

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 822

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make improvements in the earned income tax credit.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 2, 2017

Mr. NEAL (for himself, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KIND, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. KEATING, Ms. NORTON, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HOYER, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. COHEN) 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 improvements in the earned income tax credit.

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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Earned Income Tax Credit Improvement and Simplifica-
6 tion Act 2017”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
2 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
 Sec. 2. Strengthening the earned income tax credit for individuals with no
 qualifying children.
 Sec. 3. Taxpayer eligible for credit for individuals with no qualifying children
 if qualifying children do not have valid Social Security num-
 bers.
 Sec. 4. Credit allowed in case of certain separated spouses.
 Sec. 5. Taxpayer eligible for credit without qualifying child if qualifying child
 claimed by another member of family.
 Sec. 6. Elimination of disqualified investment income test.

3 **SEC. 2. STRENGTHENING THE EARNED INCOME TAX CRED-**
 4 **IT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH NO QUALIFYING**
 5 **CHILDREN.**

6 (a) CREDIT FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS OVER AGE
 7 21.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 32(c)(1) of the In-
 9 ternal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding
 10 at the end the following new subparagraph:

11 “(G) SPECIAL RULE FOR WORKING INDI-
 12 VIDUALS OVER AGE 20 AND WITHOUT QUALI-
 13 FYING CHILD.—

14 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an
 15 individual (or, if the individual is married,
 16 either the individual or the individual’s
 17 spouse) who—

18 “(I) has attained the age of 21
 19 but not attained age 25 before the
 20 close of the taxable year, and

1 “(II) is not a full-time student at
2 any time during the taxable year,
3 paragraph (1)(A)(ii)(II) shall not apply for
4 purposes of determining whether such indi-
5 vidual is an eligible individual.

6 “(ii) STUDENT.—For purposes of this
7 subparagraph, an individual shall be con-
8 sidered a full-time student if such indi-
9 vidual is carrying more than $\frac{1}{2}$ the normal
10 full-time work load for the course of study
11 the individual is pursuing.”.

12 (2) INFORMATION RETURN MATCHING.—Not
13 later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of
14 this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall develop
15 and implement procedures for checking an individ-
16 ual’s claim for a credit under section 32 of the In-
17 ternal Revenue Code of 1986, by reason of sub-
18 section (c)(1)(G) thereof, against any information
19 return made with respect to such individual under
20 section 6050S (relating to returns relating to higher
21 education tuition and related expenses).

22 (b) INCREASED CREDIT.—

23 (1) CREDIT PERCENTAGE AND PHASEOUT PER-
24 CENTAGE.—The table contained in section 32(b)(1)

1 of such Code is amended by striking “7.65” each
2 place it appears and inserting “15.3”.

3 (2) EARNED INCOME AMOUNT AND PHASEOUT
4 AMOUNT.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The table contained in
6 section 32(b)(2)(A) of such Code is amended—

7 (i) by striking “\$4,220” and inserting
8 “\$8,820”, and

9 (ii) by striking “\$5,280” and insert-
10 ing “\$10,425”.

11 (B) INFLATION ADJUSTMENTS.—Section
12 32(j)(1)(B) of such Code is amended—

13 (i) by inserting “except as provided in
14 clause (iii)” in clause (i) before “in the
15 case of amounts”,

16 (ii) by striking “and” at the end of
17 clause (i), by striking the period at the end
18 of clause (ii) and inserting “, and”, and by
19 adding at the end the following new clause:

20 “(iii) in the case of the \$8,820 and
21 \$10,425 amounts in subsection (b)(2)(A),
22 by substituting ‘calendar year 2012’ for
23 ‘calendar year 1992’ in subparagraph (B)
24 of such section 1.”.

1 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
2 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after
3 the date of the enactment of this Act.

4 **SEC. 3. TAXPAYER ELIGIBLE FOR CREDIT FOR INDIVID-**
5 **UALS WITH NO QUALIFYING CHILDREN IF**
6 **QUALIFYING CHILDREN DO NOT HAVE VALID**
7 **SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 32(c)(1)(F) of the Inter-
9 nal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

10 “(F) INDIVIDUALS WHO DO NOT INCLUDE
11 TIN, ETC., OF ANY QUALIFYING CHILD.—In the
12 case of any eligible individual who has one or
13 more qualifying children, if—

14 “(i) no qualifying child of such indi-
15 vidual is taken into account under sub-
16 section (b) by reason of paragraph (3)(D),
17 and

18 “(ii) no child of such individual is
19 taken into account for purposes of any
20 other child tax benefit under this chapter,
21 for purposes of the credit allowed under this
22 section, such individual may be considered an
23 eligible individual without a qualifying child.”.

1 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
2 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after
3 the date of the enactment of this Act.

4 **SEC. 4. CREDIT ALLOWED IN CASE OF CERTAIN SEPA-**
5 **RATED SPOUSES.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 32(d) of the Internal Rev-
7 enue Code of 1986 is amended—

8 (1) by striking “MARRIED INDIVIDUALS.—In
9 the case of” and inserting the following: “MARRIED
10 INDIVIDUALS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of”, and

12 (2) by adding at the end the following new
13 paragraph:

14 “(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR SEPARATED
15 SPOUSE.—An individual shall not be treated as mar-
16 ried for purposes of this section if such individual—

17 “(A) is married (within the meaning of
18 section 7703(a)) and files a separate return for
19 the taxable year,

20 “(B) lives with a qualifying child of the in-
21 dividual for more than one-half of such taxable
22 year, and

23 “(C)(i) during the last 6 months such tax-
24 able year, does not have the same principal
25 place of abode as the individual’s spouse, or

1 “(ii) has a legally binding separation
2 agreement with the individual’s spouse and is
3 not a member of the same household with the
4 individual’s spouse by the end of the taxable
5 year.”.

6 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
7 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after
8 the date of the enactment of this Act.

9 **SEC. 5. TAXPAYER ELIGIBLE FOR CREDIT WITHOUT QUALI-**
10 **FYING CHILD IF QUALIFYING CHILD**
11 **CLAIMED BY ANOTHER MEMBER OF FAMILY.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 32(c)(1) of the Internal
13 Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by section 2, is
14 amended by adding at the end the following new subpara-
15 graph:

16 “(H) TAXPAYER ELIGIBLE FOR CREDIT
17 WITHOUT QUALIFYING CHILD IF QUALIFYING
18 CHILD CLAIMED BY ANOTHER MEMBER OF FAM-
19 ILY.—

20 “(i) IN GENERAL.—If—

21 “(I) an individual is claimed as a
22 qualifying child by an eligible indi-
23 vidual for any taxable year of such eli-
24 gible individual beginning in a cal-
25 endar year, and

1 “(II) such individual is the quali-
2 fying child of another eligible indi-
3 vidual for any taxable year beginning
4 in such calendar year,

5 such other eligible individual may be treat-
6 ed as an eligible individual without a quali-
7 fying child for purposes of this section for
8 such taxable year.

9 “(ii) EXCEPTION FOR QUALIFYING
10 CHILD CLAIMED BY PARENT.—If an indi-
11 vidual is claimed as a qualifying child for
12 any taxable year by a parent of such child,
13 clause (i) shall not apply with respect to
14 any other custodial parent of such child.”.

15 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
16 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after
17 the date of the enactment of this Act.

18 **SEC. 6. ELIMINATION OF DISQUALIFIED INVESTMENT IN-**
19 **COME TEST.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 32 of the Internal Rev-
21 enue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subsection (i).

22 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

23 (1) Section 32(j)(1)(B)(i) of such Code is
24 amended by striking “subsections (b)(2)(A) and
25 (i)(1)” and inserting “subsection (b)(2)(A)”.

1 (2) Section 32(j)(2) of such Code is amended—

2 (A) by striking paragraph (2), and

3 (B) by striking “ROUNDING.—” and all
4 that follows through “If any dollar amount”
5 and inserting the following: “ROUNDING.—If
6 any dollar amount”.

7 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
8 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after
9 the date of the enactment of this Act.

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