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by redesignating both section 1397F and the item relating thereto in the table of sections for such part as section 1397H.
- (d) Effective Dates.—
- (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall apply to obligations issued after December 31, 1998.
 - (2) Repeal of Restriction on Zone academy Bond Holders.—The repeal of the limitation of section 1397E of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act) to eligible taxpayers (as de-

- 1 fined in subsection (d)(6) of such section) shall
- 2 apply to obligations issued after December 31, 1997.

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