

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1577

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to retain the estate tax with an immediate increase in the exemption, to repeal the new carryover basis rules in order to prevent tax increases and the imposition of compliance burdens on many more estates than would benefit from repeal, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 12, 2005

Mr. POMEROY (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. OBEY) 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 retain the estate tax with an immediate increase in the exemption, to repeal the new carryover basis rules in order to prevent tax increases and the imposition of compliance burdens on many more estates than would benefit from repeal, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Certain and Immediate
5 Estate Tax Relief Act of 2005”.

1 **SEC. 2. RETENTION OF ESTATE TAX; REPEAL OF CARRY-**
2 **OVER BASIS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitles A and E of title V of
4 the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act
5 of 2001, and the amendments made by such subtitles, are
6 hereby repealed; and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
7 shall be applied as if such subtitles, and amendments, had
8 never been enacted.

9 (b) SUNSET NOT TO APPLY.—Section 901 of the Eco-
10 nomic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001
11 shall not apply to title V of such Act.

12 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subsections (d)
13 and (e) of section 511 of the Economic Growth and Tax
14 Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001, and the amendments
15 made by such subsections, are hereby repealed; and the
16 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be applied as if such
17 subsections, and amendments, had never been enacted.

18 **SEC. 3. MODIFICATIONS TO ESTATE TAX.**

19 (a) IMMEDIATE INCREASE IN EXCLUSION EQUIVA-
20 LENT OF UNIFIED CREDIT.—Subsection (c) of section
21 2010 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to
22 applicable credit amount) is amended by striking all that
23 follows “the applicable exclusion amount” and inserting
24 “. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the applicable
25 exclusion amount is \$3,500,000 (\$3,000,000 in the case
26 of estates of decedents dying before 2009).”.

1 (b) FREEZE MAXIMUM ESTATE TAX RATE AT 47
 2 PERCENT; RESTORATION OF PHASEOUT OF GRADUATED
 3 RATES AND UNIFIED CREDIT.—

4 (1) Paragraph (1) of section 2001(c) of such
 5 Code is amended by striking the last 2 items in the
 6 table and inserting the following new item:

“Over \$2,000,000 \$780,800, plus 47 percent of the ex-
 cess of such amount over
 \$2,000,000.”.

7 (2) Paragraph (2) of section 2001(c) of such
 8 Code is amended to read as follows:

9 “(2) PHASEOUT OF GRADUATED RATES AND
 10 UNIFIED CREDIT.—The tentative tax determined
 11 under paragraph (1) shall be increased by an
 12 amount equal to 5 percent of so much of the amount
 13 (with respect to which the tentative tax is to be com-
 14 puted) as exceeds \$10,000,000. The amount of the
 15 increase under the preceding sentence shall not ex-
 16 ceed the sum of the applicable credit amount under
 17 section 2010(c) and \$159,200.”.

18 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 19 this section shall apply to estates of decedents dying, and
 20 gifts made, after December 31, 2005.

1 **SEC. 4. VALUATION RULES FOR CERTAIN TRANSFERS OF**
2 **NONBUSINESS ASSETS; LIMITATION ON MI-**
3 **NORITY DISCOUNTS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2031 of the Internal Rev-
5 enue Code of 1986 (relating to definition of gross estate)
6 is amended by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection
7 (f) and by inserting after subsection (c) the following new
8 subsections:

9 “(d) VALUATION RULES FOR CERTAIN TRANSFERS
10 OF NONBUSINESS ASSETS.—For purposes of this chapter
11 and chapter 12—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of the transfer
13 of any interest in an entity other than an interest
14 which is actively traded (within the meaning of sec-
15 tion 1092)—

16 “(A) the value of any nonbusiness assets
17 held by the entity shall be determined as if the
18 transferor had transferred such assets directly
19 to the transferee (and no valuation discount
20 shall be allowed with respect to such nonbusi-
21 ness assets), and

22 “(B) the nonbusiness assets shall not be
23 taken into account in determining the value of
24 the interest in the entity.

25 “(2) NONBUSINESS ASSETS.—For purposes of
26 this subsection—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘nonbusi-
2 ness asset’ means any asset which is not used
3 in the active conduct of 1 or more trades or
4 businesses.

5 “(B) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN PASSIVE
6 ASSETS.—Except as provided in subparagraph
7 (C), a passive asset shall not be treated for pur-
8 poses of subparagraph (A) as used in the active
9 conduct of a trade or business unless—

10 “(i) the asset is property described in
11 paragraph (1) or (4) of section 1221(a) or
12 is a hedge with respect to such property,
13 or

14 “(ii) the asset is real property used in
15 the active conduct of 1 or more real prop-
16 erty trades or businesses (within the mean-
17 ing of section 469(c)(7)(C)) in which the
18 transferor materially participates and with
19 respect to which the transferor meets the
20 requirements of section 469(c)(7)(B)(ii).

21 For purposes of clause (ii), material participa-
22 tion shall be determined under the rules of sec-
23 tion 469(h), except that section 469(h)(3) shall
24 be applied without regard to the limitation to
25 farming activity.

1 “(C) EXCEPTION FOR WORKING CAP-
2 ITAL.—Any asset (including a passive asset)
3 which is held as a part of the reasonably re-
4 quired working capital needs of a trade or busi-
5 ness shall be treated as used in the active con-
6 duct of a trade or business.

7 “(3) PASSIVE ASSET.—For purposes of this
8 subsection, the term ‘passive asset’ means any—

9 “(A) cash or cash equivalents,

10 “(B) except to the extent provided by the
11 Secretary, stock in a corporation or any other
12 equity, profits, or capital interest in any entity,

13 “(C) evidence of indebtedness, option, for-
14 ward or futures contract, notional principal con-
15 tract, or derivative,

16 “(D) asset described in clause (iii), (iv), or
17 (v) of section 351(e)(1)(B),

18 “(E) annuity,

19 “(F) real property used in 1 or more real
20 property trades or businesses (as defined in sec-
21 tion 469(e)(7)(C)),

22 “(G) asset (other than a patent, trade-
23 mark, or copyright) which produces royalty in-
24 come,

25 “(H) commodity,

1 “(I) collectible (within the meaning of sec-
2 tion 401(m)), or

3 “(J) any other asset specified in regula-
4 tions prescribed by the Secretary.

5 “(4) LOOK-THRU RULES.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If a nonbusiness asset
7 of an entity consists of a 10-percent interest in
8 any other entity, this subsection shall be ap-
9 plied by disregarding the 10-percent interest
10 and by treating the entity as holding directly its
11 ratable share of the assets of the other entity.
12 This subparagraph shall be applied successively
13 to any 10-percent interest of such other entity
14 in any other entity.

15 “(B) 10-PERCENT INTEREST.—The term
16 ‘10-percent interest’ means—

17 “(i) in the case of an interest in a cor-
18 poration, ownership of at least 10 percent
19 (by vote or value) of the stock in such cor-
20 poration,

21 “(ii) in the case of an interest in a
22 partnership, ownership of at least 10 per-
23 cent of the capital or profits interest in the
24 partnership, and

1 “(iii) in any other case, ownership of
2 at least 10 percent of the beneficial inter-
3 ests in the entity.

4 “(5) COORDINATION WITH SUBSECTION (B).—
5 Subsection (b) shall apply after the application of
6 this subsection.

7 “(e) LIMITATION ON MINORITY DISCOUNTS.—For
8 purposes of this chapter and chapter 12, in the case of
9 the transfer of any interest in an entity other than an in-
10 terest which is actively traded (within the meaning of sec-
11 tion 1092), no discount shall be allowed by reason of the
12 fact that the transferee does not have control of such enti-
13 ty if the transferee and members of the family (as defined
14 in section 2032A(e)(2)) of the transferee have control of
15 such entity.”.

16 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
17 this section shall apply to transfers after the date of the
18 enactment of this Act.

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