

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 2911

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to limit the tax rate for certain small businesses, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 31, 1996

Mr. CRANE 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 limit the tax rate for certain small businesses, 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 “Small Business Invest-
5 ment and Growth Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SMALL BUSINESS TAX RATE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Internal Revenue
8 Code of 1986 (relating to tax imposed) is amended by add-
9 ing at the end of the following new subsection:

10 “(i) MAXIMUM SMALL BUSINESS TAX RATE.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
2 graph (4), if a taxpayer has taxable small business
3 income for any taxable year to which this subsection
4 applies, then the tax imposed by this section shall
5 not exceed the sum of—

6 “(A) a tax computed at the rates and in
7 the same manner as if this subsection had not
8 been enacted on the greater of—

9 “(i) taxable income reduced by the
10 amount of taxable small business income,
11 or

12 “(ii) the amount of taxable income
13 taxed at a rate below 34 percent, plus

14 “(B) a tax of 34 percent of the amount of
15 taxable income in excess of the taxable income
16 that is subject to tax under subparagraph (A).

17 “(2) TAXABLE SMALL BUSINESS INCOME.—For
18 purposes of this subsection, the term ‘taxable small
19 business income’ means, with respect to any taxable
20 year, the taxable income of the taxpayer for such
21 year attributable to the active conduct of any trade
22 or business of an eligible small business.

23 “(3) QUALIFIED RETAINED EARNINGS AC-
24 COUNT.—For purposes of this subsection—

1 “(A) S CORPORATIONS.—Each S corpora-
2 tion shall establish a qualified retained earnings
3 account which shall be—

4 “(i) increased each year by the por-
5 tion of the taxable income of the S cor-
6 poration that is attributable to the active
7 conduct of a trade or business by the S
8 corporation,

9 “(ii) decreased each year by the por-
10 tion of the taxable loss of the S corpora-
11 tion that is attributable to such active con-
12 duct of a trade or business, and

13 “(iii) decreased by qualified and non-
14 qualified distributions from such S cor-
15 poration to the shareholders thereof.

16 “(B) QUALIFIED DISTRIBUTIONS.—For
17 purposes of subparagraph (A), a distribution
18 from a qualified retained earnings account shall
19 be treated as a qualified distribution if the dis-
20 tribution—

21 “(i) is made to the owners of the eligi-
22 ble small business, and

23 “(ii) is made to enable the S corpora-
24 tion shareholder to pay income taxes (Fed-

1 eral, State, local) on the income of the eli-
2 gible small business.

3 The Secretary is authorized to promulgate reg-
4 ulations pursuant to this subparagraph to pro-
5 vide rules to determine the extent to which dis-
6 tributions by an S corporation are made to en-
7 able the distributee to pay its income taxes, in-
8 cluding regulations that establish a presumption
9 that distributions are to enable the distributee
10 to pay income taxes if such distributions do not
11 exceed 34 percent of taxable small business in-
12 come.

13 “(C) DISTRIBUTIONS AFTER TAXABLE
14 YEAR.—For purposes of subparagraph (B), a
15 distribution from a qualified retained earnings
16 account within 75 days after the end of a tax-
17 able year of the eligible small business may be
18 treated as a distribution made on the last day
19 of such taxable year.

20 “(4) ADDITIONAL TAX ON NONQUALIFIED DIS-
21 TRIBUTIONS.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If—

23 “(i) a distribution other than a quali-
24 fied distribution is made from a qualified
25 retained earnings account, and

“(ii) such distribution is made from additions to the account for a taxable year with respect to which paragraph (1)(B) applied to the taxpayer by reason of such additions,

then the tax imposed by this section for the taxable year of the taxpayer with or within which the taxable year of the eligible small business in which the distribution was made ends shall be increased by the amount determined under subparagraph (B).

“(B) AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL TAX.—The amount of tax determined under this subparagraph is an amount equal to the product of the taxpayer’s pro rata share of the distribution described in subparagraph (A)(i) and the number of percentage points (and fractions thereof) by which the highest rate of tax in effect under this section for the taxpayer’s taxable year exceeds 34 percent.

“(C) ORDER OF DISTRIBUTIONS.—For purposes of this paragraph, distributions shall be treated as having been made from the qualified retained earnings account on a last-in, first-out basis. Distributions in excess of the

1 balance of the qualified retained earnings ac-
2 count shall not reduce such account below zero.

3 “(5) ELIGIBLE SMALL BUSINESS.—For pur-
4 poses of this subsection—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
6 subparagraph (B), the term ‘eligible small busi-
7 ness’ means, with respect to any taxable year,
8 an S corporation which has been designated, as
9 of the beginning of the taxable year, as a small
10 business concern (within the meaning of section
11 3(a) of the Small Business Act) according to
12 size standard regulations published by the
13 Small Business Administration.

14 “(B) EXCLUSIONS.—Such term shall not
15 include—

16 “(i) any personal service corporation
17 (as defined in section 469(j)(2)), and

18 “(ii) any personal holding company
19 (as defined in section 542).

20 “(C) ELECTION TO USE 3 PRECEDING
21 YEARS.—If the determination under subpara-
22 graph (A) is made on the basis of number of
23 employees or gross receipts, the taxpayer may
24 elect to have the determination made on the
25 basis of the average number of employees or the

1 average gross receipts of the taxpayer for the 3
2 taxable years preceding the taxable year.

3 “(6) YEARS TO WHICH SUBSECTION APPLIES.—

4 This subsection shall apply to any taxable year if the
5 highest rate of tax set forth in subsection (a), (b),
6 (c), (d), or (e) (whichever applies) for the taxable
7 year exceeds 34 percent.

8 “(7) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall pre-
9 scribe such regulations as may be necessary or ap-
10 propriate to carry out the purposes of this section,
11 including regulations preventing the characterization
12 of distributions for purposes of compensation or per-
13 sonal use as distributions of qualified retained earn-
14 ings.”

15 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
16 subsection (a) shall apply to taxable years beginning after
17 December 31, 1995.

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