

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5035

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide matching payments for retirement savings contributions by certain individuals.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 16, 2020

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mrs. MURRAY) 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 matching payments for retirement savings contributions by certain individuals.

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 “Encouraging Ameri-
5 cans to Save Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MATCHING PAYMENTS FOR ELECTIVE DEFERRAL**
2 **AND IRA CONTRIBUTIONS BY CERTAIN INDI-**
3 **VIDUALS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter B of chapter 65 of the
5 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at
6 the end the following new section:

7 **“SEC. 6433. MATCHING PAYMENTS FOR ELECTIVE DEFER-**
8 **RAL AND IRA CONTRIBUTIONS BY CERTAIN**
9 **INDIVIDUALS.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

11 “(1) ALLOWANCE OF CREDIT.—Any eligible in-
12 dividual who makes qualified retirement savings con-
13 tributions for the taxable year shall be allowed a
14 credit for such taxable year in an amount equal to
15 the applicable percentage of so much of the qualified
16 retirement savings contributions made by such eligi-
17 ble individual for the taxable year as does not exceed
18 \$2,000.

19 “(2) PAYMENT OF CREDIT.—The credit under
20 this section shall be paid by the Secretary as a con-
21 tribution (as soon as practicable after the eligible in-
22 dividual has filed a tax return for the taxable year)
23 to the applicable retirement savings vehicle of an eli-
24 gible individual.

25 “(b) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes of
26 this section—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
2 graph (2), the applicable percentage is 50 percent.

3 “(2) PHASEOUT.—The percentage under para-
4 graph (1) shall be reduced (but not below zero) by
5 the number of percentage points which bears the
6 same ratio to 50 percentage points as—

7 “(A) the excess of—

8 “(i) the taxpayer’s modified adjusted
9 gross income for such taxable year, over

10 “(ii) the applicable dollar amount,
11 bears to

12 “(B) the phaseout range.

13 If any reduction determined under this paragraph is
14 not a whole percentage point, such reduction shall be
15 rounded to the next lowest whole percentage point.

16 “(3) APPLICABLE DOLLAR AMOUNT; PHASEOUT
17 RANGE.—

18 “(A) JOINT RETURNS.—Except as pro-
19 vided in subparagraph (B)—

20 “(i) the applicable dollar amount is
21 \$65,000, and

22 “(ii) the phaseout range is \$20,000.

23 “(B) OTHER RETURNS.—In the case of—

24 “(i) a head of a household (as defined
25 in section 2(b)), the applicable dollar

1 amount and the phaseout range shall be $\frac{3}{4}$
2 of the amounts applicable under subpara-
3 graph (A) (as adjusted under subsection
4 (g)), and

5 “(ii) any taxpayer who is not filing a
6 joint return and who is not a head of a
7 household (as so defined), the applicable
8 dollar amount and the phaseout range
9 shall be $\frac{1}{2}$ of the amounts applicable
10 under subparagraph (A) (as so adjusted).

11 “(4) EXCEPTION; MINIMUM CREDIT.—In the
12 case of an eligible individual with respect to whom
13 (without regard to this paragraph) the credit deter-
14 mined under subsection (a)(1) is greater than zero
15 but less than \$100, the credit allowed under this
16 section shall be \$100.

17 “(c) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this
18 section—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘eligible indi-
20 vidual’ means any individual if such individual has
21 attained the age of 18 as of the close of the taxable
22 year.

23 “(2) DEPENDENTS AND FULL-TIME STUDENTS
24 NOT ELIGIBLE.—The term ‘eligible individual’ shall
25 not include—

1 “(A) any individual with respect to whom
2 a deduction under section 151 is allowed to an-
3 other taxpayer for a taxable year beginning in
4 the calendar year in which such individual’s
5 taxable year begins, and

6 “(B) any individual who is a student (as
7 defined in section 152(f)(2)).

8 “(d) QUALIFIED RETIREMENT SAVINGS CONTRIBU-
9 TIONS.—For purposes of this section—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified retire-
11 ment savings contributions’ means, with respect to
12 any taxable year, the sum of—

13 “(A) the amount of the qualified retire-
14 ment contributions (as defined in section
15 219(e)) made by the eligible individual,

16 “(B) the amount of—

17 “(i) any elective deferrals (as defined
18 in section 402(g)(3)) of such individual,
19 and

20 “(ii) any elective deferral of com-
21 pensation by such individual under an eli-
22 gible deferred compensation plan (as de-
23 fined in section 457(b)) of an eligible em-
24 ployer described in section 457(e)(1)(A),
25 and

1 “(C) the amount of voluntary employee
2 contributions by such individual to any qualified
3 retirement plan (as defined in section 4974(c)).
4 Such term shall not include any amount attributable
5 to a payment under subsection (a).

6 “(2) REDUCTION FOR CERTAIN DISTRIBUTIONS.—
7

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The qualified retire-
9 ment savings contributions determined under
10 paragraph (1) for a taxable year shall be re-
11 duced (but not below zero) by the aggregate
12 distributions received by the individual during
13 the testing period from any entity of a type to
14 which contributions under paragraph (1) may
15 be made.

16 “(B) TESTING PERIOD.—For purposes of
17 subparagraph (A), the testing period, with re-
18 spect to a taxable year, is the period which in-
19 cludes—

20 “(i) such taxable year,

21 “(ii) the 2 preceding taxable years,

22 and

23 “(iii) the period after such taxable
24 year and before the due date (including ex-

1 tensions) for filing the return of tax for
2 such taxable year.

3 “(C) EXCEPTED DISTRIBUTIONS.—There
4 shall not be taken into account under subpara-
5 graph (A)—

6 “(i) any distribution referred to in
7 section 72(p), 401(k)(8), 401(m)(6),
8 402(g)(2), 404(k), or 408(d)(4),

9 “(ii) any distribution to which section
10 408(d)(3) or 408A(d)(3) applies, and

11 “(iii) any portion of a distribution if
12 such portion is transferred or paid in a
13 rollover contribution (as defined in section
14 402(e), 403(a)(4), 403(b)(8), 408A(e), or
15 457(e)(16)) to an account or plan to which
16 qualified retirement contributions can be
17 made.

18 “(D) TREATMENT OF DISTRIBUTIONS RE-
19 CEIVED BY SPOUSE OF INDIVIDUAL.—For pur-
20 poses of determining distributions received by
21 an individual under subparagraph (A) for any
22 taxable year, any distribution received by the
23 spouse of such individual shall be treated as re-
24 ceived by such individual if such individual and
25 spouse file a joint return for such taxable year

1 and for the taxable year during which the
2 spouse receives the distribution.

3 “(e) APPLICABLE RETIREMENT SAVINGS VEHI-
4 CLE.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘applicable retire-
6 ment savings vehicle’ means—

7 “(A) an account or plan elected by the eli-
8 gible individual under paragraph (2), or

9 “(B) if no such election is made or the
10 Secretary is not able to make a contribution
11 into the account or plan selected by the eligible
12 individual, an account established for the ben-
13 efit of the eligible individual under the R-Bond
14 Program.

15 For purposes of subparagraph (B), if no account has
16 previously been established for the benefit of the in-
17 dividual under the R-Bond Program, the Secretary
18 shall establish such an account for such individual
19 for purposes of contributions under this section.

20 “(2) OTHER RETIREMENT VEHICLES.—An eligi-
21 ble individual may elect to have the amount deter-
22 mined under subsection (a) contributed to an ac-
23 count or plan which—

24 “(A) is a Roth IRA or a designated Roth
25 account (within the meaning of section 402A)

1 of an applicable retirement plan (as defined in
2 section 402A(e)(1)),

3 “(B) is for the benefit of the eligible indi-
4 vidual,

5 “(C) accepts contributions made under this
6 section, and

7 “(D) is designated by such individual (in
8 such form and manner as the Secretary may
9 provide) on the return of tax for the taxable
10 year.

11 In the case of a plan of which a qualified trust
12 under section 401(a) is a part, an annuity contract
13 described in section 403(b), or a plan described in
14 section 457(b) which is established and maintained
15 by an employer described in section 457(e)(1)(A),
16 amounts under this section may only be contributed
17 to such plan if the plan document permits such con-
18 tribution.

19 “(f) OTHER DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.—

20 “(1) MODIFIED ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—

21 For purposes of this section, the term ‘modified ad-
22 justed gross income’ means adjusted gross income—

23 “(A) determined without regard to sections
24 911, 931, and 933, and

1 “(B) determined without regard to any ex-
2 clusion or deduction allowed for any qualified
3 retirement savings contribution made during
4 the taxable year.

5 “(2) TREATMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS.—In the
6 case of any contribution under subsection (a)(2)—

7 “(A) except as otherwise provided in this
8 section or by the Secretary under regulations,
9 such contribution shall be treated as—

10 “(i) an elective deferral made by the
11 individual which is a designated Roth con-
12 tribution, if contributed to an applicable
13 retirement plan, or

14 “(ii) as a Roth IRA contribution made
15 by such individual, if contributed to a Roth
16 IRA,

17 “(B) such contribution shall not be treated
18 as income to the taxpayer, and

19 “(C) such contribution shall not be taken
20 into account with respect to any applicable limi-
21 tation under sections 402(g)(1), 403(b),
22 408(a)(1), 408(b)(2)(B), 408A(c)(2), 414(v)(2),
23 415(c), or 457(b)(2), and shall be disregarded
24 for purposes of sections 401(a)(4), 401(k)(3),
25 401(k)(11)(B)(i)(III), and 416.

1 “(3) TREATMENT OF QUALIFIED PLANS, ETC.—
2 A plan or arrangement to which a contribution is
3 made under this section shall not be treated as vio-
4 lating any requirement under section 401, 403, 408,
5 or 457 solely by reason of accepting such contribu-
6 tion.

7 “(4) ERRONEOUS CREDITS.—If any contribu-
8 tion is erroneously paid under subsection (a)(2), the
9 amount of such erroneous payment shall be treated
10 as an underpayment of tax.

11 “(g) INFLATION ADJUSTMENTS.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any taxable
13 year beginning in a calendar year after 2020, each
14 of the dollar amounts in subsections (a)(1) and
15 (b)(3)(A)(i) shall be increased by an amount equal
16 to—

17 “(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by

18 “(B) the cost-of-living adjustment deter-
19 mined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar
20 year in which the taxable year begins, deter-
21 mined by substituting ‘calendar year 2019’ for
22 ‘calendar year 2016’ in subparagraph (A)(ii)
23 thereof.

1 “(2) ROUNDING.—Any increase determined
2 under paragraph (1) shall be rounded to the nearest
3 multiple of—

4 “(A) \$100 in the case of an adjustment of
5 the amount in subsection (a)(1), and

6 “(B) \$1,000 in the case of an adjustment
7 of the amount in subsection (b)(3)(A)(i).”.

8 (b) PAYMENT AUTHORITY.—Section 1324(b)(2) of
9 title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking “or
10 6431” and inserting “6431, or 6433”.

11 (c) DEFICIENCIES.—Section 6211(b)(4) is amended
12 by striking “and 6431” and inserting “6431, and 6433”.

13 (d) REPORTING.—The Secretary of Labor, the Sec-
14 retary of the Treasury, and the Director of the Pension
15 Benefit Guaranty Corporation shall—

16 (1) amend Form 5500 to require separate re-
17 porting of the aggregate amount of contributions re-
18 ceived by the plan during the year under section
19 6433 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as
20 added by this section), and

21 (2) amend Form 5498 to require similar report-
22 ing with respect to individual retirement plans (as
23 defined in section 7701(a)(37) of such Code).

24 (e) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

1 gible individual in all preceding taxable years
2 which begin after December 31, 2021.

3 (2) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sub-
4 section, the terms “qualified retirement savings con-
5 tributions” and “eligible individual” have the mean-
6 ings given such terms by subsections (d) and (e), re-
7 spectively, of section 6433 of such Code, as so
8 added.

9 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF R-BOND PROGRAM.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury
11 shall, not later than December 31, 2022, establish a per-
12 manent program, to be known as the “R-Bond Program”,
13 which meets the requirements of this section to establish
14 and maintain a Roth IRA on behalf of individuals.

15 (b) PROGRAM SPECIFICATIONS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—

17 (A) ROTH IRAS.—The R-Bond Program
18 established under this section shall—

19 (i) permit an individual to establish a
20 Roth IRA which satisfies the requirements
21 of section 408A of the Internal Revenue
22 Code of 1986 on behalf of the individual;

23 (ii) permit an employer to establish
24 such a Roth IRA on behalf of 1 or more
25 employees of such employer;

1 (iii) require the assets of each Roth
2 IRA established under the program to be
3 held by the designated Roth IRA custo-
4 dian;

5 (iv) permit contributions to be made
6 periodically to such Roth IRAs by direct
7 deposit or other electronic means and by
8 methods that provide access for the
9 unbanked;

10 (v) permit distributions and rollovers
11 from such Roth IRAs upon request of the
12 account owner;

13 (vi) include procedures to consolidate
14 multiple accounts established for the same
15 individual; and

16 (vii) ensure that such Roth IRAs are
17 invested solely in retirement savings bonds
18 issued by the Department of the Treasury
19 for the purpose of the R-Bond Program.

20 (B) REGULATIONS, ETC.—The Secretary
21 of the Treasury shall have authority to promul-
22 gate such regulations, rules, and other guidance
23 as are necessary to implement the R-Bond Pro-
24 gram, and are consistent with this section, as
25 well as coordination rules permitting Roth IRAs

1 to be established under the R-Bond Program in
2 connection with State and local laws that enroll
3 residents in Roth IRAs.

4 (2) NO FEES.—No fees shall be assessed on
5 participants in the R-Bond Program.

6 (3) LIMITATIONS.—

7 (A) CONTRIBUTION MINIMUM.—The Sec-
8 retary of the Treasury may establish minimum
9 amounts for initial and additional contributions
10 to a Roth IRA under the R-Bond Program, not
11 to exceed \$5.

12 (B) ROLLOVER CONTRIBUTIONS NOT PER-
13 MITTED.—No rollover contribution shall be ac-
14 cepted to a Roth IRA under the R-Bond Pro-
15 gram.

16 (C) ACCOUNT MAXIMUM.—No contribu-
17 tions (other than a contribution made under
18 section 6433(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue
19 Code of 1986, as added by this Act) shall be
20 credited to a Roth IRA under the R-Bond Pro-
21 gram after the account balance of such Roth
22 IRA reaches \$15,000.

23 (D) LIMITATION ON PARTICIPATION.—
24 Within a reasonable amount of time after the
25 earlier of—

1 (i) the date the account balance of a
2 Roth IRA under the R-Bond Program
3 reaches \$15,000; or

4 (ii) the earlier of—

5 (I) the date that the participant
6 has been a participant in the R-Bond
7 Program for 30 years; or

8 (II) the date that the participant
9 reaches age 59½,

10 the designated Roth IRA custodian shall pro-
11 vide notice to the participant that no further
12 contributions will be accepted and that the par-
13 ticipant may elect to have the account balance
14 rolled over to another Roth IRA according to
15 the rules relating to rollovers and transfers of
16 Roth IRAs under the Internal Revenue Code of
17 1986.

18 (E) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—

19 (i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any
20 calendar year after 2023, the \$15,000
21 amount in subparagraphs (C) and (D) and
22 subsection (c)(3)(B) shall be increased by
23 an amount equal to—

24 (I) such dollar amount, multi-
25 plied by

1 (II) the cost-of-living adjustment
2 determined under section 1(f)(3) of
3 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
4 for the calendar year, determined by
5 substituting “calendar year 2022” for
6 “calendar year 2016” in subpara-
7 graph (A)(ii) thereof.

8 (ii) ROUNDING.—If any increase de-
9 termined under clause (i) is not a multiple
10 of \$50, such increase shall be rounded to
11 the next lowest multiple of \$50.

12 (4) DESIGNATED ROTH IRA CUSTODIAN.—For
13 purposes of this section, the designated Roth IRA
14 custodian is the person designated by the Secretary
15 of the Treasury to act as custodian of the Roth
16 IRAs established on behalf of participants in the re-
17 tirement savings program of such Department.

18 (c) RETIREMENT SAVINGS BONDS.—For purposes of
19 this section—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The term “retirement sav-
21 ings bond” means an interest-bearing electronic
22 United States savings bond issued to the designated
23 Roth IRA custodian which is available only to par-
24 ticipants in the R-Bond Program.

1 (2) INTEREST RATE.—Bonds issued under the
2 R-Bond Program shall earn interest at a rate equal
3 to the greater of (determined on the issue date)—

4 (A) the rate earned by the Government Se-
5 curities Investment Fund established under sec-
6 tion 8438(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code;

7 or

8 (B) a Series I United States savings bond.

9 (3) BONDS TO BE CREDITED TO SINGLE AC-
10 COUNT.—Each retirement savings bond issued to the
11 designated Roth IRA custodian shall be credited to
12 a single Roth IRA established through the R-Bond
13 Program on behalf of a participant.

14 (4) REISSUE IN CASE OF CHANGE IN CUSTO-
15 DIAN.—If a successor designated Roth IRA custo-
16 dian is designated under subsection (b)(4), the re-
17 tirement savings bonds issued to the predecessor
18 designated Roth IRA custodian shall be reissued to
19 such successor.

20 (d) ROTH IRA.—For purposes of this section, the
21 term “Roth IRA” has the meaning given such term by
22 section 408A(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

23 **SEC. 4. PROMOTION AND GUIDANCE.**

24 (a) PROMOTION.—The Secretary of the Treasury (or
25 the Secretary’s delegate) shall educate taxpayers on the

1 benefits provided under section 6433 of the Internal Rev-
2 enue Code of 1986 and the R-Bond Program established
3 under section 3 of this Act.

4 (b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than December 31, 2021,
5 the Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary’s delegate)
6 shall issue guidance on the implementation and adminis-
7 tration of the amendments made by section 2 of this Act.

○