

As Passed by the Senate

132nd General Assembly

Regular Session

Am. S. B. No. 5

2017-2018

Senators Hottinger, Eklund

Cosponsors: Senators Gardner, LaRose, Manning, Coley, Beagle, Bacon, Balderson, Burke, Dolan, Hackett, Hite, Hoagland, Huffman, Jordan, Lehner, Obhof, O'Brien, Oelslager, Peterson, Sykes, Tavares, Terhar, Uecker, Wilson

A BILL

To amend section 5747.70 of the Revised Code to 1
increase the maximum income tax deduction for 2
contributions to college savings accounts and 3
disability expense savings accounts to \$4,000 4
annually for each beneficiary, to create the 5
Joint Committee on Ohio College Affordability, 6
and to declare an emergency. 7

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 5747.70 of the Revised Code be 8
amended to read as follows: 9

Sec. 5747.70. (A) In computing Ohio adjusted gross income, 10
a deduction from federal adjusted gross income is allowed to a 11
contributor for the amount contributed during the taxable year 12
to a variable college savings program account and to a purchaser 13
of tuition units under the Ohio college savings program created 14
by Chapter 3334. of the Revised Code to the extent that the 15
amounts of such contributions and purchases were not deducted in 16
determining the contributor's or purchaser's federal adjusted 17

gross income for the taxable year. The combined amount of
contributions and purchases deducted in any taxable year by a
taxpayer or the taxpayer and the taxpayer's spouse, regardless
of whether the taxpayer and the taxpayer's spouse file separate
returns or a joint return, is limited to ~~two-four~~ thousand
dollars for each beneficiary for whom contributions or purchases
are made. If the combined annual contributions and purchases for
a beneficiary exceed ~~two-four~~ thousand dollars, the excess may
be carried forward and deducted in future taxable years until
the contributions and purchases have been fully deducted.

(B) In computing Ohio adjusted gross income, a deduction
from federal adjusted gross income is allowed for:

(1) Income related to tuition units and contributions that
as of the end of the taxable year have not been refunded
pursuant to the termination of a tuition payment contract or
variable college savings program account under section 3334.10
of the Revised Code, to the extent that such income is included
in federal adjusted gross income.

(2) The excess of the total purchase price of tuition
units refunded during the taxable year pursuant to the
termination of a tuition payment contract under section 3334.10
of the Revised Code over the amount of the refund, to the extent
the amount of the excess was not deducted in determining federal
adjusted gross income. Division (B)(2) of this section applies
only to units for which no deduction was allowable under
division (A) of this section.

(C) In computing Ohio adjusted gross income, there shall
be added to federal adjusted gross income the amount of loss
related to tuition units and contributions that as of the end of
the taxable year have not been refunded pursuant to the

termination of a tuition payment contract or variable college savings program account under section 3334.10 of the Revised Code, to the extent that such loss was deducted in determining federal adjusted gross income.	48 49 50 51
(D) For taxable years in which distributions or refunds are made under a tuition payment or variable college savings program contract for any reason other than payment of tuition or other higher education expenses, or the beneficiary's death, disability, or receipt of a scholarship as described in section 3334.10 of the Revised Code:	52 53 54 55 56 57
(1) If the distribution or refund is paid to the purchaser or contributor or beneficiary, any portion of the distribution or refund not included in the recipient's federal adjusted gross income shall be added to the recipient's federal adjusted gross income in determining the recipient's Ohio adjusted gross income, except that the amount added shall not exceed amounts previously deducted under division (A) of this section less any amounts added under division (D) (1) of this section in a prior taxable year.	58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66
(2) If amounts paid by a purchaser or contributor on or after January 1, 2000, are distributed or refunded to someone other than the purchaser or contributor or beneficiary, the amount of the payment not included in the recipient's federal adjusted gross income, less any amounts added under division (D) of this section in a prior taxable year, shall be added to the recipient's federal adjusted gross income in determining the recipient's Ohio adjusted gross income.	67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74
Section 2. That existing section 5747.70 of the Revised Code is hereby repealed.	75 76

Section 3. (A) There is hereby created the Joint Committee on Ohio College Affordability composed of the following members:	77 78
(1) Five members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate, not more than three of whom may be members of the same political party;	79 80 81
(2) Five members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, not more than three of whom may be members of the same political party.	82 83 84 85
(B) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint the members of the committee within thirty days after the effective date of this act. The committee shall hold an initial meeting within sixty days after the effective date of this act and shall meet thereafter at the discretion of the committee members.	86 87 88 89 90 91
(C) The committee shall study and develop strategies to reduce the cost of attending colleges and universities in this state. As part of this process, the committee shall consult with the Chancellor of Higher Education and persons or organizations representing institutions of higher education.	92 93 94 95 96
(D) The committee shall compile a report of its activities, findings, and recommendations and shall furnish a copy of the report to the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives not later than one year after the effective date of this act, at which time the committee shall dissolve by operation of law.	97 98 99 100 101 102
Section 4. The amendment by this act of section 5747.70 of the Revised Code applies to taxable years ending on or after the effective date of this act.	103 104 105

Section 5. This act is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety. The reason for such necessity is that the rising cost of higher education has placed an enormous financial burden on many individuals and families in this state and it is imperative to develop solutions for, and provide some relief from, that burden at the earliest possible time.

Therefore, this act shall go into immediate effect.

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