

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 372

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exclusion from gross income for that portion of a governmental pension received by an individual which does not exceed the maximum benefits payable under title II of the Social Security Act which could have been excluded from income for the taxable year.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 19, 1999

Mr. VENTO 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 provide an exclusion from gross income for that portion of a governmental pension received by an individual which does not exceed the maximum benefits payable under title II of the Social Security Act which could have been excluded from income for the taxable year.

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 Pension Parity
5 Act of 1999”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXCLUSION FOR CERTAIN PENSIONS AND ANNU-**
 2 **ITIES UNDER PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEMS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part III of subchapter B of chap-
 4 ter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to
 5 items specifically excluded from income) is amended by re-
 6 designating section 138 as section 139 and by inserting
 7 after section 137 the following new section:

8 **“SEC. 138. CERTAIN PENSIONS AND ANNUITIES UNDER**
 9 **PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEMS.**

10 “(a) GENERAL RULE.—Gross income does not in-
 11 clude any amount (otherwise includable in gross income)
 12 received by an individual as a qualified governmental pen-
 13 sion.

14 “(b) LIMITATIONS.—

15 “(1) DOLLAR LIMITATION.—The aggregate
 16 amount excluded under subsection (a) for the tax-
 17 able year shall not exceed—

18 “(A) the maximum excludable social secu-
 19 rity benefits of the taxpayer for such year, re-
 20 duced by

21 “(B) the social security benefits (within
 22 the meaning of section 86(d)) received by the
 23 taxpayer during such year which were excluded
 24 from gross income.

25 “(2) SERVICE REQUIREMENT.—Subsection (a)
 26 shall not apply to any qualified governmental pen-

1 sion received by the taxpayer during the taxable year
2 unless the taxpayer (or the spouse or former spouse
3 of the taxpayer) performed the service giving rise to
4 such pension.

5 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

6 “(1) QUALIFIED GOVERNMENTAL PENSION.—
7 The term ‘qualified governmental pension’ means
8 any pension or annuity received under a public re-
9 tirement system to the extent such pension or annu-
10 ity is not attributable to service—

11 “(A) which constitutes employment for
12 purposes of chapter 21 (relating to the Federal
13 Insurance Contributions Act), or

14 “(B) which is covered by an agreement
15 made pursuant to section 218 of the Social Se-
16 curity Act.

17 “(2) MAXIMUM EXCLUDABLE SOCIAL SECURITY
18 BENEFITS.—The term ‘maximum excludable social
19 security benefits’ means an amount equal to so
20 much of the applicable maximum benefit amount for
21 the taxpayer for the taxable year which would be ex-
22 cluded from gross income if such benefit amount
23 were treated as social security benefits (within the
24 meaning of section 86(d)) received during the tax-
25 able year.

1 “(3) APPLICABLE MAXIMUM BENEFIT
2 AMOUNT.—The term ‘applicable maximum benefit
3 amount’ means—

4 “(A) in the case of an unmarried individ-
5 ual, the maximum individual social security
6 benefit,

7 “(B) in the case of a joint return, 150 per-
8 cent of the maximum individual social security
9 benefit, or

10 “(C) in the case of a married individual fil-
11 ing a separate return, 75 percent of the maxi-
12 mum individual social security benefit.

13 For purposes of the preceding sentence, marital sta-
14 tus shall be determined under section 7703.

15 “(4) MAXIMUM INDIVIDUAL SOCIAL SECURITY
16 BENEFIT.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘maximum
18 individual social security benefit’ means, with
19 respect to any taxable year, the maximum total
20 amount (as certified by the Commissioner of
21 Social Security to the Secretary) which could be
22 paid for all months in the calendar year ending
23 in the taxable year as old-age insurance benefits
24 under section 202(a) of the Social Security Act
25 (without regard to any reduction, deduction, or

1 offset under section 202(k) or section 203 of
2 such Act) to any individual who attained retire-
3 ment age (as defined in section 216(l) of such
4 Act), and filed application for such benefits, on
5 the first day of such calendar year.

6 “(B) PART YEARS.—In the case of an indi-
7 vidual who receives a qualified governmental
8 pension with respect to a period of less than a
9 full taxable year, the maximum individual social
10 security benefit for such individual for such
11 year shall be reduced as provided in regulations
12 prescribed by the Secretary to properly cor-
13 respond to such period.

14 “(5) PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM.—The term
15 ‘public retirement system’ means any pension, annu-
16 ity, retirement, or similar fund or system established
17 by the United States, a State, a possession of the
18 United States, any political subdivision of any of the
19 foregoing, or the District of Columbia.”

20 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Subparagraph (A) of
21 section 86(b)(2) of such Code (defining modified adjusted
22 gross income) is amended by inserting “138,” before
23 “911”.

24 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
25 for part III of subchapter B of chapter 1 of such Code

1 (relating to items specifically excluded from income) is
2 amended by redesignating the item relating to section 138
3 as section 139 and by inserting after the item relating to
4 section 137 the following new item:

“Sec. 138. Certain pensions and annuities under public retirement
systems.”

5 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
6 this Act shall apply to taxable years beginning after the
7 date of the enactment of this Act.

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