

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 138

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax incentive to individuals teaching in elementary and secondary schools located in rural or high unemployment areas and to individuals who achieve certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 8, 2015

Mr. WYDEN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax incentive to individuals teaching in elementary and secondary schools located in rural or high unemployment areas and to individuals who achieve certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, and for other purposes.

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 “Incentives to Educate
5 American Children Act of 2015” or the “I Teach Act of
6 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. REFUNDABLE TAX CREDIT FOR INDIVIDUALS**
 2 **TEACHING IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY**
 3 **SCHOOLS LOCATED IN HIGH POVERTY OR**
 4 **RURAL AREAS AND CERTIFIED TEACHERS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart C of part IV of sub-
 6 chapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of
 7 1986 is amended by inserting after section 36B the fol-
 8 lowing new section:

9 **“SEC. 36C. TAX CREDIT FOR INDIVIDUALS TEACHING IN EL-**
 10 **EMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS LO-**
 11 **CATED IN HIGH POVERTY OR RURAL AREAS**
 12 **AND CERTIFIED TEACHERS.**

13 “(a) ALLOWANCE OF CREDIT.—In the case of an eli-
 14 gible teacher, there shall be allowed as a credit against
 15 the tax imposed by this subtitle for the taxable year an
 16 amount equal to the applicable amount for the eligible aca-
 17 demic year ending during such taxable year.

18 “(b) APPLICABLE AMOUNT.—For purposes of this
 19 section—

20 “(1) TEACHERS IN SCHOOLS IN RURAL AREAS
 21 OR SCHOOLS WITH HIGH POVERTY.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an eligi-
 23 ble teacher who performs services in a public
 24 kindergarten or a public elementary or sec-
 25 ondary school described in subparagraph (B)

1 during the eligible academic year, the applicable
2 amount is \$1,000.

3 “(B) SCHOOL DESCRIBED.—A public kin-
4 dergarten or a public elementary or secondary
5 school is described in this subparagraph if—

6 “(i) at least 75 percent of the stu-
7 dents attending such kindergarten or
8 school receive free or reduced-cost lunches
9 under the school lunch program established
10 under the Richard B. Russell National
11 School Lunch Act, or

12 “(ii) such kindergarten or school has
13 a School Locale Code of 41, 42, or 43, as
14 determined by the Secretary of Education.

15 “(2) CERTIFIED TEACHERS.—In the case of an
16 eligible teacher who is certified by the National
17 Board for Professional Teaching Standards for the
18 eligible academic year, the applicable amount is
19 \$1,000.

20 “(3) CERTIFIED TEACHERS IN SCHOOLS IN
21 RURAL AREAS OR SCHOOLS WITH HIGH POVERTY.—
22 In the case of an eligible teacher described in both
23 paragraphs (1) and (2), the applicable amount is
24 \$2,000.

1 “(c) ELIGIBLE TEACHER.—For purposes of this sec-
 2 tion, the term ‘eligible teacher’ means, for any eligible aca-
 3 demic year, an individual who is a kindergarten through
 4 grade 12 classroom teacher or instructor in a public kin-
 5 dergarten or a public elementary or secondary school on
 6 a full-time basis for such eligible academic year.

7 “(d) ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of
 8 this section—

9 “(1) ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
 10 SCHOOLS.—The terms ‘elementary school’ and ‘sec-
 11 ondary school’ have the respective meanings given
 12 such terms by section 9101 of the Elementary and
 13 Secondary Education Act of 1965.

14 “(2) ELIGIBLE ACADEMIC YEAR.—The term ‘el-
 15 ible academic year’ means any academic year end-
 16 ing in a taxable year beginning after December 31,
 17 2015.”.

18 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

19 (1) Paragraph (2) of section 1324(b) of title
 20 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting “,
 21 36C” after “36B”.

22 (2) The table of sections for subpart C of part
 23 IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Rev-
 24 enue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting after the
 25 item relating to section 36B the following new item:

“Sec. 36C. Tax credit for individuals teaching in elementary and secondary schools located in high poverty or rural areas and certified teachers.”.

1 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
2 this section shall apply to academic years ending in tax-
3 able years beginning after December 31, 2015.

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