

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1504

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow as a deduction in determining adjusted gross income the deduction for expenses in connection with services as a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States, to allow employers a credit against income tax with respect to employees who participate in the military reserve components, and to allow a comparable credit for participating reserve component self-employed individuals, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 27, 2003

Mr. VITTER 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 allow as a deduction in determining adjusted gross income the deduction for expenses in connection with services as a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States, to allow employers a credit against income tax with respect to employees who participate in the military reserve components, and to allow a comparable credit for participating reserve component self-employed individuals, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Reserve Component
3 Tax Assistance Act of 2003”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEDUCTION OF CERTAIN EXPENSES OF MEMBERS**
5 **OF THE RESERVE COMPONENT.**

6 (a) DEDUCTION ALLOWED.—Section 162 of the In-
7 ternal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to certain trade or
8 business expenses) is amended by redesignating subsection
9 (p) as subsection (q) and inserting after subsection (o) the
10 following new subsection:

11 “(p) TREATMENT OF EXPENSES OF MEMBERS OF
12 RESERVE COMPONENT OF ARMED FORCES OF THE
13 UNITED STATES.—For purposes of subsection (a), in the
14 case of an individual who performs services as a member
15 of a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United
16 States at any time during the taxable year, such individual
17 shall be deemed to be away from home in the pursuit of
18 a trade or business during any period for which such indi-
19 vidual is away from home in connection with such serv-
20 ice.”.

21 (b) DEDUCTION ALLOWED WHETHER OR NOT TAX-
22 PAYER ELECTS TO ITEMIZE.—Section 62(a)(2) of the In-
23 ternal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to certain trade and
24 business deductions of employees) is amended by adding
25 at the end the following new subparagraph:

1 “(D) CERTAIN EXPENSES OF MEMBERS OF
2 RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES
3 OF THE UNITED STATES.—The deductions al-
4 lowed by section 162 which consist of expenses
5 paid or incurred by the taxpayer in connection
6 with the performance of services by such tax-
7 payer as a member of a reserve component of
8 the Armed Forces of the United States.”.

9 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
10 this section shall apply to amounts paid or incurred in tax-
11 able years beginning after December 31, 2002.

12 **SEC. 3. CREDIT FOR EMPLOYMENT OF RESERVE COMPO-**
13 **NENT PERSONNEL.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart D of part IV of sub-
15 chapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of
16 1986 (relating to business-related credits) is amended by
17 adding at the end the following new section:

18 **“SEC. 45G. RESERVE COMPONENT EMPLOYMENT CREDIT.**

19 “(a) GENERAL RULE.—For purposes of section 38,
20 the reserve component employment credit determined
21 under this section is an amount equal to the sum of—

22 “(1) the employment credit with respect to all
23 qualified employees of the taxpayer, plus

24 “(2) the self-employment credit of a qualified
25 self-employed taxpayer.

1 “(b) EMPLOYMENT CREDIT.—For purposes of this
2 section—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The employment credit
4 with respect to a qualified employee of the taxpayer
5 for any taxable year is equal to 50 percent of the
6 amount of qualified compensation that would have
7 been paid to the employee with respect to all periods
8 during which the employee participates in qualified
9 reserve component duty to the exclusion of normal
10 employment duties, including time spent in a travel
11 status had the employee not been participating in
12 qualified reserve component duty. The employment
13 credit, with respect to all qualified employees, is
14 equal to the sum of the employment credits for each
15 qualified employee under this subsection.

16 “(2) QUALIFIED COMPENSATION.—When used
17 with respect to the compensation paid or that would
18 have been paid to a qualified employee for any pe-
19 riod during which the employee participates in quali-
20 fied reserve component duty, the term ‘qualified
21 compensation’ means compensation—

22 “(A) which is normally contingent on the
23 employee’s presence for work and which would
24 be deductible from the taxpayer’s gross income

1 under section 162(a)(1) if the employee were
2 present and receiving such compensation, and

3 “(B) which is not characterized by the tax-
4 payer as vacation or holiday pay, or as sick
5 leave or pay, or as any other form of pay for
6 a nonspecific leave of absence, and with respect
7 to which the number of days the employee par-
8 ticipates in qualified reserve component duty
9 does not result in any reduction in the amount
10 of vacation time, sick leave, or other nonspecific
11 leave previously credited to or earned by the
12 employee.

13 “(3) QUALIFIED EMPLOYEE.—The term ‘quali-
14 fied employee’ means a person who—

15 “(A) has been an employee of the taxpayer
16 for the 21-day period immediately preceding the
17 period during which the employee participates
18 in qualified reserve component duty, and

19 “(B) is a member of the Ready Reserve of
20 a reserve component of an Armed Force of the
21 United States as defined in sections 10142 and
22 10101 of title 10, United States Code.

23 “(c) SELF-EMPLOYMENT CREDIT.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The self-employment credit
2 of a qualified self-employed taxpayer for any taxable
3 year is equal to 50 percent of the excess, if any, of—

4 “(A) the self-employed taxpayer’s average
5 daily self-employment income for the taxable
6 year over

7 “(B) the average daily military pay and al-
8 lowances received by the taxpayer during the
9 taxable year, while participating in qualified re-
10 serve component duty to the exclusion of the
11 taxpayer’s normal self-employment duties for
12 the number of days the taxpayer participates in
13 qualified reserve component duty during the
14 taxable year, including time spent in a travel
15 status.

16 “(2) AVERAGE DAILY SELF-EMPLOYMENT IN-
17 COME AND AVERAGE DAILY MILITARY PAY AND AL-
18 LOWANCES.—As used with respect to a self-em-
19 ployed taxpayer—

20 “(A) the term ‘average daily self-employ-
21 ment income’ means the self-employment in-
22 come (as defined in section 1402) of the tax-
23 payer for the taxable year divided by the dif-
24 ference between—

25 “(i) 365, and

1 “(ii) the number of days the taxpayer
2 participates in qualified reserve component
3 duty during the taxable year, including
4 time spent in a travel status, and

5 “(B) the term ‘average daily military pay
6 and allowances’ means—

7 “(i) the amount paid to the taxpayer
8 during the taxable year as military pay
9 and allowances on account of the tax-
10 payer’s participation in qualified reserve
11 component duty, divided by

12 “(ii) the total number of days the tax-
13 payer participates in qualified reserve com-
14 ponent duty, including time spent in travel
15 status.

16 “(3) QUALIFIED SELF-EMPLOYED TAXPAYER.—
17 The term ‘qualified self-employed taxpayer’ means a
18 taxpayer who—

19 “(A) has net earnings from self-employ-
20 ment (as defined in section 1402) for the tax-
21 able year, and

22 “(B) is a member of the Ready Reserve of
23 a reserve component of an Armed Force of the
24 United States.

1 “(d) CREDIT IN ADDITION TO DEDUCTION.—The
2 employment credit provided in this section is in addition
3 to any deduction otherwise allowable with respect to com-
4 pensation actually paid to a qualified employee during any
5 period the employee participates in qualified reserve com-
6 ponent duty to the exclusion of normal employment duties.

7 “(e) LIMITATIONS.—

8 “(1) MAXIMUM CREDIT.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The credit allowed by
10 subsection (a) for the taxable year—

11 “(i) shall not exceed \$7,500 in the ag-
12 gregate, and

13 “(ii) shall not exceed \$2,000 with re-
14 spect to each qualified employee.

15 “(B) CONTROLLED GROUPS.—For pur-
16 poses of applying the limitations in subpara-
17 graph (A)—

18 “(i) all members of a controlled group
19 shall be treated as one taxpayer, and

20 “(ii) such limitations shall be allo-
21 cated among the members of such group in
22 such manner as the Secretary may pre-
23 scribe.

24 For purposes of this subparagraph, all persons
25 treated as a single employer under subsection

1 (a) or (b) of section 52 or subsection (m) or
2 (o) of section 414 shall be treated as members
3 of a controlled group.

4 “(2) DISALLOWANCE FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY
5 WITH EMPLOYMENT OR REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS OF
6 MEMBERS OF THE RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE
7 ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES.—No credit
8 shall be allowed under subsection (a) to a taxpayer
9 for—

10 “(A) any taxable year in which the tax-
11 payer is under a final order, judgment, or other
12 process issued or required by a district court of
13 the United States under section 4323 of title 38
14 of the United States Code with respect to a vio-
15 lation of chapter 43 of such title, and

16 “(B) the two succeeding taxable years.

17 “(3) DISALLOWANCE WITH RESPECT TO PER-
18 SONS ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING.—
19 No credit shall be allowed under subsection (a) to a
20 taxpayer with respect to any period for which the
21 person on whose behalf the credit would otherwise be
22 allowable is called or ordered to active duty for any
23 of the following types of duty:

24 “(A) active duty for training under any
25 provision of title 10, United States Code,

1 “(B) training at encampments, maneuvers,
2 outdoor target practice, or other exercises under
3 chapter 5 of title 32, United States Code, or

4 “(C) full-time National Guard duty, as de-
5 fined in section 101(d)(5) of title 10, United
6 States Code.

7 “(f) GENERAL DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.—

8 “(1) MILITARY PAY AND ALLOWANCES.—The
9 term ‘military pay’ means pay as that term is de-
10 fined in section 101(21) of title 37, United States
11 Code, and the term ‘allowances’ means the allow-
12 ances payable to a member of the Armed Forces of
13 the United States under chapter 7 of that title.

14 “(2) QUALIFIED RESERVE COMPONENT
15 DUTY.—The term ‘qualified reserve component duty’
16 includes only active duty performed, as designated in
17 the reservist’s military orders, in support of a con-
18 tingency operation as defined in section 101(a)(13)
19 of title 10, United States Code.

20 “(3) NORMAL EMPLOYMENT AND SELF-EM-
21 PLOYMENT DUTIES.—A person shall be deemed to
22 be participating in qualified reserve component duty
23 to the exclusion of normal employment or self-em-
24 ployment duties if the person does not engage in or
25 undertake any substantial activity related to the per-

1 son's normal employment or self-employment duties
2 while participating in qualified reserve component
3 duty unless in an authorized leave status or other
4 authorized absence from military duties. If a person
5 engages in or undertakes any substantial activity re-
6 lated to the person's normal employment or self-em-
7 ployment duties at any time while participating in a
8 period of qualified reserve component duty, unless
9 during a period of authorized leave or other author-
10 ized absence from military duties, the person shall
11 be deemed to have engaged in or undertaken such
12 activity for the entire period of qualified reserve
13 component duty.

14 “(4) CERTAIN RULES TO APPLY.—Rules similar
15 to the rules of subsections (c), (d), and (e) of section
16 52 shall apply for purposes of this section.”.

17 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 38(b) of
18 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to general
19 business credit) is amended—

20 (1) by striking “plus” at the end of paragraph
21 (14),

22 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-
23 graph (15) and inserting “, plus”, and

24 (3) by adding at the end the following new
25 paragraph:

1 “(16) the reserve component employment credit
2 determined under section 45G(a).”.

3 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
4 for subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1
5 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by in-
6 serting after the item relating to section 45F the following
7 new item:

 “Sec. 45G. Reserve component employment credit.”.

8 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
9 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after
10 December 31, 2002.

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