

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1516

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a tax on certain trading transactions.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 5, 2019

Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. COHEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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## A BILL

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a tax on certain trading transactions.

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 “Wall Street Tax Act  
5 of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. TRANSACTION TAX.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 36 of the Internal Rev-  
 3 enue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting after sub-  
 4 chapter B the following new subchapter:

5 **“Subchapter C—Tax on Trading Transactions**

“Sec. 4475. Tax on trading transactions.

“Sec. 4476. Derivative defined.

6 **“SEC. 4475. TAX ON TRADING TRANSACTIONS.**

7 “(a) IMPOSITION OF TAX.—There is hereby imposed  
 8 a tax on each covered transaction with respect to any secu-  
 9 rity.

10 “(b) RATE OF TAX.—The tax imposed under sub-  
 11 section (a) with respect to any covered transaction shall  
 12 be 0.1 percent of the specified base amount with respect  
 13 to such covered transaction.

14 “(c) SPECIFIED BASE AMOUNT.—For purposes of  
 15 this section, the term ‘specified base amount’ means—

16 “(1) except as provided in paragraph (2), the  
 17 fair market value of a security (determined as of the  
 18 time of the covered transaction), and

19 “(2) in the case of any payment with respect to  
 20 a derivative, the amount of such payment.

21 “(d) COVERED TRANSACTION.—For purposes of this  
 22 section—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘covered trans-  
 24 action’ means—

1           “(A) except as provided in subparagraph  
2           (B), any purchase if—

3                   “(i) such purchase occurs on, or is  
4                   subject to the rules of, a qualified board or  
5                   exchange located in the United States, or

6                   “(ii) the purchaser or seller is a  
7                   United States person, and

8           “(B) any transaction with respect to a de-  
9           rivative if—

10                   “(i) such derivative is traded on, or is  
11                   subject to the rules of, a qualified board or  
12                   exchange located in the United States, or

13                   “(ii) any party with rights under such  
14                   derivative is a United States person.

15           “(2) EXCEPTION FOR INITIAL ISSUES.—No tax  
16           shall be imposed under subsection (a) on any cov-  
17           ered transaction with respect to the initial issuance  
18           of any security described in subparagraph (A), (B),  
19           or (C) of subsection (e)(1).

20           “(e) DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.—For pur-  
21           poses of this section—

22                   “(1) SECURITY.—For purposes of this section,  
23                   the term ‘security’ means—

24                   “(A) any share of stock in a corporation,

1           “(B) any partnership or beneficial owner-  
2           ship interest in a partnership or trust,

3           “(C) except as provided in paragraph (2),  
4           any note, bond, debenture, or other evidence of  
5           indebtedness, and

6           “(D) any derivative (as defined in section  
7           4476).

8           “(2) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN TRADED SHORT-  
9           TERM INDEBTEDNESS.—A note, bond, debenture, or  
10          other evidence of indebtedness which—

11           “(A) is traded on, or is subject to the rules  
12           of, a qualified board or exchange located in the  
13           United States, and

14           “(B) has a fixed maturity of not more  
15           than 100 days,

16          shall not be treated as described in paragraph  
17          (1)(C).

18           “(3) QUALIFIED BOARD OR EXCHANGE.—The  
19           term ‘qualified board or exchange’ has the meaning  
20           given such term by section 1256(g)(7).

21          “(f) BY WHOM PAID.—

22           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The tax imposed by this  
23           section shall be paid by—

24           “(A) in the case of a transaction which oc-  
25           curs on, or is subject to the rules of, a qualified

1 board or exchange located in the United States,  
2 such qualified board or exchange, and

3 “(B) in the case of a purchase not de-  
4 scribed in subparagraph (A) which is executed  
5 by a broker (as defined in section 6045(c)(1))  
6 which is a United States person, such broker.

7 “(2) SPECIAL RULES FOR DIRECT, ETC.,  
8 TRANSACTIONS.—In the case of any transaction to  
9 which paragraph (1) does not apply, the tax imposed  
10 by this section shall be paid by—

11 “(A) in the case of a transaction described  
12 in subsection (d)(1)(A)—

13 “(i) the purchaser if the purchaser is  
14 a United States person, and

15 “(ii) the seller if the purchaser is not  
16 a United States person, and

17 “(B) in the case of a transaction described  
18 in subsection (d)(1)(B)—

19 “(i) the payor if the payor is a United  
20 States person, and

21 “(ii) the payee if the payor is not a  
22 United States person.

23 “(g) TREATMENT OF EXCHANGES AND PAYMENTS  
24 WITH RESPECT TO DERIVATIVES.—For purposes of this  
25 section—

1           “(1) TREATMENT OF EXCHANGES.—

2                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—An exchange shall be  
3           treated as the sale of the property transferred  
4           and a purchase of the property received by each  
5           party to the exchange.

6                   “(B) CERTAIN DEEMED EXCHANGES.—In  
7           the case of a distribution treated as an ex-  
8           change for stock under section 302 or 331, the  
9           corporation making such distribution shall be  
10          treated as having purchased such stock for pur-  
11          poses of this section.

12           “(2) PAYMENTS WITH RESPECT TO DERIVA-  
13          TIVES TREATED AS SEPARATE TRANSACTIONS.—Ex-  
14          cept as otherwise provided by the Secretary, any  
15          payment with respect to any derivative shall be  
16          treated as a separate transaction for purposes of  
17          this section.

18          “(h) APPLICATION TO TRANSACTIONS BY CON-  
19          TROLLED FOREIGN CORPORATIONS.—

20                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this sec-  
21          tion, a controlled foreign corporation shall be treated  
22          as a United States person.

23                   “(2) SPECIAL RULES FOR PAYMENT OF TAX ON  
24          DIRECT, ETC., TRANSACTIONS.—In the case of any  
25          transaction which is a covered transaction solely by

1 reason of paragraph (1) and which is not described  
2 in subsection (f)(1)—

3 “(A) PAYMENT BY UNITED STATES SHARE-  
4 HOLDERS.—Any tax which would (but for this  
5 paragraph) be payable under subsection (f)(2)  
6 by the controlled foreign corporation shall, in  
7 lieu thereof, be paid by the United States  
8 shareholders of such controlled foreign corpora-  
9 tion as provided in subparagraph (B).

10 “(B) PRO RATA SHARES.—Each such  
11 United States shareholder shall pay the same  
12 proportion of such tax as—

13 “(i) the stock which such United  
14 States shareholder owns (within the mean-  
15 ing of section 958(a)) in such controlled  
16 foreign corporation, bears to

17 “(ii) the stock so owned by all United  
18 States shareholders in such controlled for-  
19 eign corporation.

20 “(C) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this  
21 subsection, the terms ‘United States share-  
22 holder’ and ‘controlled foreign corporation’ have  
23 the meanings given such terms in sections  
24 951(b) and 957(a), respectively.

1       “(i) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall carry  
2 out this section in consultation with the Securities and Ex-  
3 change Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading  
4 Commission.

5       “(j) GUIDANCE; REGULATIONS.—The Secretary  
6 shall—

7           “(1) provide guidance regarding such informa-  
8 tion reporting concerning covered transactions as the  
9 Secretary deems appropriate, and

10           “(2) prescribe such regulations as are necessary  
11 or appropriate to prevent avoidance of the purposes  
12 of this section, including the use of non-United  
13 States persons in such transactions.

14 **“SEC. 4476. DERIVATIVE DEFINED.**

15       “(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this subchapter,  
16 except as otherwise provided in this section, the term ‘de-  
17 rivative’ means any contract (including any option, for-  
18 ward contract, futures contract, short position, swap, or  
19 similar contract) the value of which, or any payment or  
20 other transfer with respect to which, is (directly or indi-  
21 rectly) determined by reference to one or more of the fol-  
22 lowing:

23           “(1) Any share of stock in a corporation.

24           “(2) Any partnership or beneficial ownership  
25 interest in a partnership or trust.



1 “(3) Any evidence of indebtedness.

2 “(4) Except as provided in subsection (b)(1),  
3 any real property.

4 “(5) Any commodity which is actively traded  
5 (within the meaning of section 1092(d)(1)).

6 “(6) Any currency.

7 “(7) Any rate, price, amount, index, formula, or  
8 algorithm.

9 “(8) Any other item as the Secretary may pre-  
10 scribe.

11 Except as provided in regulations prescribed by the Sec-  
12 retary to prevent the avoidance of the purposes of this  
13 subchapter, such term shall not include any item described  
14 in paragraphs (1) through (8).

15 “(b) EXCEPTIONS.—

16 “(1) CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this  
18 subchapter, the term ‘derivative’ shall not in-  
19 clude any contract with respect to interests in  
20 real property (as defined in section  
21 856(c)(5)(C)) if such contract requires physical  
22 delivery of such real property.

23 “(B) OPTIONS TO SETTLE IN CASH.—

24 “(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of  
25 subparagraph (A), a contract which pro-

1           vides for an option of cash settlement shall  
2           not be treated as requiring physical deliv-  
3           ery of real property unless the option is—

4                   “(I) not exercisable uncondition-  
5                   ally, and

6                   “(II) exercisable only in unusual  
7                   and exceptional circumstances.

8                   “(ii) OPTION OF CASH SETTLE-  
9                   MENT.—For purposes of clause (i), a con-  
10                  tract provides an option of cash settlement  
11                  if the contract settles in (or could be set-  
12                  tled in) cash or property other than the  
13                  underlying real property.

14                 “(2) SECURITIES LENDING, SALE-REPURCHASE,  
15                 AND SIMILAR FINANCING TRANSACTIONS.—To the  
16                 extent provided by the Secretary, for purposes of  
17                 this subchapter, the term ‘derivative’ shall not in-  
18                 clude the right to the return of the same or substan-  
19                 tially identical securities transferred in a securities  
20                 lending transaction, sale-repurchase transaction, or  
21                 similar financing transaction.

22                 “(3) OPTIONS RECEIVED IN CONNECTION WITH  
23                 THE PERFORMANCE OF SERVICES.—For purposes of  
24                 this subchapter, the term ‘derivative’ shall not in-  
25                 clude any option described in section 83(e)(3) re-

1 received in connection with the performance of serv-  
2 ices.

3 “(4) INSURANCE CONTRACTS, ANNUITIES, AND  
4 ENDOWMENTS.—For purposes of this subchapter,  
5 the term ‘derivative’ shall not include any insurance,  
6 annuity, or endowment contract issued by an insur-  
7 ance company to which subchapter L applies (or  
8 issued by any foreign corporation to which such sub-  
9 chapter would apply if such foreign corporation were  
10 a domestic corporation).

11 “(5) DERIVATIVES WITH RESPECT TO STOCK  
12 OF MEMBERS OF SAME WORLDWIDE AFFILIATED  
13 GROUP.—For purposes of this subchapter, the term  
14 ‘derivative’ shall not include any derivative (deter-  
15 mined without regard to this paragraph) with re-  
16 spect to stock issued by any member of the same  
17 worldwide affiliated group (as defined in section  
18 864(f)) in which the taxpayer is a member.

19 “(6) COMMODITIES USED IN NORMAL COURSE  
20 OF TRADE OR BUSINESS.—For purposes of this sub-  
21 chapter, the term ‘derivative’ shall not include any  
22 contract with respect to any commodity if—

23 “(A) such contract requires physical deliv-  
24 ery with the option of cash settlement only in  
25 unusual and exceptional circumstances, and

1           “(B) such commodity is used (and is used  
2           in quantities with respect to which such deriva-  
3           tive relates) in the normal course of the tax-  
4           payer’s trade or business (or, in the case of an  
5           individual, for personal consumption).

6           “(c) CONTRACTS WITH EMBEDDED DERIVATIVE  
7 COMPONENTS.—

8           “(1) IN GENERAL.—If a contract has derivative  
9           and nonderivative components, then each derivative  
10          component shall be treated as a derivative for pur-  
11          poses of this subchapter. If the derivative component  
12          cannot be separately valued, then the entire contract  
13          shall be treated as a derivative for purposes of this  
14          subchapter.

15          “(2) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN EMBEDDED DE-  
16          RIVATIVE COMPONENTS OF DEBT INSTRUMENTS.—A  
17          debt instrument shall not be treated as having a de-  
18          rivative component merely because—

19                 “(A) such debt instrument is denominated  
20                 in a nonfunctional currency (as defined in sec-  
21                 tion 988(c)(1)(C)(ii)), or

22                 “(B) payments with respect to such debt  
23                 instrument are determined by reference to the  
24                 value of a nonfunctional currency (as so de-  
25                 fined).

1       “(d) TREATMENT OF AMERICAN DEPOSITORY RE-  
2 CEIPTS AND SIMILAR INSTRUMENTS.—Except as other-  
3 wise provided by the Secretary, for purposes of this sub-  
4 chapter, American depository receipts (and similar instru-  
5 ments) with respect to shares of stock in foreign corpora-  
6 tions shall be treated as shares of stock in such foreign  
7 corporations.”.

8       (b) INFORMATION REPORTING WITH RESPECT TO  
9 CONTROLLED FOREIGN CORPORATIONS.—Section  
10 6038(a)(1)(B) of such Code is amended by inserting “and  
11 transactions which are covered transactions for purposes  
12 of section 4475 by reason of the application of section  
13 4475(h)(1) to such corporation” before the semicolon at  
14 the end.

15       (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sub-  
16 chapters for chapter 36 of such Code is amended by in-  
17 serting after the item relating to subchapter B the fol-  
18 lowing new item:

“SUBCHAPTER C. TAX ON TRADING TRANSACTIONS”.

19       (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
20 this section shall apply to transactions after December 31,  
21 2019.

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