

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1943

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for adjustments in the individual income tax rates to reflect regional differences in the cost-of-living.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 2, 2009

Mr. NADLER of New York (for himself, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. ISRAEL) 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 for adjustments in the individual income tax rates to reflect regional differences in the cost-of-living.

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 “Tax Equity Act of
5 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. REGIONAL COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS IN INDI-**
7 **VIDUAL INCOME TAX RATES.**

8 (a) GENERAL RULE.—Subsection (f) of section 1 of
9 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to adjust-

1 ments in tax tables so that inflation will not result in tax
 2 increases) is amended by adding at the end thereof the
 3 following new paragraphs:

4 “(9) REGIONAL COST-OF-LIVING ADJUST-
 5 MENTS.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an indi-
 7 vidual, the rate table otherwise in effect under
 8 this section for any taxable year (determined
 9 after the application of paragraph (1)) shall be
 10 further adjusted as provided in subparagraph
 11 (B).

12 “(B) METHOD OF MAKING REGIONAL AD-
 13 JUSTMENT.—The rate table otherwise in effect
 14 under this section with respect to any individual
 15 for any taxable year shall be adjusted as fol-
 16 lows:

17 “(i) The minimum and maximum dol-
 18 lar amounts otherwise in effect for each
 19 rate bracket shall be multiplied by the ap-
 20 plicable multiplier (for the calendar year in
 21 which the taxable year begins) which ap-
 22 plies to the statistical area in which the in-
 23 dividual’s primary place of abode during
 24 the taxable year is located.

1 “(ii) The rate applicable to any rate
2 bracket (as adjusted by clause (i)) shall
3 not be changed.

4 “(iii) The amount setting forth the
5 tax shall be adjusted to the extent nec-
6 essary to reflect the adjustments in the
7 rate brackets.

8 If any amount determined under clause (i) is
9 not a multiple of \$50, such amount shall be
10 rounded to the nearest multiple of \$50.

11 “(10) DETERMINATION OF MULTIPLIERS.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than De-
13 cember 15 of each calendar year, the Secretary
14 shall prescribe an applicable multiplier for each
15 statistical area of the United States which shall
16 apply to taxable years beginning during the suc-
17 ceeding calendar year.

18 “(B) DETERMINATION OF MULTIPLIERS.—

19 “(i) For each statistical area where
20 the cost-of-living differential for any cal-
21 endar year is greater than 125 percent, the
22 applicable multiplier for such calendar year
23 is 90 percent of such differential.

24 “(ii) For each statistical area where
25 the cost-of-living differential for any cal-

endar year exceeds 97 percent but does not exceed 125 percent, the applicable multiplier for such calendar year is 1.05.

“(iii) For each statistical area not described in clause (i) or (ii), the applicable multiplier is the cost-of-living differential for the calendar year.

“(C) COST-OF-LIVING DIFFERENTIAL.—
The cost-of-living differential for any statistical area for any calendar year is the percentage determined by dividing—

“(i) the cost-of-living for such area for the preceding calendar year; by

“(ii) the average cost-of-living for the United States for the preceding calendar year.

“(D) COST-OF-LIVING FOR AREA.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—For each calendar year beginning after 2009, the Secretary of Labor shall determine and publish a cost-of-living index for each statistical area.

“(ii) METHODOLOGY.—The cost-of-living index determined under clause (i) for any statistical area for any calendar year shall be based on average market prices for

1 the area for the 12-month period ending
2 on August 31 of such calendar year. The
3 market prices taken into account under the
4 preceding sentence shall be selected and
5 used under the same methodology as is
6 used by the Secretary of Labor in devel-
7 oping the Consumer Price Index for All
8 Urban Consumers.

9 “(E) STATISTICAL AREA.—For purposes of
10 this subsection the term ‘statistical area’
11 means—

12 “(i) any metropolitan statistical area
13 as defined by the Secretary of Commerce,
14 and

15 “(ii) the portion of any State not
16 within a metropolitan statistical area as so
17 defined.

18 “(11) AREAS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—

19 The area applicable multiplier for any area outside
20 the United States shall be 1.”

21 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The amendment made by
23 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning
24 after December 31, 2009.

1 (2) TRANSITION RULE.—Notwithstanding sec-
2 tion 1(f)(9)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code (as
3 added by this section), the date for prescribing ap-
4 plicable multipliers for taxable years beginning in
5 calendar year 2010 shall be the date 1 year after the
6 date of the enactment of this Act.

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