

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1954

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make higher education more affordable by providing a full tax deduction for higher education expenses and interest on student loans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 2, 2009

Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. MILLER of Florida) 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 make higher education more affordable by providing a full tax deduction for higher education expenses and interest on student loans.

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 “Make College Afford-
5 able Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEDUCTION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION EXPENSES.**

2 (a) DEDUCTION ALLOWED.—Section 221 of the In-
3 ternal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as fol-
4 lows:

5 **“SEC. 221. HIGHER EDUCATION EXPENSES.**

6 “(a) ALLOWANCE OF DEDUCTION.—In the case of an
7 individual, there shall be allowed as a deduction an
8 amount equal to the sum of—

9 “(1) the qualified higher education expenses,
10 plus

11 “(2) interest on qualified education loans,
12 paid by the taxpayer during the taxable year.

13 “(b) QUALIFIED HIGHER EDUCATION EXPENSES.—
14 For purposes of this section—

15 “(1) QUALIFIED HIGHER EDUCATION EX-
16 PENSES.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified
18 higher education expenses’ means—

19 “(i) tuition and fees charged by an
20 educational institution and required for the
21 enrollment or attendance of—

22 “(I) the taxpayer,

23 “(II) the taxpayer’s spouse,

24 “(III) any dependent of the tax-
25 payer with respect to whom the tax-

1 payer is allowed a deduction under
2 section 151, or

3 “(IV) any grandchild of the tax-
4 payer,

5 as an eligible student at an institution of
6 higher education, and

7 “(ii) reasonable living expenses for
8 such an individual while away from home
9 and attending such institution.

10 “(B) ELIGIBLE COURSES.—Amounts paid
11 for qualified higher education expenses of any
12 individual shall be taken into account under
13 subsection (a) only to the extent such ex-
14 penses—

15 “(i) are attributable to courses of in-
16 struction for which credit is allowed toward
17 a baccalaureate degree by an institution of
18 higher education or toward a certificate of
19 required course work at a vocational
20 school, and

21 “(ii) are not attributable to any grad-
22 uate program of such individual.

23 “(C) ELIGIBLE STUDENT.—For purposes
24 of subparagraph (A), the term ‘eligible student’
25 means a student who—

1 “(i) meets the requirements of section
2 484(a)(1) of the Higher Education Act of
3 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1091(a)(1)), as in effect
4 on the date of the enactment of this sec-
5 tion, and

6 “(ii) is carrying at least one-half the
7 normal full-time work load for the course
8 of study the student is pursuing, as deter-
9 mined by the institution of higher edu-
10 cation.

11 “(2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—
12 The term ‘institution of higher education’ is as de-
13 fined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of
14 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

15 “(c) QUALIFIED EDUCATION LOAN.—For purposes
16 of this section—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified edu-
18 cation loan’ means a loan which is—

19 “(A) made, insured, or guaranteed by the
20 Federal Government,

21 “(B) made by a State or a political sub-
22 division of a State,

23 “(C) made from the proceeds of a qualified
24 student loan bond under section 144(b), or

1 “(D) made by an institution of higher edu-
2 cation.

3 “(2) LIMITATION.—The amount of interest on
4 a qualified education loan which is taken into ac-
5 count under subsection (a)(2) shall not exceed the
6 amount which bears the same ratio to such amount
7 of interest as—

8 “(A) the proceeds from such loan used for
9 qualified higher education expenses, bears to

10 “(B) the total proceeds from such loan.

11 For purposes of the preceding sentence, the term
12 ‘qualified higher education expenses’ shall be deter-
13 mined without regard to subsection (c)(1)(A)(i)(IV).

14 “(d) SPECIAL RULES.—

15 “(1) NO DOUBLE BENEFIT.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—No deduction shall be
17 allowed under subsection (a) for any expense
18 for which a deduction is allowable to the tax-
19 payer under any other provision of this chapter
20 unless the taxpayer irrevocably waives his right
21 to the deduction of such expense under such
22 other provision.

23 “(B) DENIAL OF DEDUCTION IF CREDIT
24 ELECTED.—No deduction shall be allowed
25 under subsection (a) for a taxable year with re-

1 spect to the qualified higher education expenses
2 of an individual if the taxpayer elects to have
3 section 25A apply with respect to such indi-
4 vidual for such year.

5 “(C) DEPENDENTS.—No deduction shall
6 be allowed under subsection (a) to any indi-
7 vidual with respect to whom a deduction under
8 section 151 is allowable to another taxpayer for
9 a taxable year beginning in the calendar year in
10 which such individual’s taxable year begins.

11 “(D) COORDINATION WITH EXCLUSIONS.—
12 A deduction shall be allowed under subsection
13 (a) for qualified higher education expenses only
14 to the extent the amount of such expenses ex-
15 ceeds the amount excludable under section 135
16 or 530(d)(2) for the taxable year.

17 “(2) LIMITATION ON TAXABLE YEAR OF DE-
18 Duction.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A deduction shall be
20 allowed under subsection (a) for qualified high-
21 er education expenses for any taxable year only
22 to the extent such expenses are in connection
23 with enrollment at an institution of higher edu-
24 cation during the taxable year.

1 “(B) CERTAIN PREPAYMENTS ALLOWED.—
2 Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to qualified
3 higher education expenses paid during a taxable
4 year if such expenses are in connection with an
5 academic term beginning during such taxable
6 year or during the first 3 months of the next
7 taxable year.

8 “(3) ADJUSTMENT FOR CERTAIN SCHOLAR-
9 SHIPS AND VETERANS BENEFITS.—The amount of
10 qualified higher education expenses otherwise taken
11 into account under subsection (a) or (d)(2) with re-
12 spect to the education of an individual shall be re-
13 duced (before the application of subsection (b)) by
14 the sum of the amounts received with respect to
15 such individual for the taxable year as—

16 “(A) a qualified scholarship which under
17 section 117 is not includable in gross income,

18 “(B) an educational assistance allowance
19 under chapter 30, 31, 32, 34, or 35 of title 38,
20 United States Code, or

21 “(C) a payment (other than a gift, be-
22 quest, devise, or inheritance within the meaning
23 of section 102(a)) for educational expenses, or
24 attributable to enrollment at an eligible edu-

1 cational institution, which is exempt from in-
2 come taxation by any law of the United States.

3 “(4) NO DEDUCTION FOR MARRIED INDIVID-
4 UALS FILING SEPARATE RETURNS.—If the taxpayer
5 is a married individual (within the meaning of sec-
6 tion 7703), this section shall apply only if the tax-
7 payer and the taxpayer’s spouse file a joint return
8 for the taxable year.

9 “(5) NONRESIDENT ALIENS.—If the taxpayer is
10 a nonresident alien individual for any portion of the
11 taxable year, this section shall apply only if such in-
12 dividual is treated as a resident alien of the United
13 States for purposes of this chapter by reason of an
14 election under subsection (g) or (h) of section 6013.

15 “(6) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may pre-
16 scribe such regulations as may be necessary or ap-
17 propriate to carry out this section, including regula-
18 tions requiring recordkeeping and information re-
19 porting.”.

20 (b) DEDUCTION ALLOWED IN COMPUTING AD-
21 JUSTED GROSS INCOME.—Paragraph (17) of section
22 62(a) of such Code is amended to read as follows:

23 “(17) HIGHER EDUCATION EXPENSES.—The
24 deduction allowed by section 221.”.

25 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

1 (1) Part VII of subchapter B of chapter 1 of
2 such Code is amended—

3 (A) by striking section 222, and

4 (B) in the table of sections for such part
5 by striking the item relating to section 222.

6 (2) The following sections of such Code are
7 each amended by striking “222,”: sections
8 86(b)(2)(A), 135(c)(4)(A), 137(b)(3)(A),
9 199(d)(2)(A), and 219(g)(3)(A)(ii).

10 (3) Section 469(i)(3)(F)(iii) of such Code is
11 amended by striking “221, and 222” and inserting
12 “and 221”.

13 (4) Section 6050S(e) of such Code is amended
14 by striking “section 221(d)(1)” and inserting “sec-
15 tion 221(c)(1)”.

16 (5) The table of sections for part VII of sub-
17 chapter B of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by
18 striking the item relating to section 221 and insert-
19 ing the following new item:

“Sec. 221. Higher education expenses.”.

20 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
21 this section shall apply to payments made after December
22 31, 2008.

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