105TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

S. 593

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a flat tax only on individual taxable earned income and business taxable income, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

April 16, 1997

Mr. Specter introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a flat tax only on individual taxable earned income and business taxable income, 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. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS; AMEND-
- 4 **MENT OF 1986 CODE.**
- 5 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
- 6 "Flat Tax Act of 1997".
- 7 (b) Table of Contents.—The table of contents for
- 8 this Act is as follows:
 - Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents; amendment of 1986 Code.

- Sec. 2. Flat tax on individual taxable earned income and business taxable income
- Sec. 3. Repeal of estate and gift taxes.
- Sec. 4. Additional repeals.
- Sec. 5. Effective dates.
- 1 (c) Amendment of 1986 Code.—Except as other-
- 2 wise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amend-
- 3 ment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment
- 4 to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference
- 5 shall be considered to be made to a section or other provi-
- 6 sion of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.
- 7 SEC. 2. FLAT TAX ON INDIVIDUAL TAXABLE EARNED IN-
- 8 COME AND BUSINESS TAXABLE INCOME.
- 9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter A of chapter 1 of sub-
- 10 title A is amended to read as follows:
- "Subchapter A—Determination of Tax
- 12 Liability
 - "Part I. Tax on individuals.
 - "Part II. Tax on business activities.
- 13 "PART I—TAX ON INDIVIDUALS
 - "Sec. 1. Tax imposed.
 - "Sec. 2. Standard deduction.
 - "Sec. 3. Deduction for cash charitable contributions.
 - "Sec. 4. Deduction for home acquisition indebtedness.
 - "Sec. 5. Definitions and special rules.
- 14 "SECTION 1. TAX IMPOSED.
- 15 "(a) Imposition of Tax.—There is hereby imposed
- 16 on every individual a tax equal to 20 percent of the taxable
- 17 earned income of such individual.

1	"(b) Taxable Earned Income.—For purposes of
2	this section, the term 'taxable earned income' means the
3	excess (if any) of—
4	"(1) the earned income received or accrued dur-
5	ing the taxable year, over
6	"(2) the sum of—
7	"(A) the standard deduction,
8	"(B) the deduction for cash charitable con-
9	tributions, and
10	"(C) the deduction for home acquisition in-
11	debtedness,
12	for such taxable year.
13	"(c) Earned Income.—For purposes of this sec-
14	tion—
15	"(1) In general.—The term 'earned income'
16	means wages, salaries, or professional fees, and
17	other amounts received from sources within the
18	United States as compensation for personal services
19	actually rendered, but does not include that part of
20	compensation derived by the taxpayer for personal
21	services rendered by the taxpayer to a corporation
22	which represents a distribution of earnings or profits
23	rather than a reasonable allowance as compensation
24	for the personal services actually rendered.

1	"(2) Taxpayer engaged in trade or busi-
2	NESS.—In the case of a taxpayer engaged in a trade
3	or business in which both personal services and cap-
4	ital are material income-producing factors, under
5	regulations prescribed by the Secretary, a reasonable
6	allowance as compensation for the personal services
7	rendered by the taxpayer, not in excess of 30 per-
8	cent of the taxpayer's share of the net profits of
9	such trade or business, shall be considered as earned
10	income.
11	"SEC. 2. STANDARD DEDUCTION.
12	"(a) In General.—For purposes of this subtitle, the
13	term 'standard deduction' means the sum of—
14	"(1) the basic standard deduction, plus
15	"(2) the additional standard deduction.
16	"(b) Basic Standard Deduction.—For purposes
17	of subsection (a), the basic standard deduction is—
18	"(1) \$17,500 in the case of—
19	"(A) a joint return, and
20	"(B) a surviving spouse (as defined in sec-
21	tion $5(a)$,
22	"(2) \$15,000 in the case of a head of household
23	(as defined in section 5(b)), and
24	"(3) \$10,000 in the case of an individual—

1	"(A) who is not married and who is not a
2	surviving spouse or head of household, or
3	"(B) who is a married individual filing a
4	separate return.
5	"(c) Additional Standard Deduction.—For pur-
6	poses of subsection (a), the additional standard deduction
7	is \$5,000 for each dependent (as defined in section
8	5(d))—
9	"(1) whose earned income for the calendar year
10	in which the taxable year of the taxpayer begins is
11	less than the basic standard deduction specified in
12	subsection $(b)(3)$, or
13	"(2) who is a child of the taxpayer and who—
14	"(A) has not attained the age of 19 at the
15	close of the calendar year in which the taxable
16	year of the taxpayer begins, or
17	"(B) is a student who has not attained the
18	age of 24 at the close of such calendar year.
19	"(d) Inflation Adjustment.—
20	"(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any taxable
21	year beginning in a calendar year after 1997, each
22	dollar amount contained in subsections (b) and (c)
23	shall be increased by an amount equal to—
24	"(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by

1	"(B) the cost-of-living adjustment under
2	section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year in which
3	the taxable year begins, determined by sub-
4	stituting 'calendar year 1996' for 'calendar year
5	1992' in subparagraph (B) of such section.
6	"(2) ROUNDING.—If any increase determined
7	under paragraph (1) is not a multiple of \$50, such
8	amount shall be rounded to the next lowest multiple
9	of \$50.
10	"SEC. 3. DEDUCTION FOR CASH CHARITABLE CONTRIBU-
11	TIONS.
12	"(a) General Rule.—For purposes of this part,
13	there shall be allowed as a deduction any charitable con-
14	tribution (as defined in subsection (b)) not to exceed
15	\$2,500 (\$1,250, in the case of a married individual filing
16	a separate return), payment of which is made within the
17	taxable year.
18	"(b) Charitable Contribution Defined.—For
19	purposes of this section , the term 'charitable contribution'
20	means a contribution or gift of cash or its equivalent to
21	or for the use of the following:
22	"(1) A State, a possession of the United States,
23	or any political subdivision of any of the foregoing,

1	but only if the contribution or gift is made for exclu-
2	sively public purposes.
3	"(2) A corporation, trust, or community chest,
4	fund, or foundation—
5	"(A) created or organized in the United
6	States or in any possession thereof, or under
7	the law of the United States, any State, the
8	District of Columbia, or any possession of the
9	United States;
10	"(B) organized and operated exclusively
11	for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or
12	educational purposes, or to foster national or
13	international amateur sports competition (but
14	only if no part of its activities involve the provi-
15	sion of athletic facilities or equipment), or for
16	the prevention of cruelty to children or animals;
17	"(C) no part of the net earnings of which
18	inures to the benefit of any private shareholder
19	or individual; and
20	"(D) which is not disqualified for tax ex-
21	emption under section 501(c)(3) by reason of
22	attempting to influence legislation, and which
23	does not participate in, or intervene in (includ-
24	ing the publishing or distributing of state-

1	ments), any political campaign on behalf of (or
2	in opposition to) any candidate for public office.
3	A contribution or gift by a corporation to a trust,
4	chest, fund, or foundation shall be deductible by rea-
5	son of this paragraph only if it is to be used within
6	the United States or any of its possessions exclu-
7	sively for purposes specified in subparagraph (B).
8	Rules similar to the rules of section 501(j) shall
9	apply for purposes of this paragraph.
10	"(3) A post or organization of war veterans, or
11	an auxiliary unit or society of, or trust or foundation
12	for, any such post or organization—
13	"(A) organized in the United States or any
14	of its possessions, and
15	"(B) no part of the net earnings of which
16	inures to the benefit of any private shareholder
17	or individual.
18	"(4) In the case of a contribution or gift by an
19	individual, a domestic fraternal society, order, or as-
20	sociation, operating under the lodge system, but only
21	if such contribution or gift is to be used exclusively
22	for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or edu-

cational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to

children or animals.

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1	"(5) A cemetery company owned and operated
2	exclusively for the benefit of its members, or any
3	corporation chartered solely for burial purposes as a
4	cemetery corporation and not permitted by its char-
5	ter to engage in any business not necessarily inci-
6	dent to that purpose, if such company or corporation
7	is not operated for profit and no part of the net
8	earnings of such company or corporation inures to
9	the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.
10	For purposes of this section, the term 'charitable contribu-
11	tion' also means an amount treated under subsection (d)
12	as paid for the use of an organization described in para-
13	graph (2) , (3) , or (4) .
14	"(c) DISALLOWANCE OF DEDUCTION IN CERTAIN
15	CASES AND SPECIAL RULES.—
16	"(1) Substantiation requirement for cer-
17	TAIN CONTRIBUTIONS.—
18	"(A) General rule.—No deduction shall
19	be allowed under subsection (a) for any con-
20	tribution of \$250 or more unless the taxpayer
21	substantiates the contribution by a contempora-
22	neous written acknowledgment of the contribu-
23	tion by the donee organization that meets the
24	requirements of subparagraph (B).

1	"(B) Content of acknowledgment.—
2	An acknowledgment meets the requirements of
3	this subparagraph if it includes the following
4	information:
5	"(i) The amount of cash contributed.
6	"(ii) Whether the donee organization
7	provided any goods or services in consider-
8	ation, in whole or in part, for any contribu-
9	tion described in clause (i).
10	"(iii) A description and good faith es-
11	timate of the value of any goods or services
12	referred to in clause (ii) or, if such goods
13	or services consist solely of intangible reli-
14	gious benefits, a statement to that effect.
15	For purposes of this subparagraph, the term
16	'intangible religious benefit' means any intangi-
17	ble religious benefit which is provided by an or-
18	ganization organized exclusively for religious
19	purposes and which generally is not sold in a
20	commercial transaction outside the donative
21	context.
22	"(C) Contemporaneous.—For purposes
23	of subparagraph (A), an acknowledgment shall
24	be considered to be contemporaneous if the tax-

1	payer obtains the acknowledgment on or before
2	the earlier of—
3	"(i) the date on which the taxpayer
4	files a return for the taxable year in which
5	the contribution was made, or
6	"(ii) the due date (including exten-
7	sions) for filing such return.
8	"(D) Substantiation not required
9	FOR CONTRIBUTIONS REPORTED BY THE
10	DONEE ORGANIZATION.—Subparagraph (A)
11	shall not apply to a contribution if the donee
12	organization files a return, on such form and in
13	accordance with such regulations as the Sec-
14	retary may prescribe, which includes the infor-
15	mation described in subparagraph (B) with re-
16	spect to the contribution.
17	"(E) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall
18	prescribe such regulations as may be necessary
19	or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this
20	paragraph, including regulations that may pro-
21	vide that some or all of the requirements of this
22	paragraph do not apply in appropriate cases.
23	"(2) Denial of Deduction where con-
24	TRIBUTION FOR LOBBYING ACTIVITIES.—No deduc-
25	tion shall be allowed under this section for a con-

1	tribution to an organization which conducts activities
2	to which section 11(d)(2)(C)(i) applies on matters of
3	direct financial interest to the donor's trade or busi-
4	ness, if a principal purpose of the contribution was
5	to avoid Federal income tax by securing a deduction
6	for such activities under this section which would be
7	disallowed by reason of section $11(d)(2)(C)$ if the
8	donor had conducted such activities directly. No de-
9	duction shall be allowed under section 11(d) for any
10	amount for which a deduction is disallowed under
11	the preceding sentence.
12	"(d) Amounts Paid To Maintain Certain Stu-
13	DENTS AS MEMBERS OF TAXPAYER'S HOUSEHOLD.—
13 14	DENTS AS MEMBERS OF TAXPAYER'S HOUSEHOLD.— "(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the limitations
14	"(1) In general.—Subject to the limitations
14 15	"(1) In general.—Subject to the limitations provided by paragraph (2), amounts paid by the tax-
141516	"(1) In general.—Subject to the limitations provided by paragraph (2), amounts paid by the tax-payer to maintain an individual (other than a de-
14151617	"(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the limitations provided by paragraph (2), amounts paid by the tax-payer to maintain an individual (other than a dependent, as defined in section 5(d), or a relative of
1415161718	"(1) In General.—Subject to the limitations provided by paragraph (2), amounts paid by the tax-payer to maintain an individual (other than a dependent, as defined in section 5(d), or a relative of the taxpayer) as a member of such taxpayer's house-
141516171819	"(1) In General.—Subject to the limitations provided by paragraph (2), amounts paid by the tax-payer to maintain an individual (other than a dependent, as defined in section 5(d), or a relative of the taxpayer) as a member of such taxpayer's household during the period that such individual is—
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	"(1) In General.—Subject to the limitations provided by paragraph (2), amounts paid by the tax-payer to maintain an individual (other than a dependent, as defined in section 5(d), or a relative of the taxpayer) as a member of such taxpayer's household during the period that such individual is— "(A) a member of the taxpayer's household
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	"(1) In General.—Subject to the limitations provided by paragraph (2), amounts paid by the tax-payer to maintain an individual (other than a dependent, as defined in section 5(d), or a relative of the taxpayer) as a member of such taxpayer's household during the period that such individual is— "(A) a member of the taxpayer's household under a written agreement between the tax-

educational opportunities for pupils or students in private homes, and

"(B) a full-time pupil or student in the twelfth or any lower grade at an educational organization located in the United States which normally maintains a regular faculty and curriculum and normally has a regularly enrolled body of pupils or students in attendance at the place where its educational activities are regularly carried on,

shall be treated as amounts paid for the use of the organization.

"(2) Limitations.—

"(A) Amount.—Paragraph (1) shall apply to amounts paid within the taxable year only to the extent that such amounts do not exceed \$50 multiplied by the number of full calendar months during the taxable year which fall within the period described in paragraph (1). For purposes of the preceding sentence, if 15 or more days of a calendar month fall within such period such month shall be considered as a full calendar month.

"(B) Compensation or reimbursement.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any

1 amount paid by the taxpayer within the taxable 2 year if the taxpayer receives any money or 3 other property as compensation or reimburse-4 ment for maintaining the individual in the tax-5 payer's household during the period described 6 in paragraph (1).

- "(3) Relative defined.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term 'relative of the taxpayer' means an individual who, with respect to the taxpayer, bears any of the relationships described in subparagraphs (A) through (H) of section 5(d)(1).
- 12 "(4) No other amount allowed as deduc-13 TION.—No deduction shall be allowed under sub-14 section (a) for any amount paid by a taxpayer to 15 maintain an individual as a member of the tax-16 payer's household under a program described in 17 paragraph (1)(A) except as provided in this sub-18 section.
- "(e) Denial of Deduction for Certain Travel EXPENSES.—No deduction shall be allowed under this sec-20 21 tion for traveling expenses (including amounts expended for meals and lodging) while away from home, whether paid directly or by reimbursement, unless there is no significant element of personal pleasure, recreation, or vaca-

tion in such travel.

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1	"(f) Disallowance of Deductions in Certain
2	Cases.—For disallowance of deductions for contributions
3	to or for the use of Communist controlled organizations,
4	see section 11(a) of the Internal Security Act of 1950 (50
5	U.S.C. 790).
6	"(g) Treatment of Certain Amounts Paid to or
7	FOR THE BENEFIT OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDU-
8	CATION.—
9	"(1) In general.—For purposes of this sec-
10	tion, 80 percent of any amount described in para-
11	graph (2) shall be treated as a charitable contribu-
12	tion.
13	"(2) Amount described.—For purposes of
14	paragraph (1), an amount is described in this para-
15	graph if—
16	"(A) the amount is paid by the taxpayer to
17	or for the benefit of an educational organiza-
18	tion—
19	"(i) which is described in subsection
20	(d)(1)(B), and
21	"(ii) which is an institution of higher
22	education (as defined in section 3304(f)),
23	and
24	"(B) such amount would be allowable as a
25	deduction under this section but for the fact

1 that the taxpayer receives (directly or indi-2 rectly) as a result of paying such amount the 3 right to purchase tickets for seating at an ath-4 letic event in an athletic stadium of such insti-5 tution. 6 If any portion of a payment is for the purchase of 7 such tickets, such portion and the remaining portion 8 (if any) of such payment shall be treated as separate 9 amounts for purposes of this subsection. 10 "(h) Other Cross References.— 11

- "(1) For treatment of certain organizations providing child care, see section 501(k).
- "(2) For charitable contributions of partners, see section 702.
- "(3) For treatment of gifts for benefit of or use in connection with the Naval Academy as gifts to or for the use of the United States, see section 6973 of title 10, United States Code.
- "(4) For treatment of gifts accepted by the Secretary of State, the Director of the International Communication Agency, or the Director of the United States International Development Cooperation Agency, as gifts to or for the use of the United States, see section 25 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956.

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1	"(5) For treatment of gifts of money accepted
2	by the Attorney General for credit to the 'Com-
3	missary Funds, Federal Prisons' as gifts to or for
4	the use of the United States, see section 4043 of
5	title 18, United States Code.
6	"(6) For charitable contributions to or for the
7	use of Indian tribal governments (or subdivisions of
8	such governments), see section 7871.
9	"SEC. 4. DEDUCTION FOR HOME ACQUISITION INDEBTED
10	NESS.
11	"(a) General Rule.—For purposes of this part
12	there shall be allowed as a deduction all qualified residence
13	interest paid or accrued within the taxable year.
14	"(b) Qualified Residence Interest Defined.—
15	The term 'qualified residence interest' means any interest
16	which is paid or accrued during the taxable year on acqui-
17	sition indebtedness with respect to any qualified residence
18	of the taxpayer. For purposes of the preceding sentence
19	the determination of whether any property is a qualified
20	residence of the taxpayer shall be made as of the time
21	the interest is accrued.
22	"(c) Acquisition Indebtedness.—
23	"(1) In general.—The term 'acquisition in-

1	"(A) is incurred in acquiring, constructing,
2	or substantially improving any qualified resi-
3	dence of the taxpayer, and
4	"(B) is secured by such residence.
5	Such term also includes any indebtedness secured by
6	such residence resulting from the refinancing of in-
7	debtedness meeting the requirements of the preced-
8	ing sentence (or this sentence); but only to the ex-
9	tent the amount of the indebtedness resulting from
10	such refinancing does not exceed the amount of the
11	refinanced indebtedness.
12	"(2) \$100,000 LIMITATION.—The aggregate
13	amount treated as acquisition indebtedness for any
14	period shall not exceed \$100,000 (\$50,000 in the
15	case of a married individual filing a separate re-
16	turn).
17	"(d) Treatment of Indebtedness Incurred on
18	OR BEFORE OCTOBER 13, 1987.—
19	"(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any pre-Oc-
20	tober 13, 1987, indebtedness—
21	"(A) such indebtedness shall be treated as
22	acquisition indebtedness, and
23	"(B) the limitation of subsection (b)(2)
24	shall not apply.

1	"(2) Reduction in \$100,000 Limitation.—The
2	limitation of subsection (b)(2) shall be reduced (but
3	not below zero) by the aggregate amount of out-
4	standing pre-October 13, 1987, indebtedness.

- "(3) Pre-october 13, 1987, indebtedness.—
 The term 'pre-October 13, 1987, indebtedness'
 means—
 - "(A) any indebtedness which was incurred on or before October 13, 1987, and which was secured by a qualified residence on October 13, 1987, and at all times thereafter before the interest is paid or accrued, or

"(B) any indebtedness which is secured by the qualified residence and was incurred after October 13, 1987, to refinance indebtedness described in subparagraph (A) (or refinanced indebtedness meeting the requirements of this subparagraph) to the extent (immediately after the refinancing) the principal amount of the indebtedness resulting from the refinancing does not exceed the principal amount of the refinanced indebtedness (immediately before the refinancing).

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1	"(4) Limitation on Period of Refinanc-
2	ING.—Subparagraph (B) of paragraph (3) shall not
3	apply to any indebtedness after—
4	"(A) the expiration of the term of the in-
5	debtedness described in paragraph (3)(A), or
6	"(B) if the principal of the indebtedness
7	described in paragraph (3)(A) is not amortized
8	over its term, the expiration of the term of the
9	first refinancing of such indebtedness (or if ear-
10	lier, the date which is 30 years after the date
11	of such first refinancing).
12	"(e) Other Definitions and Special Rules.—
13	For purposes of this section—
14	"(1) QUALIFIED RESIDENCE.—For purposes of
15	this subsection—
1 /	
16	"(A) In general.—Except as provided in
	"(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), the term 'qualified residence'
16 17 18	
17	subparagraph (C), the term 'qualified residence'
17 18	subparagraph (C), the term 'qualified residence' means the principal residence of the taxpayer.
17 18 19	subparagraph (C), the term 'qualified residence' means the principal residence of the taxpayer. "(B) Married individuals filing sepa-
17 18 19 20	subparagraph (C), the term 'qualified residence' means the principal residence of the taxpayer. "(B) Married individuals filing sepa- rate returns.—If a married couple does not
17 18 19 20 21	subparagraph (C), the term 'qualified residence' means the principal residence of the taxpayer. "(B) Married individuals filing sepa- rate returns.—If a married couple does not file a joint return for the taxable year—

1	"(ii) each individual shall be entitled
2	to take into account ½ of the principal
3	residence unless both individuals consent
1	in writing to 1 individual taking into ac-
5	count the principal residence.

- "(C) PRE-OCTOBER 13, 1987, INDEBTED-NESS.—In the case of any pre-October 13, 1987, indebtedness, the term 'qualified residence' has the meaning given that term in section 163(h)(4), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this subparagraph.
- "(2) Special rule for cooperative housing corporations.—Any indebtedness secured by stock held by the taxpayer as a tenant-stockholder in a cooperative housing corporation shall be treated as secured by the house or apartment which the taxpayer is entitled to occupy as such a tenant-stockholder. If stock described in the preceding sentence may not be used to secure indebtedness, indebtedness shall be treated as so secured if the taxpayer establishes to the satisfaction of the Secretary that such indebtedness was incurred to acquire such stock.
- "(3) Unenforceable security interests.— Indebtedness shall not fail to be treated as secured

1	by any property solely because, under any applicable
2	State or local homestead or other debtor protection
3	law in effect on August 16, 1986, the security inter-
4	est is ineffective or the enforceability of the security
5	interest is restricted.
6	"(4) Special rules for estates and
7	TRUSTS.—For purposes of determining whether any
8	interest paid or accrued by an estate or trust is
9	qualified residence interest, any residence held by
10	such estate or trust shall be treated as a qualified
11	residence of such estate or trust if such estate or
12	trust establishes that such residence is a qualified
13	residence of a beneficiary who has a present interest
14	in such estate or trust or an interest in the residu-
15	ary of such estate or trust.
16	"SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.
17	"(a) Definition of Surviving Spouse.—
18	"(1) In general.—For purposes of this part
19	the term 'surviving spouse' means a taxpayer—
20	"(A) whose spouse died during either of
21	the taxpayer's 2 taxable years immediately pre-
22	ceding the taxable year, and
23	"(B) who maintains as the taxpayer's

home a household which constitutes for the tax-

1	able year the principal place of abode (as a
2	member of such household) of a dependent—
3	"(i) who (within the meaning of sub-
4	section (d)) is a son, stepson, daughter, or
5	stepdaughter of the taxpayer, and
6	"(ii) with respect to whom the tax-
7	payer is entitled to a deduction for the tax-
8	able year under section 2.
9	For purposes of this paragraph, an individual shall
10	be considered as maintaining a household only if
11	over one-half of the cost of maintaining the house-
12	hold during the taxable year is furnished by such in-
13	dividual.
14	"(2) Limitations.—Notwithstanding para-
15	graph (1), for purposes of this part a taxpayer shall
16	not be considered to be a surviving spouse—
17	"(A) if the taxpayer has remarried at any
18	time before the close of the taxable year, or
19	"(B) unless, for the taxpayer's taxable
20	year during which the taxpayer's spouse died, a
21	joint return could have been made under the
22	provisions of section 6013 (without regard to
23	subsection $(a)(3)$ thereof).
24	"(3) Special rule where deceased spouse
25	WAS IN MISSING STATUS.—If an individual was in a

missing status (within the meaning of section 6013(f)(3)) as a result of service in a combat zone and if such individual remains in such status until the date referred to in subparagraph (A) or (B), then, for purposes of paragraph (1)(A), the date on which such individual dies shall be treated as the earlier of the date determined under subparagraph (A) or the date determined under subparagraph (B):

"(A) The date on which the determination is made under section 556 of title 37 of the United States Code or under section 5566 of title 5 of such Code (whichever is applicable) that such individual died while in such missing status.

"(B) Except in the case of the combat zone designated for purposes of the Vietnam conflict, the date which is 2 years after the date designated as the date of termination of combatant activities in that zone.

"(b) Definition of Head of Household.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this part, an individual shall be considered a head of a household if, and only if, such individual is not married at the close of such individual's taxable year, is not

1	a surviving spouse (as defined in subsection (a)),
2	and either—
3	"(A) maintains as such individual's home a
4	household which constitutes for more than one-
5	half of such taxable year the principal place of
6	abode, as a member of such household, of—
7	"(i) a son, stepson, daughter, or step-
8	daughter of the taxpayer, or a descendant
9	of a son or daughter of the taxpayer, but
10	if such son, stepson, daughter, step-
11	daughter, or descendant is married at the
12	close of the taxpayer's taxable year, only if
13	the taxpayer is entitled to a deduction for
14	the taxable year for such person under sec-
15	tion 2 (or would be so entitled but for sub-
16	paragraph (B) or (D) of subsection
17	(d)(5)), or
18	"(ii) any other person who is a de-
19	pendent of the taxpayer, if the taxpayer is
20	entitled to a deduction for the taxable year
21	for such person under section 2, or
22	"(B) maintains a household which con-
23	stitutes for such taxable year the principal place
24	of abode of the father or mother of the tax-
25	payer, if the taxpayer is entitled to a deduction

1	for the taxable year for such father or mother
2	under section 2.
3	For purposes of this paragraph, an individual shall
4	be considered as maintaining a household only if
5	over one-half of the cost of maintaining the house-
6	hold during the taxable year is furnished by such in-
7	dividual.
8	"(2) Determination of Status.—For pur-
9	poses of this subsection—
10	"(A) a legally adopted child of a person
11	shall be considered a child of such person by
12	blood;
13	"(B) an individual who is legally separated
14	from such individual's spouse under a decree of
15	divorce or of separate maintenance shall not be
16	considered as married;
17	"(C) a taxpayer shall be considered as not
18	married at the close of such taxpayer's taxable
19	year if at any time during the taxable year such
20	taxpayer's spouse is a nonresident alien; and
21	"(D) a taxpayer shall be considered as
22	married at the close of such taxpayer's taxable
23	year if such taxpayer's spouse (other than a
24	spouse described in subparagraph (C)) died
25	during the taxable year.

1	"(3) Limitations.—Notwithstanding para-
2	graph (1), for purposes of this part, a taxpayer shall
3	not be considered to be a head of a household—
4	"(A) if at any time during the taxable year
5	the taxpayer is a nonresident alien; or
6	"(B) by reason of an individual who would
7	not be a dependent for the taxable year but
8	$ ext{for}$ —
9	"(i) subparagraph (I) of subsection
10	(d)(1), or
11	"(ii) paragraph (3) of subsection (d).
12	"(c) Certain Married Individuals Living
13	APART.—For purposes of this part, an individual shall be
14	treated as not married at the close of the taxable year
15	if such individual is so treated under the provisions of sec-
16	tion 7703(b).
17	"(d) Dependent Defined.—
18	"(1) General definition.—For purposes of
19	this part, the term 'dependent' means any of the fol-
20	lowing individuals over one-half of whose support,
21	for the calendar year in which the taxable year of
22	the taxpayer begins, was received from the taxpayer
23	(or is treated under paragraph (3) or (5) as received
24	from the taxpaver):

1	"(A) A son or daughter of the taxpayer, or
2	a descendant of either.
3	"(B) A stepson or stepdaughter of the tax-
4	payer.
5	"(C) A brother, sister, stepbrother, or
6	stepsister of the taxpayer.
7	"(D) The father or mother of the taxpayer,
8	or an ancestor of either.
9	"(E) A stepfather or stepmother of the
10	taxpayer.
11	"(F) A son or daughter of a brother or sis-
12	ter of the taxpayer.
13	"(G) A brother or sister of the father or
14	mother of the taxpayer.
15	"(H) A son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father-
16	in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, or sister-
17	in-law of the taxpayer.
18	"(I) An individual (other than an individ-
19	ual who at any time during the taxable year
20	was the spouse, determined without regard to
21	section 7703, of the taxpayer) who, for the tax-
22	able year of the taxpayer, has as such individ-
23	ual's principal place of abode the home of the
24	taxpayer and is a member of the taxpayer's
25	household.

1	"(2) Rules relating to general defini-
2	TION.—For purposes of this section—
3	"(A) Brother; sister.—The terms
4	'brother' and 'sister' include a brother or sister
5	by the halfblood.
6	"(B) Child.—In determining whether any
7	of the relationships specified in paragraph (1)
8	or subparagraph (A) of this paragraph exists, a
9	legally adopted child of an individual (and a
10	child who is a member of an individual's house-
11	hold, if placed with such individual by an au-
12	thorized placement agency for legal adoption by
13	such individual), or a foster child of an individ-
14	ual (if such child satisfies the requirements of
15	paragraph (1)(I) with respect to such individ-
16	ual), shall be treated as a child of such individ-
17	ual by blood.
18	"(C) CITIZENSHIP.—The term 'dependent'
19	does not include any individual who is not a cit-
20	izen or national of the United States unless
21	such individual is a resident of the United
22	States or of a country contiguous to the United
23	States. The preceding sentence shall not ex-
24	clude from the definition of 'dependent' any

child of the taxpayer legally adopted by such

1	taxpayer, if, for the taxable year of the tax-
2	payer, the child has as such child's principal
3	place of abode the home of the taxpayer and is
4	a member of the taxpayer's household, and
5	if the taxpayer is a citizen or national of the
6	United States.
7	"(D) ALIMONY, ETC.—A payment to a wife
8	which is alimony or separate maintenance shall
9	not be treated as a payment by the wife's hus-
10	band for the support of any dependent.
11	"(E) Unlawful arrangements.—An in-
12	dividual is not a member of the taxpayer's
13	household if at any time during the taxable
14	year of the taxpayer the relationship between
15	such individual and the taxpayer is in violation
16	of local law.
17	"(3) Multiple support agreements.—For
18	purposes of paragraph (1), over one-half of the sup-
19	port of an individual for a calendar year shall be
20	treated as received from the taxpayer if—
21	"(A) no one person contributed over one-
22	half of such support;
23	"(B) over one-half of such support was re-
24	ceived from persons each of whom, but for the
25	fact that such person did not contribute over

1	one-half of such support, would have been enti-
2	tled to claim such individual as a dependent for
3	a taxable year beginning in such calendar year;
4	"(C) the taxpayer contributed over 10 per-
5	cent of such support; and
6	"(D) each person described in subpara-
7	graph (B) (other than the taxpayer) who con-
8	tributed over 10 percent of such support files a
9	written declaration (in such manner and form
10	as the Secretary may by regulations prescribe)
11	that such person will not claim such individual
12	as a dependent for any taxable year beginning
13	in such calendar year.
14	"(4) Special support test in case of stu-
15	DENTS.—For purposes of paragraph (1), in the case
16	of any individual who is—
17	"(A) a son, stepson, daughter, or step-
18	daughter of the taxpayer (within the meaning
19	of this subsection), and
20	"(B) a student,
21	amounts received as scholarships for study at an
22	educational organization described in section
23	3(d)(1)(B) shall not be taken into account in deter-
24	mining whether such individual received more than

1	one-half of such individual's support from the tax-
2	payer.
3	"(5) Support test in case of child of di-
4	VORCED PARENTS, ETC.—
5	"(A) Custodial parent gets exemp-
6	TION.—Except as otherwise provided in this
7	paragraph, if—
8	"(i) a child receives over one-half of
9	such child's support during the calendar
10	year from such child's parents—
11	"(I) who are divorced or legally
12	separated under a decree of divorce or
13	separate maintenance,
14	"(II) who are separated under a
15	written separation agreement, or
16	"(III) who live apart at all times
17	during the last 6 months of the cal-
18	endar year, and
19	"(ii) such child is in the custody of 1
20	or both of such child's parents for more
21	than one-half of the calendar year,
22	such child shall be treated, for purposes of
23	paragraph (1), as receiving over one-half of
24	such child's support during the calendar year
25	from the parent having custody for a greater

1	portion of the calendar year (hereafter in this
2	paragraph referred to as the 'custodial parent').
3	"(B) Exception where custodial par-
4	ENT RELEASES CLAIM TO EXEMPTION FOR THE
5	YEAR.—A child of parents described in sub-
6	paragraph (A) shall be treated as having re-
7	ceived over one-half of such child's support dur-
8	ing a calendar year from the noncustodial par-
9	ent if—
10	"(i) the custodial parent signs a writ-
11	ten declaration (in such manner and form
12	as the Secretary may by regulations pre-
13	scribe) that such custodial parent will not
14	claim such child as a dependent for any
15	taxable year beginning in such calendar
16	year, and
17	"(ii) the noncustodial parent attaches
18	such written declaration to the noncusto-
19	dial parent's return for the taxable year
20	beginning during such calendar year.
21	For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'non-
22	custodial parent' means the parent who is not
23	the custodial parent.
24	"(C) Exception for multiple-support
25	AGREEMENT.—This paragraph shall not apply

1	in any case where over one-half of the support
2	of the child is treated as having been received
3	from a taxpayer under the provisions of para-
4	graph (3).
5	"(D) Exception for Certain Pre-1985
6	INSTRUMENTS.—
7	"(i) In general.—A child of parents
8	described in subparagraph (A) shall be
9	treated as having received over one-half
10	such child's support during a calendar year
11	from the noncustodial parent if—
12	"(I) a qualified pre-1985 instru-
13	ment between the parents applicable
14	to the taxable year beginning in such
15	calendar year provides that the non-
16	custodial parent shall be entitled to
17	any deduction allowable under section
18	2 for such child, and
19	"(II) the noncustodial parent
20	provides at least \$600 for the support
21	of such child during such calendar
22	year.
23	For purposes of this clause, amounts ex-
24	pended for the support of a child or chil-
25	dren shall be treated as received from the

1	noncustodial parent to the extent that such
2	parent provided amounts for such support
3	"(ii) Qualified pre-1985 instru-
4	MENT.—For purposes of this subpara-
5	graph, the term 'qualified pre-1985 instru-
6	ment' means any decree of divorce or sepa-
7	rate maintenance or written agreement—
8	"(I) which is executed before
9	January 1, 1985,
10	"(II) which on such date contains
11	the provision described in clause
12	(i)(I), and
13	"(III) which is not modified or
14	or after such date in a modification
15	which expressly provides that this sub-
16	paragraph shall not apply to such de-
17	cree or agreement.
18	"(E) Special rule for support re-
19	CEIVED FROM NEW SPOUSE OF PARENT.—For
20	purposes of this paragraph, in the case of the
21	remarriage of a parent, support of a child re-
22	ceived from the parent's spouse shall be treated
23	as received from the parent.
24	"PART II—TAX ON BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

"Sec. 11. Tax imposed on business activities.

1	"SEC. 11. TAX IMPOSED ON BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.
2	"(a) Tax Imposed.—There is hereby imposed on
3	every person engaged in a business activity located in the
4	United States a tax equal to 20 percent of the business
5	taxable income of such person.
6	"(b) Liability for Tax.—The tax imposed by this
7	section shall be paid by the person engaged in the business
8	activity, whether such person is an individual, partnership,
9	corporation, or otherwise.
10	"(c) Business Taxable Income.—
11	"(1) In general.—For purposes of this sec-
12	tion, the term 'business taxable income' means gross
13	active income reduced by the deductions specified in
14	subsection (d).
15	"(2) Gross active income.—For purposes of
16	paragraph (1), the term 'gross active income' means
17	gross income other than investment income.
18	"(d) Deductions.—
19	``(1) In general.—The deductions specified in
20	this subsection are—
21	"(A) the cost of business inputs for the
22	business activity,
23	"(B) the compensation (including contribu-
24	tions to qualified retirement plans but not in-
25	cluding other fringe benefits) paid for employ-

ees performing services in such activity, and

1	"(C) the cost of personal and real property
2	used in such activity.
3	"(2) Business inputs.—
4	"(A) In general.—For purposes of para-
5	graph (1)(A), the term 'cost of business inputs'
6	means—
7	"(i) the actual cost of goods, services,
8	and materials, whether or not resold dur-
9	ing the taxable year, and
10	"(ii) the actual cost, if reasonable, of
11	travel and entertainment expenses for busi-
12	ness purposes.
13	"(B) Purchases of goods and serv-
14	ICES EXCLUDED.—Such term shall not include
15	purchases of goods and services provided to em-
16	ployees or owners.
17	"(C) CERTAIN LOBBYING AND POLITICAL
18	EXPENDITURES EXCLUDED.—
19	"(i) In general.—Such term shall
20	not include any amount paid or incurred in
21	connection with—
22	"(I) influencing legislation,
23	"(II) participation in, or inter-
24	vention in, any political campaign on

1	behalf of (or in opposition to) any
2	candidate for public office,
3	"(III) any attempt to influence
4	the general public, or segments there-
5	of, with respect to elections, legislative
6	matters, or referendums, or
7	"(IV) any direct communication
8	with a covered executive branch offi-
9	cial in an attempt to influence the of-
10	ficial actions or positions of such offi-
11	cial.
12	"(ii) Exception for local legisla-
13	TION.—In the case of any legislation of
14	any local council or similar governing
15	body—
16	"(I) clause (i)(I) shall not apply,
17	and
18	"(II) such term shall include all
19	ordinary and necessary expenses (in-
20	cluding, but not limited to, traveling
21	expenses described in subparagraph
22	(A)(iii) and the cost of preparing tes-
23	timony) paid or incurred during the
24	taxable year in carrying on any trade
25	or business—

1	"(aa) in direct connection
2	with appearances before, submis-
3	sion of statements to, or sending
4	communications to the commit-
5	tees, or individual members, of
6	such council or body with respect
7	to legislation or proposed legisla-
8	tion of direct interest to the tax-
9	payer, or
10	"(bb) in direct connection
11	with communication of informa-
12	tion between the taxpayer and ar
13	organization of which the tax-
14	payer is a member with respect
15	to any such legislation or pro-
16	posed legislation which is of di-
17	rect interest to the taxpayer and
18	to such organization, and that
19	portion of the dues so paid or in-
20	curred with respect to any orga-
21	nization of which the taxpayer is
22	a member which is attributable
23	to the expenses of the activities
24	carried on by such organization.

1	"(iii) Application to dues of tax-
2	EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS.—Such term
3	shall include the portion of dues or other
4	similar amounts paid by the taxpayer to an
5	organization which is exempt from tax
6	under this subtitle which the organization
7	notifies the taxpayer under section
8	6033(e)(1)(A)(ii) is allocable to expendi-
9	tures to which clause (i) applies.
10	"(iv) Influencing legislation.—
11	For purposes of this subparagraph—
12	"(I) IN GENERAL.—The term 'in-
13	fluencing legislation' means any at-
14	tempt to influence any legislation
15	through communication with any
16	member or employee of a legislative
17	body, or with any government official
18	or employee who may participate in
19	the formulation of legislation.
20	"(II) LEGISLATION.—The term
21	'legislation' has the meaning given
22	that term in section $4911(e)(2)$.
23	"(v) Other special rules.—
24	"(I) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN
25	TAXPAYERS.—In the case of any tax-

1	payer engaged in the trade or busi-
2	ness of conducting activities described
3	in clause (i), clause (i) shall not apply
4	to expenditures of the taxpayer in
5	conducting such activities directly on
6	behalf of another person (but shall
7	apply to payments by such other per-
8	son to the taxpayer for conducting
9	such activities).
10	"(II) DE MINIMIS EXCEPTION.—
11	"(aa) In general.—Clause
12	(i) shall not apply to any in-
13	house expenditures for any tax-
14	able year if such expenditures do
15	not exceed \$2,000. In determin-
16	ing whether a taxpayer exceeds
17	the \$2,000 limit, there shall not
18	be taken into account overhead
19	costs otherwise allocable to activi-
20	ties described in subclauses (I)
21	and (IV) of clause (i).
22	"(bb) In-house expendi-
23	Tures.—For purposes of provi-
24	sion (aa), the term 'in-house ex-
25	penditures' means expenditures

1	described in subclauses (I) and
2	(IV) of clause (i) other than pay-
3	ments by the taxpayer to a per-
4	son engaged in the trade or busi-
5	ness of conducting activities de-
6	scribed in clause (i) for the con-
7	duct of such activities on behalf
8	of the taxpayer, or dues or other
9	similar amounts paid or incurred
10	by the taxpayer which are alloca-
11	ble to activities described in
12	clause (i).
13	"(III) Expenses incurred in
14	CONNECTION WITH LOBBYING AND
15	POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.—Any amount
16	paid or incurred for research for, or
17	preparation, planning, or coordination
18	of, any activity described in clause (i)
19	shall be treated as paid or incurred in
20	connection with such activity.
21	"(vi) Covered executive branch
22	OFFICIAL.—For purposes of this subpara-
23	graph, the term 'covered executive branch
24	official' means—
25	"(I) the President,

1	"(II) the Vice President,
2	"(III) any officer or employee of
3	the White House Office of the Execu-
4	tive Office of the President, and the 2
5	most senior level officers of each of
6	the other agencies in such Executive
7	Office, and
8	"(IV) any individual serving in a
9	position in level I of the Executive
10	Schedule under section 5312 of title
11	5, United States Code, any other indi-
12	vidual designated by the President as
13	having Cabinet level status, and any
14	immediate deputy of such an individ-
15	ual.
16	"(vii) Special rule for indian
17	TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.—For purposes of
18	this subparagraph, an Indian tribal gov-
19	ernment shall be treated in the same man-
20	ner as a local council or similar governing
21	body.
22	"(viii) Cross Reference.—
	"For reporting requirements and alternative taxes related to this subsection, see section 6033(e).
23	"(e) Carryover of Excess Deductions.—

1 "(1) IN GENERAL.—If the aggregate deductions 2 for any taxable year exceed the gross active income 3 for such taxable year, the amount of the deductions 4 specified in subsection (d) for the succeeding taxable 5 year (determined without regard to this subsection) 6 shall be increased by the sum of— 7 "(A) such excess, plus "(B) the product of such excess and the 3-8 9 month Treasury rate for the last month of such 10 taxable year. 11 "(2) 3-month treasury rate.—For purposes 12 of paragraph (1), the 3-month Treasury rate is the 13 rate determined by the Secretary based on the aver-14 age market yield (during any 1-month period se-15 lected by the Secretary and ending in the calendar 16 month in which the determination is made) on out-17 standing marketable obligations of the United States 18 with remaining periods to maturity of 3 months or 19 less." 20 (b) Conforming Repeals and Redesignations.— 21 (1) Repeals.—The following subchapters of 22 chapter 1 of subtitle A and the items relating to 23 such subchapters in the table of subchapters for

such chapter 1 are repealed:

24

1	(A) Subchapter B (relating to computation
2	of taxable income).
3	(B) Subchapter C (relating to corporate
4	distributions and adjustments).
5	(C) Subchapter D (relating to deferred
6	compensation, etc.).
7	(D) Subchapter G (relating to corporations
8	used to avoid income tax on shareholders).
9	(E) Subchapter H (relating to banking in-
10	stitutions).
11	(F) Subchapter I (relating to natural re-
12	sources).
13	(G) Subchapter J (relating to estates,
14	trusts, beneficiaries, and decedents).
15	(H) Subchapter L (relating to insurance
16	companies).
17	(I) Subchapter M (relating to regulated in-
18	vestment companies and real estate investment
19	trusts).
20	(J) Subchapter N (relating to tax based on
21	income from sources within or without the
22	United States).
23	(K) Subchapter O (relating to gain or loss
24	on disposition of property).

1	(L) Subchapter P (relating to capital gains
2	and losses).
3	(M) Subchapter Q (relating to readjust-
4	ment of tax between years and special limita-
5	tions).
6	(N) Subchapter S (relating to tax treat-
7	ment of S corporations and their shareholders).
8	(O) Subchapter T (relating to cooperatives
9	and their patrons).
10	(P) Subchapter U (relating to designation
11	and treatment of empowerment zones, enter-
12	prise communities, and rural development in-
13	vestment areas).
14	(Q) Subchapter V (relating to title 11
15	cases).
16	(2) Redesignations.—The following sub-
17	chapters of chapter 1 of subtitle A and the items re-
18	lating to such subchapters in the table of sub-
19	chapters for such chapter 1 are redesignated:
20	(A) Subchapter E (relating to accounting
21	periods and methods of accounting) as sub-
22	chapter B.
23	(B) Subchapter F (relating to exempt or-
24	ganizations) as subchapter C.

- 1 (C) Subchapter K (relating to partners
- and partnerships) as subchapter D.

3 SEC. 3. REPEAL OF ESTATE AND GIFT TAXES.

- 4 Subtitle B (relating to estate, gift, and generation-
- 5 skipping taxes) and the item relating to such subtitle in
- 6 the table of subtitles is repealed.

7 SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL REPEALS.

- 8 Subtitles H (relating to financing of presidential elec-
- 9 tion campaigns) and J (relating to coal industry health
- 10 benefits) and the items relating to such subtitles in the
- 11 table of subtitles are repealed.

12 SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATES.

- 13 (a) In General.—Except as provided in subsection
- 14 (b), the amendments made by this Act apply to taxable
- 15 years beginning after December 31, 1997.
- 16 (b) Repeal of Estate and Gift Taxes.—The re-
- 17 peal made by section 3 applies to estates of decedents
- 18 dying, and transfers made, after December 31, 1997.
- 19 (c) Technical and Conforming Changes.—The
- 20 Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary's delegate
- 21 shall, as soon as practicable but in any event not later
- 22 than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, sub-
- 23 mit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House
- 24 of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the
- 25 Senate a draft of any technical and conforming changes

- 1 in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 which are necessary
- 2 to reflect throughout such Code the changes in the sub-

3 stantive provisions of law made by this Act.

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