

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5359

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance and to expand the availability of the student loan interest deduction.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 6, 2019

Mr. STIVERS (for himself, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. KATKO, Ms. SPANBERGER, and Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma) 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 expand the exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance and to expand the availability of the student loan interest deduction.

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 “Decreasing Employees
5 Burdensome Taxes from Student Loans Act of 2019” or
6 the “DEBT Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXCLUSION FOR EMPLOYER PAYMENT OF QUALI-**
2 **FIED EDUCATION LOANS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 127(c)(1) of the Internal
4 Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “and” at
5 the end of subparagraph (A), by redesignating subpara-
6 graph (B) as subparagraph (C), and by inserting after
7 subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph:

8 “(B) the payment by an employer, whether
9 paid to the employee or to a lender, of principal
10 or interest on any qualified education loan (as
11 defined in section 221(d)(1)) incurred by the
12 employee, and”.

13 (b) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—Section
14 221(e)(1) of such Code is amended by inserting before the
15 period at the end the following: “, or for any amount
16 which is excludable from gross income under section
17 127(c)(1)(B)”.

18 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
19 this section shall apply to payments made by employers
20 after December 31, 2019.

21 **SEC. 3. INCREASE IN MAXIMUM AMOUNT EXCLUDABLE**
22 **UNDER EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PRO-**
23 **GRAMS.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The text of paragraph (2) of sec-
25 tion 127(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is

1 amended by striking “\$5,250” both places it appears and
2 inserting “\$10,000”.

3 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading for
4 section 127(a)(2) of such Code is amended by striking
5 “\$5,250 MAXIMUM” and inserting “MAXIMUM”.

6 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
7 this section shall apply to payments made by employers
8 after December 31, 2019.

9 **SEC. 4. MODIFICATION OF DEDUCTION FOR INTEREST ON**
10 **EDUCATION LOANS.**

11 (a) INCREASED MAXIMUM DEDUCTION.—Section
12 221(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amend-
13 ed by striking “\$2,500” and inserting “\$5,000”.

14 (b) INCREASED INCOME LIMITATION.—Section
15 221(b)(2)(B)(ii) of such Code is amended by striking
16 “\$15,000 (\$30,000” and inserting “\$85,000 (\$115,000”.

17 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
18 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after
19 December 31, 2019.

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