

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 270

To permit startup partnerships and S corporations to elect taxable years
other than required years.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 11, 2007

Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mrs. LINCOLN) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To permit startup partnerships and S corporations to elect
taxable years other than required years.

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 “Small Business Tax
5 Flexibility Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. QUALIFIED SMALL BUSINESSES ELECTION OF TAX-**
7 **ABLE YEAR ENDING IN A MONTH FROM**
8 **APRIL TO NOVEMBER.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part I of subchapter E of chapter
10 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to ac-

1 counting periods) is amended by inserting after section
 2 444 the following new section:

3 **“SEC. 444A. QUALIFIED SMALL BUSINESSES ELECTION OF**
 4 **TAXABLE YEAR ENDING IN A MONTH FROM**
 5 **APRIL TO NOVEMBER.**

6 “(a) GENERAL RULE.—A qualified small business
 7 may elect to have a taxable year, other than the required
 8 taxable year, which ends on the last day of any of the
 9 months of April through November (or at the end of an
 10 equivalent annual period (varying from 52 to 53 weeks)).

11 “(b) YEARS FOR WHICH ELECTION EFFECTIVE.—An
 12 election under subsection (a)—

13 “(1) shall be made not later than the due date
 14 (including extensions thereof) for filing the return of
 15 tax for the first taxable year of the qualified small
 16 business, and

17 “(2) shall be effective for such first taxable year
 18 or period and for all succeeding taxable years of
 19 such qualified small business until such election is
 20 terminated under subsection (c).

21 “(c) TERMINATION.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An election under sub-
 23 section (a) shall be terminated on the earliest of—

1 “(A) the first day of the taxable year fol-
 2 lowing the taxable year for which the entity
 3 fails to meet the gross receipts test,

4 “(B) the date on which the entity fails to
 5 qualify as an S corporation, or

6 “(C) the date on which the entity termi-
 7 nates.

8 “(2) GROSS RECEIPTS TEST.—For purposes of
 9 paragraph (1), an entity fails to meet the gross re-
 10 ceipts test if the entity fails to meet the gross re-
 11 ceipts test of section 448(c).

12 “(3) EFFECT OF TERMINATION.—An entity
 13 with respect to which an election is terminated
 14 under this subsection shall determine its taxable
 15 year for subsequent taxable years under any other
 16 method that would be permitted under subtitle A.

17 “(4) INCOME INCLUSION AND DEDUCTION
 18 RULES FOR PERIOD AFTER TERMINATION.—If the
 19 termination of an election under paragraph (1)(A)
 20 results in a short taxable year—

21 “(A) items relating to net profits for the
 22 period beginning on the day after its last fiscal
 23 year-end and ending on the day before the be-
 24 ginning of the taxable year determined under
 25 paragraph (3) shall be includible in income rat-

ably over the 4 taxable years following the year
 of termination, or (if fewer) the number of tax-
 able years equal to the fiscal years for which
 the election under this section was in effect,
 and

“(B) items relating to net losses for such
 period shall be deductible in the first taxable
 year after the taxable year with respect to
 which the election terminated.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) QUALIFIED SMALL BUSINESS.—The term
 ‘qualified small business’ means an entity—

“(A)(i) for which an election under section
 1362(a) is in effect for the first taxable year or
 period of such entity and for all subsequent
 years, or

“(ii) which is treated as a partnership for
 the first taxable year or period of such entity
 for Federal income tax purposes,

“(B) which conducts an active trade or
 business or which would qualify for an election
 to amortize start-up expenditures under section
 195, and

“(C) which is a start-up business.

1 “(2) START-UP BUSINESS.—For purposes of
2 paragraph (1)(C), an entity shall be treated as a
3 start-up business so long as not more than 75 per-
4 cent of the entity is owned by any person or persons
5 who previously conducted a similar trade or business
6 at any time within the 1-year period ending on the
7 date on which such entity is formed. For purposes
8 of the preceding sentence, a person and any other
9 person bearing a relationship to such person speci-
10 fied in section 267(b) or 707(b)(1) shall be treated
11 as one person, and sections 267(b) and 707(b)(1)
12 shall be applied as if section 267(c)(4) provided that
13 the family of an individual consists of the individ-
14 ual’s spouse and the individual’s children under the
15 age of 21.

16 “(3) REQUIRED TAXABLE YEAR.—The term ‘re-
17 quired taxable year’ has the meaning given to such
18 term by section 444(e).

19 “(e) TIERED STRUCTURES.—The Secretary shall
20 prescribe rules similar to the rules of section 444(d)(3)
21 to eliminate abuse of this section through the use of tiered
22 structures.”.

23 “(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 444(a)(1)
24 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by strik-
25 ing “section,” and inserting “section and section 444A”.

1 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
2 for part I of subchapter E of chapter 1 of the Internal
3 Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting after the
4 item relating to section 444 the following new item:

“Sec. 444A. Qualified small businesses election of taxable year ending in a
month from April to November.”.

5 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
6 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after
7 December 31, 2006.

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