## S. 487

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide additional retirement savings opportunities for small employers, including self-employed individuals.

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

February 25, 1999

Mr. Grams (for himself and Mr. Ashcroft) 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 provide additional retirement savings opportunities for small employers, including self-employed individuals.

- 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; REFERENCE.
- 4 (a) Short Title.—This Act may be cited as the
- 5 "Small Employer Nest Egg Act".
- 6 (b) Amendment of 1986 Code.—Except as other-
- 7 wise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amend-
- 8 ment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment
- 9 to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference

1	shall be considered to be made to a section or other provi
2	sion of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.
3	SEC. 2. QUALIFIED SMALL EMPLOYER PLAN.
4	(a) In General.—Section 401 is amended by redes
5	ignating subsection (o) as subsection (p) and by inserting
6	after subsection (n) the following new subsection:
7	"(o) Qualified Small Employer Plan.—
8	"(1) In general.—A trust created or orga
9	nized in the United States and forming part of a
10	small employer plan of a small employer for the ex
11	clusive benefit of its employees or their beneficiaries
12	constitutes a qualified trust under subsection (a) is
13	such plan meets the requirements of paragraph (2)
14	"(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A plan meets the re-
15	quirements of this paragraph if—
16	"(A) such plan is the only qualified retire
17	ment plan of a small employer,
18	"(B) the plan year for such plan is the cal
19	endar year,
20	"(C) as of the 1st day of the plan year
21	such plan covers all eligible employees of the
22	employer,
23	"(D) such plan meets the contribution re
24	quirements of paragraph (4),

1	"(E) such plan meets the vesting require-
2	ments of paragraph (5),
3	"(F) such plan meets the funding require-
4	ments of section 412, if applicable, and
5	"(G) such plan meets the other require-
6	ments specified in paragraph (6).
7	"(3) Eligible employee.—For purposes of
8	paragraph (2)(C), the term 'eligible employee' means
9	an individual who—
10	"(A) has attained age 21, and
11	"(B) has completed not less than 1,000
12	hours of service for the employer during the cal-
13	endar year preceding the plan year.
14	"(4) Contributions.—A plan meets the re-
15	quirements of this paragraph and subsection (l)(2)
16	(relating to permitted disparity) if—
17	"(A) employer contributions to the plan—
18	"(i) are not less than 3 percent, and
19	do not in exceed 10 percent, of compensa-
20	tion of all participants in the plan, and
21	"(ii) are allocated to all participants
22	in the plan on a uniform basis, and
23	"(B) in the case of discretionary employer
24	contributions—

1	"(i) such contributions made to the
2	plan do not exceed 15 percent of com-
3	pensation and are allocated to all
4	participants—
5	"(I) as a level percentage of com-
6	pensation, or
7	" $(\Pi)$ under a formula that meets
8	the requirements of subsection (l), or
9	"(ii) are made to the same plan to an
10	arrangement meeting the requirements of
11	subsection (k), in which case the minimum
12	3 percent contribution referred to in sub-
13	paragraph (A)(i) shall be applied against
14	the matching contributions of subsection
15	(k)(12).
16	"(5) Vesting.—
17	"(A) IN GENERAL.—A plan satisfies the
18	requirements of this paragraph if it satisfies the
19	requirements of either of the following clauses:
20	"(i) 3-year vesting.—A plan satis-
21	fies the requirements of this clause if an
22	employee who has completed at least 3
23	years of service with the employer or em-
24	ployers maintaining the plan has a non-
25	forfeitable right to 100 percent of his ac-

1	crued benefit derived from employer con-
2	tributions.
3	"(ii) 6-year graded vesting.—A
4	plan satisfies the requirements of this
5	clause if an employee has a nonforfeitable
6	right to a percentage of his accrued benefit
7	derived from employer contributions deter-
8	mined under the following table:
	Years of service percentage is: 2
	3       40         4       60         5       80         6 or more       100
9	"(B) CERTAIN RULES MADE APPLICA-
10	BLE.—Except to the extent inconsistent with
11	the provisions of this paragraph, the rules of
12	section 411 shall apply for purposes of this sub-
13	section.
14	"(C) Year of Service.—For purposes of
15	subparagraph (A), years of service shall be de-
16	termined under the last sentence of section
17	410(a)(3)(A).
18	"(6) Other requirements.—
19	"(A) Arrangement may be only plan
20	OF EMPLOYER.—
21	"(i) In general.—An arrangement
22	shall not be treated as a qualified small

employer plan for any year if the employer (or any predecessor employer) maintained a qualified plan with respect to which contributions were made, or benefits were accrued, for service in any year in the period beginning with the year such arrangement became effective and ending with the year for which the determination is being made. If only individuals other than employees described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 410(b)(3) are eligible to participate in such arrangement, then the preceding sentence shall be applied without regard to any qualified plan in which only employees so described are eligible to participate.

"(ii) QUALIFIED PLAN.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term 'qualified plan' means a plan, contract, pension, or trust described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 219(g)(5).

"(iii) Grace Period.—In the case of an employer who establishes and maintains a plan under this subsection for 1 or more years and who fails to meet any requirement of this subsection for any subsequent

1	year due to any acquisition, disposition, or
2	similar transaction involving another such
3	employer, rules similar to the rules of sec-
4	tion 410(b)(6)(C) shall apply for purposes
5	of this subsection.
6	"(iv) Rule of construction.—
7	Clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) shall not be con-
8	strued to prevent a rollover contribution
9	that meets the requirements of section
10	402(c) or to prevent the adoption of the
11	qualified small employer plan as a succes-
12	sor plan.
13	"(B) Plan may not be esop.—A small
14	employer plan does not meet the requirements
15	of paragraph (1) if such plan is—
16	"(i) a tax credit employee stock own-
17	ership plan (as defined in section 409(a)),
18	or
19	"(ii) an employee stock ownership
20	plan (as defined in section $4975(e)(7)$ ).
21	"(C) OTHER APPLICABLE PROVISIONS.—A
22	plan shall not be treated as a qualified small
23	employer plan unless the plan meets the re-
24	quirements of the following:

1	"(i) paragraphs (1), (2), (9), (11),
2	(12), (13), (14), (15), (16), (17), (19),
3	(20), $(22)$ , $(23)$ , $(27)$ , $(30)$ , and $(31)$ of
4	subsection (a), and
5	"(ii) subsections (b), (c), and (d).
6	"(7) Compensation defined.—For purposes
7	of this subsection, the term 'compensation' has the
8	meaning given such term by section
9	404(a)(3)(A)(v).".
10	(b) Definition of Small Employer.—
11	(1) In general.—Section 414 (relating to
12	definitions and special rules) is amended by adding
13	at the end the following new subsection:
14	"(v) Small Employer.—For purposes of this part,
15	the term 'small employer' means an employer (including
16	a professional service organization) that, on the 1st day
17	of the plan year, has 100 or fewer employees.".
18	(2) Conforming amendments.—
19	(A) Subsections (b) and (c) of section 414
20	are each amended by inserting "subsection (v)
21	and" after "For purposes of".
22	(B) Paragraph (3) of section 414(n) is
23	amended by striking "and" at the end of sub-
24	paragraph (B), by striking the period at the
25	end of subparagraph (C) and inserting ", and",

1	and by adding at the end the following new sub-
2	paragraph:
3	"(D) subsection (v).".
4	(c) Deduction for Contributions of Em-
5	PLOYER.—Clause (i) of section 404(a)(3)(A) is amended
6	by striking "or" at the end of subclause (I), by striking
7	the period at the end of subclause (II) and inserting ",
8	or", and by adding at the end the following new subclause:
9	"(III) the amount such employer is al-
10	lowed to contribute to such trust under
11	section 401(o) for such year, but not more
12	than 25 percent of aggregate compensa-
13	tion.".
14	(d) SINGLE ANNUAL ENTRY DATE.—
15	(1) Definition of Year of Service.—Sub-
16	paragraph (A) of section 410(a)(3) of such Code (re-
17	lating to general rule for definition of year of serv-
18	ice) is amended by adding at the end the following:
19	"In the case of service for an employer who has in
20	effect a qualified small employer plan under section
21	401(o), computation of any 12-month period shall be
22	made with reference to the first day of the calendar
23	year in which employment of the employee com-
24	menced.".

1	(2) Time of Participation.—Paragraph (4)
2	of section 410(a) (relating to time of participation)
3	is amended by adding at the end the following: "In
4	the case of a qualified small employer plan under
5	section 401(o), the preceding sentence shall be ap-
6	plied without regard to subparagraph (B).".
7	(e) Repeal of Top-Heavy Provisions.—
8	(1) In general.—Section 416 is repealed, and
9	the table of sections for subpart B of part 1 of sub-
10	chapter D of chapter 1 is amended by striking the
11	item relating to section 416.
12	(2) Conforming amendments.—
13	(A) Section 414 is amended by adding at
14	the end the following:
15	"(w) Key Employee.—
16	"(1) In general.—The term 'key employee'
17	means an employee who, at any time during the plan
18	year or any of the 4 preceding plan years, is—
19	"(A) an officer of the employer having an
20	annual compensation greater than 50 percent of
21	the amount in effect under section 415(b)(1)(A)
22	for any such plan year,
23	"(B) 1 of the 10 employees having annual
24	compensation from the employer of more than
25	the limitation in effect under section

1	415(c)(1)(A) and owning (or considered as own-
2	ing within the meaning of section 318) the larg-
3	est interests in the employer,
4	"(C) a 5-percent owner of the employer, or
5	"(D) a 1-percent owner of the employer
6	having an annual compensation from the em-
7	ployer of more than \$150,000.
8	For purposes of subparagraph (A), no more than 50
9	employees (or, if lesser, the greater of 3 or 10 per-
10	cent of the employees) shall be treated as officers.
11	For purposes of subparagraph (B), if 2 employees
12	have the same interest in the employer, the employee
13	having greater annual compensation from the em-
14	ployer shall be treated as having a larger interest.
15	Such term shall not include any officer or employee
16	of an entity referred to in section 414(d) (relating
17	to governmental plans). For purposes of determining
18	the number of officers taken into account under sub-
19	paragraph (A), employees described in section
20	414(q)(5) shall be excluded.
21	"(2) Percentage owners.—
22	"(A) 5-PERCENT OWNER.—For purposes of
23	this subsection, the term '5-percent owner'
24	means—

1	"(i) if the employer is a corporation,
2	any person who owns (or is considered as
3	owning within the meaning of section 318)
4	more than 5 percent of the outstanding
5	stock of the corporation or stock possess-
6	ing more than 5 percent of the total com-
7	bined voting power of all stock of the cor-
8	poration, or
9	"(ii) if the employer is not a corpora-
10	tion, any person who owns more than 5
11	percent of the capital or profits interest in
12	the employer.
13	"(B) 1-percent owner.—For purposes
14	of this paragraph, the term '1-percent owner'
15	means any person who would be described in
16	subparagraph (A) if '1 percent' were sub-
17	stituted for '5 percent' each place it appears in
18	subparagraph (A).
19	"(C) Constructive ownership
20	RULES.—For purposes of this paragraph and
21	paragraph (1)(B)—
22	"(i) subparagraph (C) of section
23	318(a)(2) shall be applied by substituting
24	'5 percent' for '50 percent', and

1	"(ii) in the case of any employer
2	which is not a corporation, ownership in
3	such employer shall be determined in ac-
4	cordance with regulations prescribed by the
5	Secretary which shall be based on prin-
6	ciples similar to the principles of section
7	318 (as modified by subclause (I)).
8	"(3) Aggregation rules do not apply for
9	PURPOSES OF DETERMINING OWNERSHIP IN THE
10	EMPLOYER.—The rules of subsections (b), (c), and
11	(m) of section 414 shall not apply for purposes of
12	determining ownership in the employer.
13	"(4) Compensation.—For purposes of this
14	paragraph, the term 'compensation' has the meaning
15	given such term by section 414(q)(4).".
16	(B) Subparagraph (B) of section 45A(c)(5)
17	is amended by striking "section 416(i)(1)(B)"
18	and inserting "section 414(w)(2)".
19	(C) Section 72 is amended—
20	(i) in subsection (m)(5)(C) by striking
21	"section 416(i)(1)(B)" and inserting "sec-
22	tion $414(w)(2)$ ", and
23	(ii) in subsection (p)(3)(B)(i) by strik-
24	ing "section 416(i)" and inserting "section
25	414(w)".

1	(D) Paragraph (6) of section 79(d) is
2	amended by striking "section 416(i)" and in-
3	serting "section 414(w)".
4	(E) Paragraph (2) of section 125(b) is
5	amended by striking "section 416(i)(1)" and in-
6	serting "section 414(w)".
7	(F) Clause (i) of section 280F(6)(D) is
8	amended by striking "section 416(i)(1)(B)(i)"
9	and inserting "section 414(w)(2)(A)".
10	(G) Section 401 is amended—
11	(i) in subclause (I) of subsection
12	(a)(9)(C)(ii) by striking "section 416" and
13	inserting "section 414(w)".
14	(ii) in subsection (a)(10) by striking
15	subparagraph (B),
16	(iii) in subsection (h) by striking "sec-
17	tion 416(i)" and inserting "section
18	414(w)", and
19	(iv) by amending subparagraph (D) of
20	subsection $(k)(11)$ to read as follows:
21	"(D) Definitions.—For purposes of this
22	paragraph, any term used in this paragraph
23	which is also used in section 408(p) shall have
24	the meaning given such term by such section.".

1	(H) Paragraph (1) of section 408(k) is
2	amended by striking "annuity—" and all that
3	follows and inserting "annuity with respect to
4	which the requirements of paragraphs (2), (3),
5	(4), and (5) of this subsection are met.".
6	(I) Section 414 is amended—
7	(i) in subsections (b), (c), (m)(4), and
8	(n)(3)(B) by striking "415, and 416,"
9	each place it appears and inserting "and
10	415",
11	(ii) in subsection (o) by striking
12	"which has no top-heavy plans (within the
13	meaning of section 416(g)) and",
14	(iii) in subsection $(q)(2)$ by striking
15	"section 416(i)(1)" and inserting "section
16	414(w)", and
17	(iv) in subsection (u)(1)(C) by strik-
18	ing "410(b), or 416" and inserting "or
19	410(b)".
20	(J) Clause (ii) of section $415(k)(2)(F)$ is
21	amended to read as follows:
22	"(ii) Key employee.—For purposes
23	of this subparagraph, the term 'key em-
24	ployee' has the meaning given such term
25	by section 414(w), except that such term

1	shall not include an individual who is a key
2	employee solely by reason of section
3	414(w)(1)(A).".
4	(K) Paragraph (3) of section 419A(d) is
5	amended by striking "section 416(i)" and in-
6	serting "section 414(w)".
7	(L) Subparagraph (D) of section 420(e)(1)
8	is amended by striking "section 416(i)(1)" and
9	inserting "section 414(w)".
10	(M) Clause (ii) of section $469(e)(7)(D)$ is
11	amended by striking "section 416(i)(1)(B)" and
12	inserting "section 414(w)(2)".
13	(N) Subparagraph (B) of section
14	1396(d)(2) is amended by striking "section
15	416(i)(1)(B)" and inserting "section
16	414(w)(2)".
17	(f) Compensation.—Subparagraph (A) of section
18	404(a)(3) (relating to stock bonus and profit-sharing
19	trusts) is amended by redesignating clause (v) as clause
20	(vi) and by inserting after clause (iv) the following new
21	clause:
22	"(v) Compensation defined.—For
23	purposes of this paragraph, the term 'com-
24	pensation' means a participant's com-

1	pensation (as defined by section
2	415(c)(3))".
3	(g) Effective Date.—The amendments made by
4	this section shall apply to years beginning after December
5	31, 1998.
6	SEC. 3. CREDIT FOR EMPLOYER EXPENSES IN ESTABLISH-
7	ING QUALIFIED SMALL EMPLOYER RETIRE-
8	MENT PLANS.
9	(a) General Rule.—Subpart D of part IV of sub-
10	chapter A of chapter 1 is amended by adding at the end
11	the following new section:
12	"SEC. 45D. EXPENSES IN ESTABLISHING QUALIFIED SMALL
13	EMPLOYER RETIREMENT PLANS.
14	"(a) General Rule.—For purposes of section 38,
	"(a) General Rule.—For purposes of section 38, the qualified small employer retirement plan credit deter-
15	
15 16	the qualified small employer retirement plan credit deter-
15 16 17	the qualified small employer retirement plan credit deter- mined under this section for the taxable year is an amount
15 16 17 18	the qualified small employer retirement plan credit determined under this section for the taxable year is an amount equal to 50 percent of the qualified retirement plan ex-
	the qualified small employer retirement plan credit determined under this section for the taxable year is an amount equal to 50 percent of the qualified retirement plan expenses paid or incurred in the taxable year by an eligible
15 16 17 18	the qualified small employer retirement plan credit determined under this section for the taxable year is an amount equal to 50 percent of the qualified retirement plan expenses paid or incurred in the taxable year by an eligible small employer.
15 16 17 18 19 20	the qualified small employer retirement plan credit determined under this section for the taxable year is an amount equal to 50 percent of the qualified retirement plan expenses paid or incurred in the taxable year by an eligible small employer.  "(b) LIMITATION.—The credit allowed under sub-
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	the qualified small employer retirement plan credit determined under this section for the taxable year is an amount equal to 50 percent of the qualified retirement plan expenses paid or incurred in the taxable year by an eligible small employer.  "(b) LIMITATION.—The credit allowed under subsection (a) shall not exceed—

1	"(2) \$1,000 for each of the 4 years following
2	the year in which such plan was adopted and zero
3	thereafter.
4	"(c) Definitions.—For purposes of subsection
5	(a)—
6	"(1) QUALIFIED RETIREMENT PLAN EX-
7	PENSE.—The term 'qualified retirement plan ex-
8	pense' means an expense—
9	"(A) for establishing, maintaining, and ad-
10	ministering a qualified small employer retire-
11	ment plan, and
12	"(B) for educating employees with respect
13	to such plan.
14	"(2) Eligible small employer.—The term
15	'eligible small employer' means a small employer (as
16	defined in section 414(v)) who has in effect a quali-
17	fied small employer retirement plan on or before De-
18	cember 31, 2000.
19	"(3) Qualified small employer retire-
20	MENT PLAN.—The term 'qualified small employer
21	retirement plan' means a small employer plan estab-
22	lished under section 401(o).".
23	(b) Credit Made Part of General Business
24	CREDIT.—Subsection (b) of section 38 is amended by
25	striking "plus" at the end of paragraph (11), by striking

1	the period at the end of paragraph (12) and inserting ",
2	plus", and by adding at the end thereof the following new
3	paragraph:
4	"(13) the qualified small employer retirement
5	plan credit determined under section 45D(a).".
6	(c) Credit Allowed Against Regular and Mini-
7	MUM TAX.—
8	(1) In general.—Subsection (c) of section 38
9	(relating to limitation based on amount of tax) is
10	amended by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-
11	graph (4) and by inserting after paragraph (2) the
12	following new paragraph:
13	"(3) Special rules for qualified small
14	EMPLOYER RETIREMENT PLAN CREDIT.—
15	"(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of the
16	qualified small employer retirement plan
17	credit—
18	"(i) this section and section 39 shall
19	be applied separately with respect to the
20	credit, and
21	"(ii) in applying paragraph (1) to the
22	credit—
23	"(I) subparagraph (A) thereof
24	shall not apply, and

1	"(II) the limitation under para-
2	graph (1) (as modified by subclause
3	(I)) shall be reduced by the credit al-
4	lowed under subsection (a) for the
5	taxable year (other than the qualified
6	small employer retirement plan cred-
7	it).
8	"(B) Qualified small employer re-
9	TIREMENT PLAN CREDIT.—For purposes of this
10	subsection, the term 'qualified small employer
11	retirement plan credit' means the credit allow-
12	able under subsection (a) by reason of section
13	45D(a).".
14	(2) Conforming amendment.—Subclause (II)
15	of section $38(c)(2)(A)(ii)$ is amended by inserting
16	"or the qualified small employer retirement plan
17	credit" after "employment credit".
18	(d) Limitation on Carryback.—Subsection (d) of
19	section 39 is amended by adding at the end thereof the
20	following new paragraph:
21	"(7) No carryback of qualified small em-
22	PLOYER RETIREMENT PLAN CREDIT BEFORE EFFEC-
23	TIVE DATE.—No portion of the unused business
24	credit for any taxable year which is attributable to
25	the credit determined under section 45D may be

- 1 carried back to any taxable year ending before the
- 2 date of the enactment of section 45D.".
- 3 (e) Deduction for Certain Unused Business
- 4 Credits.—Subsection (c) of section 196 is amended by
- 5 striking "and" at the end of paragraph (6), by striking
- 6 the period at the end of paragraph (7) and inserting ",
- 7 and", and by adding after paragraph (7) the following new
- 8 paragraph:
- 9 "(8) the qualified small employer retirement
- plan credit determined under section 45D.".
- 11 (f) Denial of Double Benefit.—Section 280C is
- 12 amended by adding at the end thereof the following new
- 13 subsection:
- 14 "(d) Credit for Qualified Small Employer Re-
- 15 TIREMENT PLAN EXPENSES.—No deduction shall be al-
- 16 lowed for that portion of the expenses referred to in sec-
- 17 tion 45D(c)(1) otherwise allowable as a deduction for the
- 18 taxable year which is equal to the amount of the credit
- 19 determined for such taxable year under section 45D(a).".
- 20 (g) Clerical Amendment.—The table of sections
- 21 for subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1
- 22 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"Sec. 45D. Expenses in establishing qualified small employer retirement plans.".

1	(h) Effective Date.—The amendments made by
2	this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after
3	the date of the enactment of this Act.
4	SEC. 4. IMPLEMENTATION.
5	(a) Model Plan.—Not later than 6 months after
6	the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
7	the Treasury shall issue a model small employer retire-
8	ment plan that meets the requirements of section 401(o)
9	of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.
10	(b) SIMPLIFIED ANNUAL FILING REQUIREMENT FOR
11	OWNERS AND THEIR SPOUSES.—
12	(1) In general.—The Secretary of the Treas-
13	ury shall modify the requirements for filing annual
14	returns with respect to one-participant retirement
15	plans to ensure that such plans with assets of
16	\$500,000 or less as of the close of the plan year
17	need not file a return for that year.
18	(2) One-participant retirement plan de-
19	FINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term
20	"one-participant retirement plan" means a retire-
21	ment plan that—
22	(A) on the first day of the plan year—
23	(i) covered only the employer (and the
24	employer's spouse) and the employer

1	owned the entire business (whether or not
2	incorporated), or
3	(ii) covered only one or more partners
4	(and their spouses) in a business partner-
5	ship,
6	(B) meets the minimum coverage require-
7	ments of section 410(b) of the Internal Revenue
8	Code of 1986 without being combined with any
9	other plan of the business that covers the em-
10	ployees of the business,
11	(C) does not provide benefits to anyone ex-
12	cept the employer (and the employer's spouse)
13	or the partners (and their spouses),
14	(D) does not cover a business that is a
15	member of an affiliated service group, a con-
16	trolled group of corporations, or a group of
17	businesses under common control, and
18	(E) does not cover a business that leases
19	employees.
20	(3) Other definitions.—Terms used in para-
21	graph (2) which are also used in section 414 of the
22	Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall have the re-
23	spective meanings given such terms by such section.
24	(e) Simplified Annual Filing Requirement for
25	PLANS WITH FEWER THAN 25 EMPLOYEES.—In the case

- 1 of a retirement plan which covers less than 25 employees
- 2 on the 1st day of the plan year and meets the require-
- 3 ments described in subparagraphs (B), (D), and (E) of
- 4 subsection (b)(2), the Secretary of the Treasury shall pro-
- 5 vide for the filing of a simplified annual return that is
- 6 substantially similar to the annual return required to be
- 7 filed by a one-participant retirement plan.

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