

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1708

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a simplified method for determining a partner's share of items of a partnership which is a qualified investment club.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 5, 1999

Mr. RAMSTAD (for himself and Mrs. THURMAN) 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 provide a simplified method for determining a partner's share of items of a partnership which is a qualified investment club.

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 Investors Tax
5 Simplification Act of 1999".

1 **SEC. 2. ELECTION TO USE SIMPLIFIED METHOD FOR**
2 **QUALIFIED INVESTMENT CLUBS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part I of subchapter K of chapter
4 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to deter-
5 mination of tax liability of partners and partnerships) is
6 amended by inserting after section 704 the following new
7 section:

8 **“SEC. 704A. ELECTION TO USE SIMPLIFIED METHOD FOR**
9 **QUALIFIED INVESTMENT CLUBS.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
11 vision of this subchapter, a partner’s distributive share of
12 all items of income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit of a
13 qualified investment club shall be determined under the
14 simplified method.

15 “(b) SIMPLIFIED METHOD.—For purposes of this
16 section—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘simplified meth-
18 od’ means a method pursuant to which a partnership
19 allocates each of the items of income, gain, loss, de-
20 duction, and credit for its taxable year to its part-
21 ners based on their proportionate interests on the
22 last day of such taxable year in partnership profits.

23 “(2) EXCEPTION FOR DISTRIBUTIONS DURING
24 YEAR.—The partnership may take into account the
25 partners’ varying interests in partnership profits re-
26 sulting from distributions during the taxable year in

1 determining the partners' interests in partnership
2 profits for purposes of paragraph (1).

3 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

4 “(1) QUALIFIED INVESTMENT CLUB.—The
5 term ‘qualified investment club’ means, with respect
6 to any taxable year, any partnership—

7 “(A) which is not required to be registered
8 under the Investment Company Act of 1940,

9 “(B) for which no person who is registered
10 as an investment adviser under the Investment
11 Advisers Act of 1940 substantially participates
12 in the management or investment decisions
13 thereof,

14 “(C) all of the partners of which are quali-
15 fied partners for the calendar year in which the
16 taxable year of the partnership ends,

17 “(D) at least 90 percent of the gross in-
18 come of which is derived from items described
19 in section 851(b)(2),

20 “(E) at least 90 percent of the value of the
21 total assets of which, at the end of each quarter
22 of such year, consists of cash, cash items (in-
23 cluding receivables), and securities,

24 “(F) the taxable year of which is the cal-
25 endar year, and

1 “(G) for which an election under sub-
2 section (e) is in effect.

3 “(2) QUALIFIED PARTNER.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified
5 partner’ means—

6 “(i) any individual other than a non-
7 resident alien,

8 “(ii) any individual retirement plan,
9 and

10 “(iii) any education individual retire-
11 ment account (as defined in section 530).

12 “(B) LIMITATION ON CONTRIBUTIONS BY
13 INDIVIDUALS.—An individual shall not be a
14 qualified partner for any calendar year if the
15 aggregate contributions by such individual to
16 qualified investment clubs (determined without
17 regard to paragraph (1)(C)) during such cal-
18 endar year exceeds \$3,000 or exceeds \$3,000
19 during any of the 5 preceding calendar years.

20 “(C) LIMITATION ON CONTRIBUTIONS BY
21 TRUSTS.—

22 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A plan or account
23 referred to in subparagraph (A) (hereafter
24 in this subparagraph referred to as a
25 ‘trust’) shall not be a qualified partner for

1 any calendar year if the aggregate con-
2 tributions to qualified investment clubs
3 (determined without regard to paragraph
4 (1)(C)) during such calendar year by such
5 trust exceeds the excess of—

6 “(I) the product of \$3,000 and
7 the number of years before such cal-
8 endar year that such trust held any
9 asset, over

10 “(II) the aggregate contributions
11 made to qualified investment clubs (as
12 so determined) by such trust during
13 all prior calendar years.

14 “(ii) AGGREGATION OF RELATED
15 TRUSTS.—For purposes of this
16 subparagraph—

17 “(I) all trusts having the same
18 beneficiary shall be treated as 1 trust,
19 and

20 “(II) only the trust having the
21 longest period described in clause
22 (i)(I) shall be taken into account
23 thereunder.

1 “(iii) FRACTIONS OF A YEAR.—For
2 purposes of clause (i)(I), a fraction of a
3 year shall be counted as a whole year.

4 “(D) NO ATTRIBUTION BETWEEN INDIVID-
5 UALS AND TRUSTS.—Notwithstanding any other
6 provision of this title, there shall be no attribu-
7 tion of contributions between a trust and an in-
8 dividual.

9 “(3) SECURITIES.—

10 “(A) DEFINITION.—The term ‘security’
11 has the meaning given to such term by section
12 475(c)(2) (determined without regard to sub-
13 paragraph (F) thereof).

14 “(B) CERTAIN RULES TO APPLY.—For
15 purposes of paragraph (1)(E), rules similar to
16 the rules of paragraphs (4) and (5) of section
17 851(c), shall apply.

18 “(d) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—In the case of cal-
19 endar years after 1999, the \$3,000 amounts contained in
20 subsection (c)(2) shall each be increased for any calendar
21 year after 2000 by an amount equal to—

22 “(1) \$3,000, multiplied by

23 “(2) the cost-of-living adjustment under section
24 1(f)(3) for such calendar year, determined by sub-

1 stituting ‘calendar year 1999’ for ‘calendar year
2 1992’ in subparagraph (B) thereof.

3 Any increase under this subsection which is not a multiple
4 of \$50 shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$50.

5 “(e) ELECTION.—An election under this subsection
6 shall be made on the return for the taxable year for which
7 it is made and shall apply to such taxable year and all
8 subsequent taxable years for which the partnership is a
9 qualified investment club, unless the election is revoked
10 with the consent of the Secretary.

11 “(f) TERMINATION OF QUALIFIED INVESTMENT
12 CLUB STATUS.—An election under subsection (e) shall
13 terminate as of the 1st day of any taxable year during
14 which the partnership ceases to be a qualified investment
15 club and, solely for purposes of section 704(c), each part-
16 ner shall be treated as contributing on such first day such
17 partner’s pro rata share of the partnership’s assets and
18 liabilities on such first day to a new partnership.

19 “(g) INADVERTENT INVALID ELECTIONS OR TERMI-
20 NATIONS.—The Secretary shall provide a relief mechanism
21 for treating a partnership as a qualified investment club
22 in circumstances where—

23 “(1) an election under subsection (e) was not
24 effective for the taxable year for which made by rea-

1 son of an inadvertent failure to satisfy any require-
2 ment of subsection (e), or

3 “(2) there is an inadvertent termination under
4 subsection (f) of such an election.

5 “(h) ELECTION AFTER TERMINATION.—If an elec-
6 tion under subsection (e) by a partnership is terminated
7 or revoked, such partnership shall not be eligible to make
8 an election under subsection (e) for any taxable year be-
9 fore its 5th taxable year which begins after the 1st taxable
10 year for which such termination or revocation is effective,
11 unless the Secretary consents to such election.

12 “(i) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe
13 such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the pur-
14 poses of this section, including regulations regarding the
15 status of an individual or trust as a qualified partner.”.

16 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
17 for part I of subchapter K of chapter 1 of such Code is
18 amended by inserting after the item relating to section
19 704 the following new item:

“Sec. 704A. Election to use simplified method for qualified invest-
ment clubs”.

20 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
21 this section shall apply to taxable years ending after the
22 date of the enactment of this Act.

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