

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2689

To provide a taxpayer bill of rights for small businesses.

---

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 17, 2018

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. HELLER, and Mr. ROBERTS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

---

## A BILL

To provide a taxpayer bill of rights for small businesses.

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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4       (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Small Business Taxpayer Bill of Rights Act of 2018”.

6       (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of  
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Modification of standards for awarding of costs and certain fees.
- Sec. 3. Civil damages allowed for reckless or intentional disregard of internal revenue laws.
- Sec. 4. Modifications relating to certain offenses by officers and employees in connection with revenue laws.
- Sec. 5. Modifications relating to civil damages for unauthorized inspection or disclosure of returns and return information.
- Sec. 6. Ban on ex parte discussions.
- Sec. 7. Right to independent conference.

- Sec. 8. Alternative dispute resolution procedures.  
 Sec. 9. Increase in monetary penalties for certain unauthorized disclosures of information.  
 Sec. 10. Ban on raising new issues on appeal.  
 Sec. 11. Limitation on enforcement of liens against principal residences.  
 Sec. 12. Additional provisions relating to mandatory termination for misconduct.  
 Sec. 13. Review by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration.  
 Sec. 14. Deduction for expenses relating to certain audits.  
 Sec. 15. Term limit for National Taxpayer Advocate.  
 Sec. 16. Release of IRS levy due to economic hardship for business taxpayers.  
 Sec. 17. Repeal of partial payment requirement on submissions of offers-in-compromise.

1 **SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF STANDARDS FOR AWARDING OF**  
 2 **COSTS AND CERTAIN FEES.**

3 (a) **SMALL BUSINESSES ELIGIBLE WITHOUT RE-**  
 4 **GARD TO NET WORTH.**—Subparagraph (D) of section  
 5 7430(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is  
 6 amended by striking “and” at the end of clause (i)(II),  
 7 by striking the period at the end of clause (ii) and insert-  
 8 ing “, and”, and by adding at the end the following new  
 9 clause:

10 “(iii) in the case of an eligible small  
 11 business, the net worth limitation in clause  
 12 (ii) of such section shall not apply.”.

13 (b) **ELIGIBLE SMALL BUSINESS.**—Paragraph (4) of  
 14 section 7430(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is  
 15 amended by adding at the end the following new subpara-  
 16 graph:

17 “(F) **ELIGIBLE SMALL BUSINESS.**—

18 “(i) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of  
 19 subparagraph (D)(iii), the term ‘eligible

1 small business’ means, with respect to any  
2 proceeding commenced in a taxable year—

3 “(I) a corporation the stock of  
4 which is not publicly traded,

5 “(II) a partnership, or

6 “(III) a sole proprietorship,

7 if the average annual gross receipts of such  
8 corporation, partnership, or sole propri-  
9 etorship for the 3-taxable-year period pre-  
10 ceeding such taxable year does not exceed  
11 \$50,000,000. For purposes of applying the  
12 test under the preceding sentence, rules  
13 similar to the rules of paragraphs (2) and  
14 (3) of section 448(c) shall apply.

15 “(ii) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—

16 In the case of any calendar year after  
17 2018, the \$50,000,000 amount in clause  
18 (i) shall be increased by an amount equal  
19 to—

20 “(I) such dollar amount, multi-  
21 plied by

22 “(II) the cost-of-living adjust-  
23 ment determined under section 1(f)(3)  
24 for such calendar year, determined by  
25 substituting ‘calendar year 2017’ for

1                   ‘calendar year 2016’ in subparagraph  
2                   (A)(ii) thereof.

3                   If any amount as increased under the pre-  
4                   ceding sentence is not a multiple of \$500,  
5                   such amount shall be rounded to the next  
6                   lowest multiple of \$500.”.

7           (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
8 this section shall apply to proceedings commenced after  
9 the date of the enactment of this Act.

10 **SEC. 3. CIVIL DAMAGES ALLOWED FOR RECKLESS OR IN-**  
11 **TENTIONAL DISREGARD OF INTERNAL REV-**  
12 **ENUE LAWS.**

13           (a) INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF DAMAGES.—

14                   (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 7433(b) of the In-  
15                   ternal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking  
16                   “\$1,000,000 (\$100,000, in the case of negligence)”  
17                   and inserting “\$5,000,000 (\$500,000, in the case of  
18                   negligence)”.

19                   (2) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—Section  
20                   7433 of such Code is amended by adding at the end  
21                   the following new subsection:

22                   “(f) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—In the case of  
23 any calendar year after 2018, the \$5,000,000 and  
24 \$500,000 amounts in subsection (b) shall each be in-  
25 creased by an amount equal to—

1 “(1) such dollar amount, multiplied by

2 “(2) the cost-of-living adjustment determined  
3 under section 1(f)(3) for such calendar year, deter-  
4 mined by substituting ‘calendar year 2017’ for ‘cal-  
5 endar year 2016’ in subparagraph (A)(ii) thereof.

6 If any amount as increased under the preceding sentence  
7 is not a multiple of \$500, such amount shall be rounded  
8 to the next lowest multiple of \$500.”.

9 (b) EXTENSION OF TIME TO BRING ACTION.—Sec-  
10 tion 7433(d)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is  
11 amended by striking “2 years” and inserting “5 years”.

12 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
13 this section shall apply to actions of employees of the In-  
14 ternal Revenue Service after the date of the enactment  
15 of this Act.

16 **SEC. 4. MODIFICATIONS RELATING TO CERTAIN OFFENSES**  
17 **BY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES IN CONNec-**  
18 **tion WITH REVENUE LAWS.**

19 (a) INCREASE IN PENALTY.—Section 7214 of the In-  
20 ternal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

21 (1) by striking “\$10,000” in subsection (a) and  
22 inserting “\$25,000”, and

23 (2) by striking “\$5,000” in subsection (b) and  
24 inserting “\$10,000”.

1           (b) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—Section 7214 of  
2 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by sub-  
3 section (a), is amended by redesignating subsection (c) as  
4 subsection (d) and by inserting after subsection (b) the  
5 following new subsection:

6           “(c) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—In the case of  
7 any calendar year after 2018, the \$25,000 amount in sub-  
8 section (a) and the \$10,000 amount in subsection (b) shall  
9 each be increased by an amount equal to—

10                   “(1) such dollar amount, multiplied by

11                   “(2) the cost-of-living adjustment determined  
12           under section 1(f)(3) for such calendar year, deter-  
13           mined by substituting ‘calendar year 2017’ for ‘cal-  
14           endar year 2016’ in subparagraph (A)(ii) thereof.

15 If any amount as increased under the preceding sentence  
16 is not a multiple of \$100, such amount shall be rounded  
17 to the next lowest multiple of \$100.”.

18           (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
19 this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment  
20 of this Act.

1 **SEC. 5. MODIFICATIONS RELATING TO CIVIL DAMAGES FOR**  
 2 **UNAUTHORIZED INSPECTION OR DISCLO-**  
 3 **SURE OF RETURNS AND RETURN INFORMA-**  
 4 **TION.**

5 (a) INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF DAMAGES.—Subpara-  
 6 graph (A) of section 7431(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue  
 7 Code of 1986 is amended by striking “\$1,000” and insert-  
 8 ing “\$10,000”.

9 (b) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—Section 7431 of  
 10 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding  
 11 at the end the following new subsection:

12 “(i) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—In the case of  
 13 any calendar year after 2018, the \$10,000 amount in sub-  
 14 section (c)(1)(A) shall be increased by an amount equal  
 15 to—

16 “(1) such dollar amount, multiplied by

17 “(2) the cost-of-living adjustment determined  
 18 under section 1(f)(3) for such calendar year, deter-  
 19 mined by substituting ‘calendar year 2017’ for ‘cal-  
 20 endar year 2016’ in subparagraph (A)(ii) thereof.

21 If any amount as increased under the preceding sentence  
 22 is not a multiple of \$100, such amount shall be rounded  
 23 to the next lowest multiple of \$100.”

24 (c) PERIOD FOR BRINGING ACTION.—Subsection (d)  
 25 of section 7431 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is  
 26 amended by striking “2 years” and inserting “5 years”.

1 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
2 this section shall apply to inspections and disclosure occur-  
3 ring on and after the date of the enactment of this Act.

4 **SEC. 6. BAN ON EX PARTE DISCUSSIONS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section  
6 1001(a)(4) of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring  
7 and Reform Act of 1998, the Internal Revenue Service  
8 shall prohibit any ex parte communications between offi-  
9 cers in the Internal Revenue Service Office of Appeals and  
10 other Internal Revenue Service employees with respect to  
11 any matter pending before such officers.

12 (b) TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT FOR MIS-  
13 CONDUCT.—Subject to subsection (c), the Commissioner  
14 of Internal Revenue shall terminate the employment of  
15 any employee of the Internal Revenue Service if there is  
16 a final administrative or judicial determination that such  
17 employee committed any act or omission prohibited under  
18 subsection (a) in the performance of the employee’s official  
19 duties. Such termination shall be a removal for cause on  
20 charges of misconduct.

21 (c) DETERMINATION OF COMMISSIONER.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of Inter-  
23 nal Revenue may take a personnel action other than  
24 termination for an act prohibited under subsection

25 (a).



1           (2) DISCRETION.—The exercise of authority  
2           under paragraph (1) shall be at the sole discretion  
3           of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue and may  
4           not be delegated to any other officer. At the sole dis-  
5           cretion of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue,  
6           such Commissioner may establish a procedure which  
7           will be used to determine whether an individual  
8           should be referred to the Commissioner of Internal  
9           Revenue for a determination by the Commissioner  
10          under paragraph (1).

11          (3) NO APPEAL.—Any determination of the  
12          Commissioner of Internal Revenue under this sub-  
13          section may not be appealed in any administrative or  
14          judicial proceeding.

15          (d) TIGTA REPORTING OF TERMINATION OR MITI-  
16          GATION.—Section 7803(d)(1)(E) of the Internal Revenue  
17          Code of 1986 is amended by inserting “or section 6 of  
18          the Small Business Taxpayer Bill of Rights Act of 2018”  
19          after “1998”.

20          **SEC. 7. RIGHT TO INDEPENDENT CONFERENCE.**

21          Section 1001 of the Internal Revenue Service Re-  
22          structuring and Reform Act of 1998 is amended by redес-  
23          ignating subsection (c) as subsection (d) and by inserting  
24          after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

1       “(c) RIGHT TO INDEPENDENT CONFERENCE.—  
2 Under the organization plan of the Internal Revenue Serv-  
3 ice, a taxpayer shall have the right to a conference with  
4 the Internal Revenue Service Office of Appeals which does  
5 not include personnel from the Office of Chief Counsel for  
6 the Internal Revenue Service or the compliance functions  
7 of the Internal Revenue Service unless the taxpayer spe-  
8 cifically consents to the participation of such personnel.”.

9 **SEC. 8. ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCE-**  
10 **DURES.**

11       (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7123 of the Internal Rev-  
12 enue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the  
13 following new subsection:

14       “(d) AVAILABILITY OF DISPUTE RESOLUTIONS.—

15               “(1) IN GENERAL.—The procedures prescribed  
16 under subsection (b)(1) and the pilot program estab-  
17 lished under subsection (b)(2) shall provide that a  
18 taxpayer may request mediation or arbitration in  
19 any case unless the Secretary has specifically ex-  
20 cluded the type of issue involved in such case or the  
21 class of cases to which such case belongs as not ap-  
22 propriate for resolution under such subsection. The  
23 Secretary shall make any determination that ex-  
24 cludes a type of issue or a class of cases public with-

1 in 5 working days and provide an explanation for  
2 each determination.

3 “(2) INDEPENDENT MEDIATORS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The procedures pre-  
5 scribed under subsection (b)(1) shall provide  
6 the taxpayer an opportunity to elect to have the  
7 mediation conducted by an independent, neutral  
8 individual not employed by the Internal Rev-  
9 enue Service Office of Appeals.

10 “(B) COST AND SELECTION.—

11 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Any taxpayer  
12 making an election under subparagraph  
13 (A) shall be required—

14 “(I) to share the costs of such  
15 independent mediator equally with the  
16 Internal Revenue Service Office of  
17 Appeals, and

18 “(II) to limit the selection of the  
19 mediator to a roster of recognized na-  
20 tional or local neutral mediators.

21 “(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i)(I) shall  
22 not apply to any taxpayer who is an indi-  
23 vidual or who was a small business in the  
24 preceding calendar year if such taxpayer  
25 had an adjusted gross income that did not

1 exceed 250 percent of the poverty level, as  
2 determined in accordance with criteria es-  
3 tablished by the Director of the Office of  
4 Management and Budget, in the taxable  
5 year preceding the request.

6 “(iii) SMALL BUSINESS.—For pur-  
7 poses of clause (ii), the term ‘small busi-  
8 ness’ has the meaning given such term  
9 under section 41(b)(3)(D)(iii).

10 “(3) AVAILABILITY OF PROCESS.—The proce-  
11 dures prescribed under subsection (b)(1) and the  
12 pilot program established under subsection (b)(2)  
13 shall provide the opportunity to elect mediation or  
14 arbitration at the time when the case is first filed  
15 with the Office of Appeals and at any time before  
16 deliberations in the appeal commence.”.

17 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
18 this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment  
19 of this Act.

20 **SEC. 9. INCREASE IN MONETARY PENALTIES FOR CERTAIN**  
21 **UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURES OF INFORMA-**  
22 **TION.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4)  
24 of section 7213(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986

1 are each amended by striking “\$5,000” and inserting  
2 “\$10,000”.

3 (b) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—Subsection (a)  
4 of section 7213 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is  
5 amended by adding at the end the following new para-  
6 graph:

7 “(6) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—In the  
8 case of any calendar year after 2018, the \$10,000  
9 amounts in paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) shall  
10 each be increased by an amount equal to—

11 “(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by

12 “(B) the cost-of-living adjustment deter-  
13 mined under section 1(f)(3) for such calendar  
14 year, determined by substituting ‘calendar year  
15 2017’ for ‘calendar year 2016’ in subparagraph  
16 (A)(ii) thereof.

17 If any amount as increased under the preceding sen-  
18 tence is not a multiple of \$100, such amount shall  
19 be rounded to the next lowest multiple of \$100.”.

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

1 **SEC. 10. BAN ON RAISING NEW ISSUES ON APPEAL.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 77 of the Internal Rev-  
 3 enue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the  
 4 following new section:

5 **“SEC. 7529. PROHIBITION ON INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE**  
 6 **RAISING NEW ISSUES IN AN INTERNAL AP-**  
 7 **PEAL.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In reviewing an appeal of any  
 9 determination initially made by the Internal Revenue  
 10 Service, the Internal Revenue Service Office of Appeals  
 11 may not consider or decide any issue that is not within  
 12 the scope of the initial determination.

13 “(b) CERTAIN ISSUES DEEMED OUTSIDE OF SCOPE  
 14 OF DETERMINATION.—For purposes of subsection (a), the  
 15 following matters shall be considered to be not within the  
 16 scope of a determination:

17 “(1) Any issue that was not raised in a notice  
 18 of deficiency or an examiner’s report which is the  
 19 subject of the appeal.

20 “(2) Any deficiency in tax which was not in-  
 21 cluded in the initial determination.

22 “(3) Any theory or justification for a tax defi-  
 23 ciency which was not considered in the initial deter-  
 24 mination.

25 “(c) NO INFERENCE WITH RESPECT TO ISSUES  
 26 RAISED BY TAXPAYERS.—Nothing in this section shall be

1 construed to provide any limitation in addition to any limi-  
 2 tations in effect on the date of the enactment of this sec-  
 3 tion on the right of a taxpayer to raise an issue, theory,  
 4 or justification on an appeal from a determination initially  
 5 made by the Internal Revenue Service that was not within  
 6 the scope of the initial determination.”.

7 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
 8 for chapter 77 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is  
 9 amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“Sec. 7529. Prohibition on Internal Revenue Service raising new issues in an  
 internal appeal.”.

10 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
 11 this section shall apply to matters filed or pending with  
 12 the Internal Revenue Service Office of Appeals on or after  
 13 the date of the enactment of this Act.

14 **SEC. 11. LIMITATION ON ENFORCEMENT OF LIENS AGAINST**  
 15 **PRINCIPAL RESIDENCES.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7403(a) of the Internal  
 17 Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

18 (1) by striking “In any case” and inserting the  
 19 following:

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In any case”; and

21 (2) by adding at the end the following new  
 22 paragraph:

23 “(2) LIMITATION WITH RESPECT TO PRINCIPAL  
 24 RESIDENCE.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) shall  
2 not apply to any property used as the principal  
3 residence of the taxpayer (within the meaning  
4 of section 121) unless the Secretary of the  
5 Treasury makes a written determination that—

6                   “(i) all other property of the taxpayer,  
7 if sold, is insufficient to pay the tax or dis-  
8 charge the liability, and

9                   “(ii) such action will not create an  
10 economic hardship for the taxpayer.

11           “(B) DELEGATION.—For purposes of this  
12 paragraph, the Secretary of the Treasury may  
13 not delegate any responsibilities under subpara-  
14 graph (A) to any person other than—

15                   “(i) the Commissioner of Internal  
16 Revenue, or

17                   “(ii) a district director or assistant  
18 district director of the Internal Revenue  
19 Service.”.

20           (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
21 this section shall apply to actions filed after the date of  
22 the enactment of this Act.



1 **SEC. 12. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO MANDA-**  
2 **TORY TERMINATION FOR MISCONDUCT.**

3 (a) **TERMINATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT FOR INAP-**  
4 **PROPRIATE REVIEW OF TAX-EXEMPT STATUS.**—Section  
5 1203(b) of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring  
6 and Reform Act of 1998 (26 U.S.C. 7804 note) is amend-  
7 ed by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (9), by strik-  
8 ing the period at the end of paragraph (10) and inserting  
9 “; and”, and by adding at the end the following new para-  
10 graph:

11 “(11) in the case of any review of an applica-  
12 tion for tax-exempt status by an organization de-  
13 scribed in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue  
14 Code of 1986, developing or using any methodology  
15 that applies disproportionate scrutiny to any appli-  
16 cant based on the ideology expressed in the name or  
17 purpose of the organization.”.

18 (b) **MANDATORY UNPAID ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE**  
19 **FOR MISCONDUCT.**—Paragraph (1) of section 1203(c) of  
20 the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform  
21 Act of 1998 (26 U.S.C. 7804 note) is amended by adding  
22 at the end the following new sentence: “Notwithstanding  
23 the preceding sentence, if the Commissioner of Internal  
24 Revenue takes a personnel action other than termination  
25 for an act or omission described in subsection (b), the

1 Commissioner shall place the employee on unpaid adminis-  
 2 trative leave for a period of not less than 90 days.”.

3 (c) **LIMITATION ON ALTERNATIVE PUNISHMENT.**—  
 4 Paragraph (1) of section 1203(c) of the Internal Revenue  
 5 Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 (26 U.S.C.  
 6 7804 note) is amended by striking “The Commissioner”  
 7 and inserting “Except in the case of an act or omission  
 8 described in subsection (b)(3)(A), the Commissioner”.

9 **SEC. 13. REVIEW BY THE TREASURY INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
 10 **FOR TAX ADMINISTRATION.**

11 (a) **REVIEW.**—Subsection (k)(1) of section 8D of the  
 12 Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amend-  
 13 ed—

14 (1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at  
 15 the end;

16 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as sub-  
 17 paragraph (E);

18 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the fol-  
 19 lowing new subparagraph:

20 “(D) shall—

21 “(i) review any criteria employed by  
 22 the Internal Revenue Service to select tax  
 23 returns (including applications for recogni-  
 24 tion of tax-exempt status) for examination  
 25 or audit, assessment or collection of defi-

1           ciencies, criminal investigation or referral,  
2           refunds for amounts paid, or any height-  
3           ened scrutiny or review in order to deter-  
4           mine whether the criteria discriminates  
5           against taxpayers on the basis of race, reli-  
6           gion, or political ideology; and

7                   “(ii) consult with the Internal Rev-  
8           enue Service on recommended amendments  
9           to such criteria in order to eliminate any  
10          discrimination identified pursuant to the  
11          review described in clause (i); and”;

12          (4) in subparagraph (E), as so redesignated, by  
13          striking “and (C)” and inserting “(C), and (D)”.

14          (b) SEMIANNUAL REPORT.—Subsection (g) of section  
15          8D of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.)  
16          is amended by adding at the end the following new para-  
17          graph:

18                   “(3) Any semiannual report made by the Treas-  
19          ury Inspector General for Tax Administration that is  
20          required pursuant to section 5(a) shall include—

21                           “(A) a statement affirming that the Treas-  
22          ury Inspector General for Tax Administration  
23          has reviewed the criteria described in subsection  
24          (k)(1)(D) and consulted with the Internal Rev-  
25          enue Service regarding such criteria; and

1           “(B) a description and explanation of any  
2           such criteria that was identified as discrimina-  
3           tory by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax  
4           Administration.”.

5 **SEC. 14. DEDUCTION FOR EXPENSES RELATING TO CER-**  
6 **TAIN AUDITS.**

7           (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 62 of the  
8 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at  
9 the end the following new paragraph:

10           “(22) EXPENSES RELATING TO CERTAIN AU-  
11           DITS.—The deduction allowed by section 224.”.

12           (b) DEDUCTION FOR EXPENSES RELATING TO CER-  
13 TAIN AUDITS.—Part VII of subchapter B of chapter 1 of  
14 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignig-  
15 nating section 224 as section 225 and by inserting after  
16 section 223 the following new section:

17 **“SEC. 224. EXPENSES RELATING TO CERTAIN AUDITS.**

18           “(a) ALLOWANCE OF DEDUCTION.—In the case of an  
19 individual, there shall be allowed as a deduction for the  
20 taxable year an amount equal to so much of the qualified  
21 NRP expenses paid or incurred during the taxable year  
22 as does not exceed \$5,000.

23           “(b) QUALIFIED NRP EXPENSES.—For purposes of  
24 this section, the term ‘qualified NRP expenses’ means  
25 amounts which but for subsection (d) would be allowed

1 as a deduction under section 162 or 212(3) in connection  
 2 with an audit of the taxpayer's return of the tax imposed  
 3 by this chapter for any taxable year under the National  
 4 Research Program, but only if such audit results in no  
 5 increase in the tax liability of the taxpayer for such taxable  
 6 year.

7       “(c) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—No deduction  
 8 shall be allowed under any other provision of this chapter  
 9 for any amount for which a deduction is allowed under  
 10 this section.”.

11       (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
 12 for part VII of subchapter B of chapter 1 of the Internal  
 13 Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking the item  
 14 relating to section 224 and by inserting after the item re-  
 15 lating to section 223 the following new items:

“Sec. 224. Expenses relating to certain audits.

“Sec. 225. Cross reference.”.

16       (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
 17 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after  
 18 the date of the enactment of this Act.

19 **SEC. 15. TERM LIMIT FOR NATIONAL TAXPAYER ADVOCATE.**

20       (a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (B) of section  
 21 7803(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is  
 22 amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

23                               “(v) TERM.—The term of the Na-  
 24                               tional Taxpayer Advocate shall be a 10-

1 year term, beginning with a term to com-  
2 mence on the date which is 18 months  
3 after the date of the enactment of the  
4 Small Business Taxpayer Bill of Rights  
5 Act of 2018. Each subsequent term shall  
6 begin on the day after the date on which  
7 the previous term expires. The National  
8 Taxpayer Advocate may be appointed to  
9 serve more than 1 term.”.

10 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The term of any individual  
11 serving as the National Taxpayer Advocate under section  
12 7803(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as of the  
13 date of the enactment of this Act shall end as of the day  
14 before the date which is 18 months after such date of en-  
15 actment, unless such individual is reappointed as the Na-  
16 tional Taxpayer Advocate for a subsequent term pursuant  
17 to section 7803(c)(1)(B)(v) of such Code.

18 **SEC. 16. RELEASE OF IRS LEVY DUE TO ECONOMIC HARD-**  
19 **SHIP FOR BUSINESS TAXPAYERS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (D) of section  
21 6343(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is  
22 amended by striking “or” and inserting “including the fi-  
23 nancial condition of the taxpayer’s viable trade or busi-  
24 ness, or”.

1 (b) DETERMINATION OF ECONOMIC HARDSHIP.—  
 2 Subsection (a) of section 6343 of the Internal Revenue  
 3 Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
 4 lowing new paragraph:

5 “(4) DETERMINATION OF ECONOMIC HARDSHIP  
 6 TO BUSINESS TAXPAYER.—In determining whether  
 7 to release any levy under paragraph (1)(D), the Sec-  
 8 retary shall consider—

9 “(A) the economic viability of the business,

10 “(B) the nature and extent of the hardship  
 11 created by the levy (including whether the tax-  
 12 payer has exercised ordinary business care and  
 13 prudence), and

14 “(C) the potential harm to individuals if  
 15 the business is liquidated.”.

16 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
 17 this section shall apply to levies made after the date of  
 18 the enactment of this Act.

19 **SEC. 17. REPEAL OF PARTIAL PAYMENT REQUIREMENT ON**  
 20 **SUBMISSIONS OF OFFERS-IN-COMPROMISE.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7122 of the Internal Rev-  
 22 enue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subsection (c)  
 23 and by redesignating subsections (d), (e), (f), and (g) as  
 24 subsections (c), (d), (e), and (f), respectively.

25 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

1           (1) Paragraph (3) of section 7122(c) of the In-  
2           ternal Revenue Code of 1986, as redesignated by  
3           subsection (a), is amended by inserting “and” at the  
4           end of subparagraph (A), by striking “, and” at the  
5           end of subparagraph (B) and inserting a period, and  
6           by striking subparagraph (C).

7           (2) Section 7122 of such Code, as amended by  
8           this section, is amended by adding at the end the  
9           following new subsection:

10          “(g) APPLICATION OF USER FEE.—In the case of  
11          any assessed tax or other amounts imposed under this title  
12          with respect to such tax which is the subject of an offer-  
13          in-compromise, such tax or other amounts shall be reduced  
14          by any user fee imposed under this title with respect to  
15          such offer-in-compromise.”.

16          (3) Section 6159(g) of such Code is amended  
17          by striking “section 7122(e)” and inserting “section  
18          7122(d)”.

19          (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
20          this section shall apply to offers-in-compromise submitted  
21          after the date of the enactment of this Act.

○