

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4958

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to tax bona fide residents of the District of Columbia in the same manner as bona fide residents of possessions of the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 31, 2019

Mr. GOHMERT 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 tax bona fide residents of the District of Columbia in the same manner as bona fide residents of possessions of the United States.

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 “No Taxation Without
5 Representation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The phrase “no taxation without represen-
2 tation” was a rallying cry of many American colo-
3 nists during the period of British rule in the 1760s
4 and early 1770s. The slogan gained widespread no-
5 toriety after the passage of the Sugar Act on April
6 5, 1764.

7 (2) American colonists increasingly resented
8 having taxes levied upon them without having any
9 legislators they elected who were voting in Par-
10 liament in London. The idea that there should be no
11 taxation without representation dated back even fur-
12 ther. Benjamin Franklin stated, “it is suppos’d an
13 undoubted Right of Englishmen not to be taxed but
14 by their own Consent given thro’ their Representa-
15 tives.”.

16 (3) This issue became even more defined in
17 1765 with the passage of the Stamp Act which was
18 the first true attempt to levy a direct tax on the
19 American colonies. Ultimately the tax was repealed,
20 but the idea of no taxation without representation
21 persisted.

22 (4) Article I, section 2, clause 1 of the United
23 States Constitution, states, “The House of Rep-
24 resentatives shall be composed of Members chosen
25 every second Year by the People of the SEVERAL

1 STATES, and the Electors in each State shall have
2 the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most
3 numerous Branch of the State Legislature.”.

4 (5) The Organic Act of 1801 placed Wash-
5 ington, DC, under the exclusive jurisdiction of the
6 United States Congress and people in the District
7 were no longer considered residents of Virginia or
8 Maryland.

9 (6) Many in Washington, DC, were immediately
10 opposed to the idea of being taxed without congress-
11 sional representation and over the years several con-
12 gressional leaders introduced constitutional amend-
13 ments to give the District of Columbia voting rep-
14 resentation, though none were successful.

15 (7) In 1898, Puerto Rico was acquired by the
16 United States and currently has a Resident Commis-
17 sioner with limited voting rights. Section 933 of the
18 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 exempts bona fide
19 citizens who are residents of Puerto Rico for the en-
20 tire taxable year from Federal taxes on income
21 earned in Puerto Rico.

22 (8) On March 31, 1917, the United States took
23 possession of the Virgin Islands and in 1927, the
24 territory’s residents were granted citizenship. Under
25 section 932 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,

1 individuals who are bona fide residents of the United
2 States Virgin Islands during the entire taxable year,
3 and who fully pay all income tax liabilities to the
4 United States Virgin Islands, are not subject to Fed-
5 eral income taxes on their income.

6 (9) Guam was established as a territory of the
7 United States after the passage of the Guam Or-
8 ganic Act of 1950. Under the provisions of section
9 935 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, residents
10 of Guam are required to file tax returns with Guam,
11 but not with the United States Federal Government
12 and therefore the residents do not have to pay
13 United States Federal income taxes.

14 (10) The Commonwealth of the Northern Mar-
15 iana Islands was established in 1975 after residents
16 decided not to pursue independence, but instead they
17 opted to enter into territory negotiations. The tax
18 treatment of the Northern Mariana Islands is simi-
19 lar to the structure of Guam in that bona fide resi-
20 dents are not required to pay Federal income taxes.

21 (11) American Samoa, which is technically con-
22 sidered “unorganized” because no Organic Acts have
23 been passed by Congress, is governed by section 931
24 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Under this
25 section, bona fide year-round residents are exempt

1 from Federal taxes on income they earn in Samoa,
2 Guam, and Northern Mariana Islands, but are sub-
3 ject to Federal taxes on income earned elsewhere.

4 (12) In keeping with the early history and
5 democratic traditions of the United States, the prin-
6 ciples established in the Constitution, and in con-
7 formance with the other territories of the United
8 States which have delegates but no Representative,
9 the residents of the District of Columbia should be
10 exempt from paying United States Federal income
11 taxes.

12 **SEC. 3. EXCLUSION FROM GROSS INCOME FOR INCOME**
13 **FROM SOURCES WITHIN THE DISTRICT OF**
14 **COLUMBIA.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart D of part III of sub-
16 chapter N of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of
17 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new
18 section:

19 **“SEC. 938. INCOME FROM SOURCES WITHIN THE DISTRICT**
20 **OF COLUMBIA.**

21 “(a) GENERAL RULE.—In the case of an individual
22 who is a bona fide resident of the District of Columbia
23 during the entire taxable year, gross income shall not in-
24 clude—

1 “(1) income derived from sources within the
2 District of Columbia, and

3 “(2) income effectively connected with the con-
4 duct of a trade or business by such individual within
5 the District of Columbia.

6 “(b) DEDUCTIONS, ETC. ALLOCABLE TO EXCLUDED
7 AMOUNTS NOT ALLOWABLE.—An individual shall not be
8 allowed—

9 “(1) as a deduction from gross income any de-
10 ductions (other than the deduction under section
11 151, relating to personal exemptions), or

12 “(2) any credit, properly allocable or chargeable
13 against amounts excluded from gross income under
14 this section.

15 “(c) BONA FIDE RESIDENT AND OTHER APPLICA-
16 BLE RULES.—For purposes of this section, rules similar
17 to the rules of section 876, 937, 957(c), 3401(a)(8)(D),
18 and 7654 shall apply.”.

19 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
20 for subpart D of part III of subchapter N of chapter 1
21 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the fol-
22 lowing new item:

“Sec. 938. Income from sources within the District of Columbia.”.

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

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