

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1654

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny tax deductions for corporate regulatory violations.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 5, 2013

Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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## A BILL

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny tax deductions for corporate regulatory violations.

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 “Government Settle-  
5 ment Transparency and Reform Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DENIAL OF DEDUCTION FOR CERTAIN FINES, PEN-**  
7 **ALTIES, AND OTHER AMOUNTS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (f) of section 162 of  
9 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read  
10 as follows:

1 “(f) FINES, PENALTIES, AND OTHER AMOUNTS.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in the  
3 following paragraphs of this subsection, no deduction  
4 otherwise allowable shall be allowed under this chap-  
5 ter for any amount paid or incurred (whether by  
6 suit, agreement, or otherwise) to, or at the direction  
7 of, a government or governmental entity in relation  
8 to the violation of any law or the investigation or in-  
9 quiry by such government or entity into the potential  
10 violation of any law.

11 “(2) EXCEPTION FOR AMOUNTS CONSTITUTING  
12 RESTITUTION OR PAID TO COME INTO COMPLIANCE  
13 WITH LAW.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) shall  
15 not apply to any amount that—

16 “(i) the taxpayer establishes—

17 “(I) constitutes restitution (in-  
18 cluding remediation of property) for  
19 damage or harm which was or may be  
20 caused by the violation of any law or  
21 the potential violation of any law, or

22 “(II) is paid to come into compli-  
23 ance with any law which was violated  
24 or otherwise involved in the investiga-

1                   tion or inquiry described in paragraph  
2                   (1), and

3                   “(ii) is identified as restitution or as  
4                   an amount paid to come into compliance  
5                   with such law, as the case may be, in the  
6                   court order or settlement agreement.

7                   The identification under clause (ii) alone shall  
8                   not be sufficient to make the establishment re-  
9                   quired under clause (i).

10                  “(B)   LIMITATION.—Subparagraph   (A)  
11                  shall not apply to any amount paid or incurred  
12                  as reimbursement to the government or entity  
13                  for the costs of any investigation or litigation.

14                  “(3)   EXCEPTION FOR AMOUNTS PAID OR IN-  
15                  CURRED AS THE RESULT OF CERTAIN COURT OR-  
16                  DERS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any  
17                  amount paid or incurred by reason of any order of  
18                  a court in a suit in which no government or govern-  
19                  mental entity is a party.

20                  “(4)   EXCEPTION FOR TAXES DUE.—Paragraph  
21                  (1) shall not apply to any amount paid or incurred  
22                  as taxes due.

23                  “(5)   TREATMENT OF CERTAIN NONGOVERN-  
24                  MENTAL REGULATORY ENTITIES.—For purposes of

1 this subsection, the following nongovernmental enti-  
2 ties shall be treated as governmental entities:

3 “(A) Any nongovernmental entity which  
4 exercises self-regulatory powers (including im-  
5 posing sanctions) in connection with a qualified  
6 board or exchange (as defined in section  
7 1256(g)(7)).

8 “(B) To the extent provided in regulations,  
9 any nongovernmental entity which exercises  
10 self-regulatory powers (including imposing sanc-  
11 tions) as part of performing an essential gov-  
12 ernmental function.”.

13 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
14 this section shall apply to amounts paid or incurred on  
15 or after the date of the enactment of this Act, except that  
16 such amendments shall not apply to amounts paid or in-  
17 curred under any binding order or agreement entered into  
18 before such date. Such exception shall not apply to an  
19 order or agreement requiring court approval unless the ap-  
20 proval was obtained before such date.

21 **SEC. 3. REPORTING OF DEDUCTIBLE AMOUNTS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart B of part III of sub-  
23 chapter A of chapter 61 of the Internal Revenue Code of  
24 1986 is amended by inserting after section 6050W the fol-  
25 lowing new section:

1 **“SEC. 6050X. INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN**  
2 **FINES, PENALTIES, AND OTHER AMOUNTS.**

3 “(a) REQUIREMENT OF REPORTING.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The appropriate official of  
5 any government or any entity described in section  
6 162(f)(5) which is involved in a suit or agreement  
7 described in paragraph (2) shall make a return in  
8 such form as determined by the Secretary setting  
9 forth—

10 “(A) the amount required to be paid as a  
11 result of the suit or agreement to which para-  
12 graph (1) of section 162(f) applies,

13 “(B) any amount required to be paid as a  
14 result of the suit or agreement which con-  
15 stitutes restitution or remediation of property,  
16 and

17 “(C) any amount required to be paid as a  
18 result of the suit or agreement for the purpose  
19 of coming into compliance with any law which  
20 was violated or involved in the investigation or  
21 inquiry.

22 “(2) SUIT OR AGREEMENT DESCRIBED.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A suit or agreement is  
24 described in this paragraph if—

25 “(i) it is—

1           “(I) a suit with respect to a vio-  
2           lation of any law over which the gov-  
3           ernment or entity has authority and  
4           with respect to which there has been  
5           a court order, or

6           “(II) an agreement which is en-  
7           tered into with respect to a violation  
8           of any law over which the government  
9           or entity has authority, or with re-  
10          spect to an investigation or inquiry by  
11          the government or entity into the po-  
12          tential violation of any law over which  
13          such government or entity has author-  
14          ity, and

15          “(ii) the aggregate amount involved in  
16          all court orders and agreements with re-  
17          spect to the violation, investigation, or in-  
18          quiry is \$600 or more.

19          “(B) ADJUSTMENT OF REPORTING  
20          THRESHOLD.—The Secretary may adjust the  
21          \$600 amount in subparagraph (A)(ii) as nec-  
22          essary in order to ensure the efficient adminis-  
23          tration of the internal revenue laws.

24          “(3) TIME OF FILING.—The return required  
25          under this subsection shall be filed at the time the

1 agreement is entered into, as determined by the Sec-  
2 retary.

3 “(b) STATEMENTS TO BE FURNISHED TO INDIVID-  
4 UALS INVOLVED IN THE SETTLEMENT.—Every person re-  
5 quired to make a return under subsection (a) shall furnish  
6 to each person who is a party to the suit or agreement  
7 a written statement showing—

8 “(1) the name of the government or entity, and

9 “(2) the information supplied to the Secretary  
10 under subsection (a)(1).

11 The written statement required under the preceding sen-  
12 tence shall be furnished to the person at the same time  
13 the government or entity provides the Secretary with the  
14 information required under subsection (a).

15 “(c) APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL DEFINED.—For pur-  
16 poses of this section, the term ‘appropriate official’ means  
17 the officer or employee having control of the suit, inves-  
18 tigation, or inquiry or the person appropriately designated  
19 for purposes of this section.”.

20 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
21 tions for subpart B of part III of subchapter A of chapter  
22 61 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by  
23 inserting after the item relating to section 6050W the fol-  
24 lowing new item:

“Sec. 6050X. Information with respect to certain fines, penalties, and other  
amounts.”.

1       (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
2 this section shall apply to amounts paid or incurred on  
3 or after the date of the enactment of this Act, except that  
4 such amendments shall not apply to amounts paid or in-  
5 curred under any binding order or agreement entered into  
6 before such date. Such exception shall not apply to an  
7 order or agreement requiring court approval unless the ap-  
8 proval was obtained before such date.

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