

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 333

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an above-the-line deduction against individual income tax for interest on indebtedness and for State sales and excise taxes with respect to the purchase of certain motor vehicles.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 27, 2009

Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. WEBB) 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 allow an above-the-line deduction against individual income tax for interest on indebtedness and for State sales and excise taxes with respect to the purchase of certain motor vehicles.

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. ABOVE-THE-LINE DEDUCTION FOR INTEREST**
4 **ON INDEBTEDNESS WITH RESPECT TO THE**
5 **PURCHASE OF CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLES.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 163(h)
7 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

1 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
2 graph (E),

3 (2) by striking the period at the end of sub-
4 paragraph (F) and inserting “, and”, and

5 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
6 paragraph:

7 “(G) any qualified motor vehicle interest
8 (within the meaning of paragraph (5)).”.

9 (b) QUALIFIED MOTOR VEHICLE INTEREST.—Sec-
10 tion 163(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is
11 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
12 graph:

13 “(5) QUALIFIED MOTOR VEHICLE INTEREST.—
14 For purposes of this subsection—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified
16 motor vehicle interest’ means any interest which
17 is paid or accrued during the taxable year on
18 any indebtedness which—

19 “(i) is incurred after November 12,
20 2008, and before January 1, 2010, in ac-
21 quiring any qualified motor vehicle of the
22 taxpayer, and

23 “(ii) is secured by such qualified
24 motor vehicle.

1 Such term also includes any indebtedness se-
2 cured by such qualified motor vehicle resulting
3 from the refinancing of indebtedness meeting
4 the requirements of the preceding sentence (or
5 this sentence); but only to the extent the
6 amount of the indebtedness resulting from such
7 refinancing does not exceed the amount of the
8 refinanced indebtedness.

9 “(B) DOLLAR LIMITATION.—The aggre-
10 gate amount of indebtedness treated as de-
11 scribed in subparagraph (A) for any period
12 shall not exceed \$49,500 (\$24,750 in the case
13 of a separate return by a married individual).

14 “(C) INCOME LIMITATION.—The amount
15 otherwise treated as interest under subpara-
16 graph (A) for any taxable year (after the appli-
17 cation of subparagraph (B)) shall be reduced
18 (but not below zero) by the amount which bears
19 the same ratio to the amount which is so treat-
20 ed as—

21 “(i) the excess (if any) of—

22 “(I) the taxpayer’s modified ad-
23 justed gross income for such taxable
24 year, over

1 “(II) \$125,000 (\$250,000 in the
2 case of a joint return), bears to
3 “(ii) \$10,000.

4 For purposes of the preceding sentence, the
5 term ‘modified adjusted gross income’ means
6 the adjusted gross income of the taxpayer for
7 the taxable year increased by any amount ex-
8 cluded from gross income under section 911,
9 931, or 933.

10 “(D) QUALIFIED MOTOR VEHICLE.—The
11 term ‘qualified motor vehicle’ means a pas-
12 senger automobile (within the meaning of sec-
13 tion 30B(h)(3)) or a light truck (within the
14 meaning of such section)—

15 “(i) which is acquired for use by the
16 taxpayer and not for resale after November
17 12, 2008, and before January 1, 2010,

18 “(ii) the original use of which com-
19 mences with the taxpayer, and

20 “(iii) which has a gross vehicle weight
21 rating of not more than 8,500 pounds.”.

22 (c) DEDUCTION ALLOWED ABOVE-THE-LINE.—Sec-
23 tion 62(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amend-
24 ed by inserting after paragraph (21) the following new
25 paragraph:

1 “(b) FORM AND MANNER OF RETURNS.—A return
2 is described in this subsection if such return—

3 “(1) is in such form as the Secretary may pre-
4 scribe,

5 “(2) contains—

6 “(A) the name and address of the indi-
7 vidual from whom the interest described in sub-
8 section (a)(2) was received,

9 “(B) the amount of such interest received
10 for the calendar year, and

11 “(C) such other information as the Sec-
12 retary may prescribe.

13 “(c) APPLICATION TO GOVERNMENTAL UNITS.—For
14 purposes of subsection (a)—

15 “(1) TREATED AS PERSONS.—The term ‘per-
16 son’ includes any governmental unit (and any agency
17 or instrumentality thereof).

18 “(2) SPECIAL RULES.—In the case of a govern-
19 mental unit or any agency or instrumentality there-
20 of—

21 “(A) subsection (a) shall be applied with-
22 out regard to the trade or business requirement
23 contained therein, and

24 “(B) any return required under subsection
25 (a) shall be made by the officer or employee ap-

1 appropriately designated for the purpose of mak-
2 ing such return.

3 “(d) STATEMENTS TO BE FURNISHED TO INDIVID-
4 UALS WITH RESPECT TO WHOM INFORMATION IS RE-
5 QUIRED.—Every person required to make a return under
6 subsection (a) shall furnish to each individual whose name
7 is required to be set forth in such return a written state-
8 ment showing—

9 “(1) the name, address, and phone number of
10 the information contact of the person required to
11 make such return, and

12 “(2) the aggregate amount of interest described
13 in subsection (a)(2) received by the person required
14 to make such return from the individual to whom
15 the statement is required to be furnished.

16 The written statement required under the preceding sen-
17 tence shall be furnished on or before January 31 of the
18 year following the calendar year for which the return
19 under subsection (a) was required to be made.

20 “(e) RETURNS WHICH WOULD BE REQUIRED TO BE
21 MADE BY 2 OR MORE PERSONS.—Except to the extent
22 provided in regulations prescribed by the Secretary, in the
23 case of interest received by any person on behalf of an-
24 other person, only the person first receiving such interest

1 shall be required to make the return under subsection
2 (a).”.

3 (2) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO PENALTIES.—

4 (A) Section 6721(e)(2)(A) of such Code is
5 amended by striking “or 6050L” and inserting
6 “6050L, or 6050X”.

7 (B) Section 6722(c)(1)(A) of such Code is
8 amended by striking “or 6050L(c)” and insert-
9 ing “6050L(c), or 6050X(d)”.

10 (C) Subparagraph (B) of section
11 6724(d)(1) of such Code is amended by redesignig-
12 nating clauses (xvi) through (xxii) as clauses
13 (xvii) through (xxiii), respectively, and by in-
14 serting after clause (xii) the following new
15 clause:

16 “(xvi) section 6050X (relating to re-
17 turns relating to qualified motor vehicle in-
18 terest received in trade or business from
19 individuals),”.

20 (D) Paragraph (2) of section 6724(d) of
21 such Code is amended by striking the period at
22 the end of subparagraph (DD) and inserting “,
23 or” and by inserting after subparagraph (DD)
24 the following new subparagraph:

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this
2 section, the term ‘qualified motor vehicle taxes’
3 means any State or local sales or excise tax im-
4 posed on the purchase of a qualified motor vehi-
5 cle (as defined in section 163(h)(5)(D)).

6 “(B) INCOME LIMITATION.—The amount
7 otherwise taken into account under subpara-
8 graph (A) for any taxable year shall be reduced
9 (but not below zero) by the amount which bears
10 the same ratio to the amount which is so treat-
11 ed as—

12 “(i) the excess (if any) of—

13 “(I) the taxpayer’s modified ad-
14 justed gross income for such taxable
15 year, over

16 “(II) \$125,000 (\$250,000 in the
17 case of a joint return), bears to

18 “(ii) \$10,000.

19 For purposes of the preceding sentence, the
20 term ‘modified adjusted gross income’ means
21 the adjusted gross income of the taxpayer for
22 the taxable year increased by any amount ex-
23 cluded from gross income under section 911,
24 931, or 933.

1 “(C) QUALIFIED MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES
2 NOT INCLUDED IN COST OF ACQUIRED PROP-
3 ERTY.—The last sentence of subsection (a)
4 shall not apply to any qualified motor vehicle
5 taxes.

6 “(D) COORDINATION WITH GENERAL
7 SALES TAX.—This paragraph shall not apply in
8 the case of a taxpayer who makes an election
9 under paragraph (5) for the taxable year.”.

10 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Paragraph (5) of
11 section 163(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as
12 added by section 1, is amended—

13 (1) by adding at the end the following new sub-
14 paragraph:

15 “(E) EXCLUSION.—If the indebtedness de-
16 scribed in subparagraph (A) includes the
17 amounts of any State or local sales or excise
18 taxes paid or accrued by the taxpayer in con-
19 nection with the acquisition of a qualified motor
20 vehicle, the aggregate amount of such indebted-
21 ness taken into account under such subpara-
22 graph shall be reduced, but not below zero, by
23 the amount of any such taxes for which a de-
24 duction is allowed under section 164(a) by rea-
25 son of paragraph (6) thereof.”, and

1 (2) by inserting “, after the application of sub-
2 paragraph (E),” after “for any period” in subpara-
3 graph (B).

4 (d) DEDUCTION ALLOWED ABOVE-THE-LINE.—Sec-
5 tion 62(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as
6 amended by section 1, is amended by inserting after para-
7 graph (22) the following new paragraph:

8 “(23) QUALIFIED MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES.—
9 The deduction allowed under section 164 by reason
10 of subsection (a)(6) thereof.”.

11 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
12 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after
13 December 31, 2008.

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