

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 553

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude scholarships and fellowships from income, to restore the deduction for interest on educational loans, and to permit penalty-free withdrawals from individual retirement plans to pay higher education expenses.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 1997

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina (for himself and Mr. ETHERIDGE) 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 exclude scholarships and fellowships from income, to restore the deduction for interest on educational loans, and to permit penalty-free withdrawals from individual retirement plans to pay higher education expenses.

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 “Education Afford-
5 ability Act of 1997”.

1 **SEC. 2. RESTORATION OF PRIOR LAW EXCLUSION FOR**
 2 **SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Each provision of law amended by
 4 section 123 of the Tax Reform Act of 1986 is amended
 5 to read as if the amendments made by such section had
 6 not been enacted.

7 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 8 this section shall apply to taxable years ending after the
 9 date of the enactment of this Act.

10 **SEC. 3. RESTORATION OF DEDUCTION FOR INTEREST ON**
 11 **EDUCATIONAL LOANS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 163(h)
 13 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (defining personal
 14 interest) is amended by striking “and” at the end of sub-
 15 paragraph (D), by redesignating subparagraph (E) as sub-
 16 paragraph (F), and by inserting after subparagraph (D)
 17 the following new subparagraph:

18 “(E) any interest on a qualified edu-
 19 cational loan, and”.

20 (b) QUALIFIED EDUCATIONAL LOAN DEFINED.—
 21 Subsection (h) of section 163 of such Code is amended
 22 by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

23 “(6) QUALIFIED EDUCATIONAL LOAN.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this
 25 subsection, the term ‘qualified educational loan’

1 means any indebtedness incurred to pay quali-
2 fied educational expenses which are paid or in-
3 curred within a reasonable period of time before
4 or after the indebtedness is incurred.

5 “(B) QUALIFIED EDUCATIONAL EX-
6 PENSES.—For purposes of this paragraph—

7 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘quali-
8 fied educational expenses’ means qualified
9 tuition and related expenses of the tax-
10 payer, his spouse, or a dependent for at-
11 tendance at an educational institution de-
12 scribed in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii).

13 “(ii) QUALIFIED TUITION AND RELAT-
14 ED EXPENSES.—The term ‘qualified tui-
15 tion and related expenses’ means—

16 “(I) tuition and fees required for
17 enrollment or attendance at an edu-
18 cational institution described in sec-
19 tion 170(b)(1)(A)(ii),

20 “(II) fees, books, supplies, and
21 equipment required for courses of in-
22 struction at such an institution, and

23 “(III) reasonable living expenses
24 while away from home.

1 “(C) DEPENDENT.—For purposes of this
 2 paragraph, the term ‘dependent’ has the mean-
 3 ing given such term by section 152.

4 “(D) COORDINATION WITH PARAGRAPH
 5 (3)(C)(ii).—Any qualified educational loan shall
 6 not be taken into account for purposes of apply-
 7 ing the limitation of paragraph (3)(C)(ii).”

8 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 9 this section shall apply to taxable years ending after the
 10 date of the enactment of this Act.

11 **SEC. 4. DISTRIBUTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT**
 12 **PLANS MAY BE USED WITHOUT PENALTY TO**
 13 **PAY HIGHER EDUCATION EXPENSES.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 72(t) of
 15 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to exceptions
 16 to 10-percent additional tax on early distributions from
 17 qualified retirement plans) is amended by adding at the
 18 end the following new subparagraph:

19 “(E) DISTRIBUTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL
 20 RETIREMENT PLANS FOR EDUCATIONAL EX-
 21 PENSES.—Distributions to an individual from
 22 an individual retirement plan to the extent such
 23 distributions do not exceed the qualified edu-
 24 cational expenses (as defined in section
 25 163(h)(6)) of the taxpayer for the taxable year.

1 The amount of such expenses for any taxable
2 year shall be reduced by any amount excludable
3 from gross income under section 135.”.

4 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
5 this section shall apply to distributions received after the
6 date of the enactment of this Act.

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