

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 480

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that members of tax-exempt organizations are notified of the portion of their dues used for political and lobbying activities, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 21, 1997

Mr. HERGER 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 ensure that members of tax-exempt organizations are notified of the portion of their dues used for political and lobbying activities, 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. INCREASED DISCLOSURE OF DUES OF TAX-EX-**  
4                       **EMPT ORGANIZATIONS USED FOR POLITICAL**  
5                       **PURPOSES.**

6       (a) REPLACEMENT OF EXCEPTION WHERE DUES  
7       ARE GENERALLY NONDEDUCTIBLE.—Section 6033(e)(3)  
8       of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to excep-

1 tion where dues are generally nondeductible) is amended  
 2 to read as follows:

3 “(3) EXCEPTION WHERE ANNUAL DUES ARE  
 4 SMALL OR FROM OTHER EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1)(A)  
 6 shall not apply to an organization which estab-  
 7 lishes to the satisfaction of the Secretary that  
 8 at least 90 percent of all annual dues or other  
 9 similar amounts are received from—

10 “(i) persons who each pay annual  
 11 dues or other similar amounts which are  
 12 \$100 or less, or

13 “(ii) the following:

14 “(I) organizations exempt from  
 15 taxation under subtitle A other than  
 16 organizations described in paragraph  
 17 (1)(B)(i);

18 “(II) State and local govern-  
 19 ments; and

20 “(III) entities the income from  
 21 which is exempt from taxation under  
 22 section 115.

23 Clause (i) shall not apply to an organization de-  
 24 scribed in section 501(c)(6).

1           “(B) COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT.—In  
 2           the case of taxable years beginning in a cal-  
 3           endar year after 1997, the \$100 amount under  
 4           subparagraph (A)(i) shall be increased by an  
 5           amount equal to the product of \$100 and the  
 6           cost-of-living adjustment for such calendar year  
 7           under section 1(f)(3), except that subparagraph  
 8           (B) thereof shall be applied by substituting  
 9           ‘1996’ for ‘1992’. If the amount of any such in-  
 10          crease is not a multiple of \$1, such amount  
 11          shall be increased to the next highest \$1.”

12          (b) PROXY TAX MAY NOT BE USED TO AVOID DIS-  
 13          CLOSURE TO MEMBERS.—

14               (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 6033(e)(2)(A) of the  
 15          Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to tax im-  
 16          posed where organization does not notify) is amend-  
 17          ed to read as follows:

18               “(A) IMPOSITION OF TAX.—

19                       “(i) IN GENERAL.—If an organization  
 20                       fails to include in the notices described in  
 21                       paragraph (1)(A) for any taxable year the  
 22                       amount allocable to expenditures to which  
 23                       section 162(e)(1) applies (determined on  
 24                       the basis of actual amounts rather than  
 25                       the reasonable estimates under paragraph

1 (1)(A)(ii)), then there is hereby imposed  
2 on such organization for such taxable year  
3 a tax in an amount determined under  
4 clause (iii).

5 “(ii) ELECTION TO PAY SURROGATE  
6 TAX.—

7 “(I) IN GENERAL.—An organiza-  
8 tion providing the notices described in  
9 paragraph (1)(A) for any taxable year  
10 may elect to pay a tax for such tax-  
11 able year in the amount determined  
12 under clause (iii).

13 “(II) EFFECT OF ELECTION ON  
14 DEDUCTIBILITY.—If an organization  
15 pays a tax under subclause (I) for any  
16 taxable year, paragraph (3) of section  
17 162(e) shall not apply to the portion  
18 of the dues or other similar amounts  
19 paid by a taxpayer to such organiza-  
20 tion which are allocable to the expend-  
21 itures with respect to which such or-  
22 ganization paid the tax under sub-  
23 clause (I).

24 “(III) INCORRECT NOTICES.—In  
25 the case of an election under sub-

1 clause (I), an additional tax shall be  
2 imposed under clause (i) if the esti-  
3 mates in the notices are less than the  
4 actual amounts.

5 “(iii) AMOUNT OF TAX.—For pur-  
6 poses of this subparagraph, the amount of  
7 tax determined under this clause is an  
8 amount equal to the product of the highest  
9 rate of tax imposed by section 11 for the  
10 taxable year and—

11 “(I) in the case of a failure to  
12 which clause (i) applies, the aggregate  
13 amount not included in the notices de-  
14 scribed in paragraph (1)(A) by reason  
15 of such failure, or

16 “(II) in the case of an election  
17 under clause (ii), the aggregate  
18 amount included in the notices with  
19 respect to which the election was  
20 made.”

21 (2) NOTICE REQUIREMENT.—Section  
22 6033(e)(1)(A)(ii) of such Code (relating to reporting  
23 requirements) is amended to read as follows:

24 “(ii) except as provided in paragraph  
25 (3), shall, at the time of assessment or

1 payment of such dues or other similar  
 2 amounts, provide notice to each person  
 3 making such payment which contains—

4 “(I) a reasonable estimate of the  
 5 portion of such dues or other similar  
 6 amounts to which such expenditures  
 7 are so allocable, and

8 “(II) whether or not a deduction  
 9 is allowable to such person with re-  
 10 spect to such portion.”

11 (3) PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO PROVIDE NO-  
 12 TICE.—

13 (A) NOTICE ACCOMPANYING DUES.—Sec-  
 14 tion 6710 of such Code (relating to failure to  
 15 disclose that contributions are nondeductible) is  
 16 amended—

17 (i) in subsection (a), by inserting “or  
 18 a failure to meet the requirement of sec-  
 19 tion 6033(e)(1)(A)(ii) by an organization  
 20 to which section 6033(e) applies” after  
 21 “section 6113 applies”; and

22 (ii) in subsection (c), by inserting “or  
 23 section 6033(e)(1)(A)(ii)” after “section  
 24 6013”.

1 (B) ANNUAL NOTICE.—Section 6724(d)(2)  
 2 of such Code (relating to payee statements), as  
 3 amended by the Small Business Job Protection  
 4 Act of 1996 and the Health Insurance Port-  
 5 ability and Accountability Act of 1996, is  
 6 amended by striking “or” at the end of the next  
 7 to last subparagraph, by striking the period at  
 8 the end of the last subparagraph and inserting  
 9 “, or”, and by adding at the end the following  
 10 new subparagraph:

11 “(Z) the last sentence of section  
 12 6033(e)(1)(A).”

13 (4) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

14 (A) Section 6033(e)(2)(B) of such Code is  
 15 amended by striking “subparagraph (A)(ii)”  
 16 and inserting “subparagraph (A)(i)(I)”.

17 (B)(i) The heading for section 6710 of  
 18 such Code is amended by inserting “**OR THAT**  
 19 **DUES ARE FOR LOBBYING ACTIVITIES**”  
 20 after “**NONDEDUCTIBLE**”.

21 (ii) The item relating to section 6710 in  
 22 the table of sections for part I of subchapter B  
 23 of chapter 68 of such Code is amended by in-  
 24 serting “or that dues are for lobbying activi-  
 25 ties” after “nondeductible”.

1 (c) ORGANIZATIONS TO WHICH DISCLOSURE RULES  
 2 APPLY.—Section 6033(e)(1)(B)(i) of the Internal Reve-  
 3 nue Code of 1986 (relating to organizations to which sub-  
 4 section applies) is amended to read as follows:

5 “(i) IN GENERAL.—This subsection  
 6 shall apply to any organization which is de-  
 7 scribed in paragraph (4), (5), or (6) of sec-  
 8 tion 501(c) (other than a veterans’ organi-  
 9 zation) and which is exempt from taxation  
 10 under section 501(a).”

11 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
 12 this section shall apply to amounts paid or incurred after  
 13 December 31, 1996.

14 **SEC. 2. 2-PERCENT FLOOR ON ITEMIZED DEDUCTIONS NOT**  
 15 **TO APPLY TO DEDUCTION FOR DUES.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 67(b) of the Internal Rev-  
 17 enue Code of 1986 (defining miscellaneous itemized de-  
 18 ductions) is amended by striking “and” at the end of para-  
 19 graph (11), by striking the period at the end of paragraph  
 20 (12) and inserting “, and”, and by adding at the end the  
 21 following new paragraph:

22 “(13) the deduction allowed under section 162  
 23 for dues or other similar amounts paid by an indi-  
 24 vidual to an organization described in paragraph (4),  
 25 (5), or (6) of section 501(c) (other than a veterans’

1 organization) and exempt from taxation under sec-  
2 tion 501(a).”

3 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
4 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after  
5 December 31, 1996.

○