

HOUSE BILL NO. 337

INTRODUCED BY B. LER, W. GALT, L. SCHUBERT, R. GREGG, M. THIEL, E. TILLEMANN, E. BUTTREY, S. GIST, C. HINKLE, L. JONES, C. SPRUNGER, S. FITZPATRICK, G. OBLANDER, K. ZOLNIKOV, J. ETCHART, L. DEMING, B. BARKER, L. BREWSTER, G. HERTZ, B. MITCHELL, K. SEEKINS-CROWE, Z. WIRTH

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING INCOME TAXES; REVISING BRACKETS TO LOWER INCOME TAXES; INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF MONTANA TAXABLE INCOME BEFORE APPLICATION OF A HIGHER RATE OF TAX; REDUCING THE HIGHEST INCOME TAX RATE; INCREASING THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT; AMENDING ~~SECTION SECTIONS~~ 15-30-2103 AND 15-30-2318, MCA; AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES, APPLICABILITY DATES, AND A TERMINATION DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 15-30-2103, MCA, is amended to read:

"15-30-2103. Rate of tax -- net long-term capital gains -- definitions. (1) Except as provided in ~~subsections (2) and (3)~~ subsection (2), there must be levied, collected, and paid for each tax year on the Montana taxable income of each taxpayer subject to this chapter a tax on the brackets of taxable income as follows:

(a) for every married individual who files a joint return and for every surviving spouse:

(i) on the first ~~\$41,000~~ \$140,000 ~~\$95,000~~ of Montana taxable income or any part of that income, 4.7%;

(ii) on any Montana taxable income in excess of ~~\$41,000~~ \$140,000 ~~\$95,000~~ or any part of that income, ~~5.9%~~ 5.65%;

(b) for every head of household:

(i) on the first ~~\$30,750~~ \$105,000 ~~\$71,250~~ of Montana taxable income or any part of that income, 4.7%;

(ii) on any Montana taxable income in excess of ~~\$30,750~~ \$105,000 ~~\$71,250~~ or any part of that income, ~~5.9%~~ 5.65%;

1 (c) for every individual other than a surviving spouse or head of household who is not a married
2 individual:

3 (i) on the first ~~\$20,500~~ ~~\$70,000~~ \$47,500 of Montana taxable income or any part of that income,
4 4.7%;

5 (ii) on any Montana taxable income in excess of ~~\$20,500~~ ~~\$70,000~~ \$47,500 or any part of that
6 income, ~~5.9%~~ 5.65%;

7 (d) for every married individual who does not make a joint return and for every estate or trust not
8 exempt from taxation under the Internal Revenue Code:

9 (i) on the first ~~\$20,500~~ ~~\$70,000~~ \$47,500 of Montana taxable income or any part of that income,
10 4.7%;

11 (ii) on any Montana taxable income in excess of ~~\$20,500~~ ~~\$70,000~~ \$47,500 or any part of that
12 income, ~~5.9%~~ 5.65%.

13 (2) Except as provided in 15-30-3704 and ~~subsection (3) of this section~~, that portion of a taxpayer's
14 Montana taxable income that consists of net long-term capital gains after accounting for amounts included in
15 taxable income that is not net long-term capital gains is subject to a tax on the brackets of net long-term capital
16 gains as follows:

17 (a) for every married individual who files a joint return and for every surviving spouse:

18 (i) on the first ~~\$41,000~~ ~~\$140,000~~ \$95,000 less nonqualified taxable income of net long-term capital
19 gains, 3.0%;

20 (ii) on net long-term capital gains that exceed ~~\$41,000~~ ~~\$140,000~~ \$95,000 less nonqualified taxable
21 income or any part of that income, 4.1%, except that if the total nonqualified taxable income is ~~\$41,000~~
22 \$140,000 \$95,000 or greater, all of the net long-term capital gains are taxed at 4.1%;

23 (b) for every head of household:

24 (i) on the first ~~\$30,750~~ ~~\$105,000~~ \$71,250 less nonqualified taxable income of net long-term capital
25 gains, 3.0%;

26 (ii) on any net long-term capital gains that exceed ~~\$30,750~~ ~~\$105,000~~ \$71,250 less nonqualified
27 taxable income or any part of that income, 4.1%, except that if the total nonqualified taxable income is ~~\$30,750~~
28 \$105,000 \$71,250 or greater, all of the net long-term capital gains are taxed at 4.1%;

1 (c) for every individual other than a surviving spouse or head of household who is not a married
2 individual:

3 (i) on the first ~~\$20,500~~ \$70,000 ~~\$47,500~~ less nonqualified taxable income of net long-term capital
4 gains, 3.0%;

5 (ii) on any net long-term capital gains that exceed ~~\$20,500~~ \$70,000 ~~\$47,500~~ less nonqualified
6 taxable income or any part of that income, 4.1%, except that if the total nonqualified taxable income is ~~\$20,500~~
7 \$70,000 ~~\$47,500~~ or greater, all of the net long-term capital gains are taxed at 4.1%;

8 (d) for every married individual who does not make a joint return and for every estate or trust that
9 is not exempt from taxation under the Internal Revenue Code:

10 (i) on the first ~~\$20,500~~ \$70,000 ~~\$47,500~~ less nonqualified taxable income of net long-term capital
11 gains, 3.0%;

12 (ii) on any net long-term capital gains that exceed ~~\$20,500~~ \$70,000 ~~\$47,500~~ less nonqualified
13 taxable income or any part of that income, 4.1%, except that if the total nonqualified taxable income is ~~\$20,500~~
14 \$70,000 ~~\$47,500~~ or greater, all of the net long-term capital gains are taxed at 4.1%.

15 ~~(3) — By November 1 of each year, the department shall multiply the bracket amounts contained in~~
16 ~~subsections (1) and (2) by the inflation factor for the following tax year and round the cumulative brackets to the~~
17 ~~nearest \$100. The resulting adjusted brackets are effective for that following tax year and must be used as the~~
18 ~~basis for imposition of the tax in subsections (1) and (2).~~

19 ~~(4)(3)~~ For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

20 (a) "Net long-term capital gains" means net long-term capital gains as that term is defined in
21 section 1222 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 1222.

22 (b) "Nonqualified taxable income" means Montana taxable income that is not considered net long-
23 term capital gains."

24

25 **Section 2.** Section 15-30-2103, MCA, is amended to read:

26 **"15-30-2103. Rate of tax -- net long-term capital gains -- definitions.** (1) Except as provided in
27 subsections (2) and (3), there must be levied, collected, and paid for each tax year on the Montana taxable
28 income of each taxpayer subject to this chapter a tax on the brackets of taxable income as follows:

- 1 (a) for every married individual who files a joint return and for every surviving spouse:
 - 2 (i) on the first ~~\$41,000~~ ~~\$200,000~~ \$130,000 of Montana taxable income or any part of that income,
 - 3 4.7%;
 - 4 (ii) on any Montana taxable income in excess of ~~\$41,000~~ ~~\$200,000~~ \$130,000 or any part of that
 - 5 income, ~~5.9%~~ 5.4%;
- 6 (b) for every head of household:
 - 7 (i) on the first ~~\$30,750~~ ~~\$150,000~~ \$97,500 of Montana taxable income or any part of that income,
 - 8 4.7%;
 - 9 (ii) on any Montana taxable income in excess of ~~\$30,750~~ ~~\$150,000~~ \$97,500 or any part of that
 - 10 income, ~~5.9%~~ 5.4%;
- 11 (c) for every individual other than a surviving spouse or head of household who is not a married
- 12 individual:
 - 13 (i) on the first ~~\$20,500~~ ~~\$100,000~~ \$65,000 of Montana taxable income or any part of that income,
 - 14 4.7%;
 - 15 (ii) on any Montana taxable income in excess of ~~\$20,500~~ ~~\$100,000~~ \$65,000 or any part of that
 - 16 income, ~~5.9%~~ 5.4%;
- 17 (d) for every married individual who does not make a joint return and for every estate or trust not
- 18 exempt from taxation under the Internal Revenue Code:
 - 19 (i) on the first ~~\$20,500~~ ~~\$100,000~~ \$65,000 of Montana taxable income or any part of that income,
 - 20 4.7%;
 - 21 (ii) on any Montana taxable income in excess of ~~\$20,500~~ ~~\$100,000~~ \$65,000 or any part of that
 - 22 income, ~~5.9%~~ 5.4%.

23 (2) Except as provided in 15-30-3704 and ~~subsection (3) of this section~~ AND SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS
24 SECTION, that portion of a taxpayer's Montana taxable income that consists of net long-term capital gains after
25 accounting for amounts included in taxable income that is not net long-term capital gains is subject to a tax on
26 the brackets of net long-term capital gains as follows:

- 27 (a) for every married individual who files a joint return and for every surviving spouse:
 - 28 (i) on the first ~~\$41,000~~ ~~\$200,000~~ \$130,000 less nonqualified taxable income of net long-term

1 capital gains, 3.0%;

2 (ii) on net long-term capital gains that exceed ~~\$41,000~~ ~~\$200,000~~ ~~\$130,000~~ less nonqualified
3 taxable income or any part of that income, 4.1%, except that if the total nonqualified taxable income is ~~\$41,000~~
4 ~~\$200,000~~ ~~\$130,000~~ or greater, all of the net long-term capital gains are taxed at 4.1%;

5 (b) for every head of household:

6 (i) on the first ~~\$30,750~~ ~~\$150,000~~ ~~\$97,500~~ less nonqualified taxable income of net long-term capital
7 gains, 3.0%;

8 (ii) on any net long-term capital gains that exceed ~~\$30,750~~ ~~\$150,000~~ ~~\$97,500~~ less nonqualified
9 taxable income or any part of that income, 4.1%, except that if the total nonqualified taxable income is ~~\$30,750~~
10 ~~\$150,000~~ ~~\$97,500~~ or greater, all of the net long-term capital gains are taxed at 4.1%;

11 (c) for every individual other than a surviving spouse or head of household who is not a married
12 individual:

13 (i) on the first ~~\$20,500~~ ~~\$100,000~~ ~~\$65,000~~ less nonqualified taxable income of net long-term capital
14 gains, 3.0%;

15 (ii) on any net long-term capital gains that exceed ~~\$20,500~~ ~~\$100,000~~ ~~\$65,000~~ less nonqualified
16 taxable income or any part of that income, 4.1%, except that if the total nonqualified taxable income is ~~\$20,500~~
17 ~~\$100,000~~ ~~\$65,000~~ or greater, all of the net long-term capital gains are taxed at 4.1%;

18 (d) for every married individual who does not make a joint return and for every estate or trust that
19 is not exempt from taxation under the Internal Revenue Code:

20 (i) on the first ~~\$20,500~~ ~~\$100,000~~ ~~\$65,000~~ less nonqualified taxable income of net long-term capital
21 gains, 3.0%;

22 (ii) on any net long-term capital gains that exceed ~~\$20,500~~ ~~\$100,000~~ ~~\$65,000~~ less nonqualified
23 taxable income or any part of that income, 4.1%, except that if the total nonqualified taxable income is ~~\$20,500~~
24 ~~\$100,000~~ ~~\$65,000~~ or greater, all of the net long-term capital gains are taxed at 4.1%.

25 (3) By November 1 of each year, the department shall multiply the bracket amounts contained in
26 subsections (1) and (2) by the MODIFIED inflation factor for the following tax year and round the cumulative
27 brackets to the nearest \$100. The resulting adjusted brackets are effective for that following tax year and must
28 be used as the basis for imposition of the tax in subsections (1) and (2).

1 (4) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

2 (a) "Modified inflation factor" has the same meaning as "inflation factor" as defined in 15-30-2101,
3 except that the consumer price index for June 2027 2026 is substituted for the consumer price index for June
4 2023.

5 ~~(a)~~(b) "Net long-term capital gains" means net long-term capital gains as that term is defined in
6 section 1222 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 1222.

7 ~~(b)~~(c) "Nonqualified taxable income" means Montana taxable income that is not considered net long-
8 term capital gains."
9

10 **SECTION 3.** Section 15-30-2318, MCA, is amended to read:

11 **"15-30-2318. Earned income tax credit.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (3), a resident
12 taxpayer is allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by 15-30-2103 a percentage of the credit allowed for the
13 federal earned income credit for which the individual taxpayer is eligible for the tax year under section 32 of the
14 Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 32.

15 (2) The amount of the credit allowed under subsection (1) is ~~40%~~ 20% of the amount of the credit
16 determined for the tax year under section 32 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 32.

17 (3) The credit is not allowed on earned income that is treated as a dividend received by a member
18 of an agricultural organization provided for in section 501(d) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 501(d).
19 For the purpose of this subsection, the amount of the state tax credit provided for in subsection (2) is reduced
20 by the reduction percentage.

21 (4) The taxpayer is entitled to a refund equal to the amount by which the credit exceeds the
22 taxpayer's tax liability or, if the taxpayer has no tax liability under this chapter, a refund equal to the amount of
23 the credit. The credit may be claimed by filing a Montana income tax return.

24 (5) For the purpose of this section, the following definitions apply:

25 (a) "Earned income" means earned income, as defined in section 32 of the Internal Revenue
26 Code, 26 U.S.C. 32, that was used to determine the amount of the federal earned income tax credit under
27 subsection (2).

28 (b) "Reduction percentage" means a percentage that is calculated by dividing the earned income

1 that is disallowed under subsection (3) by the total amount of earned income."

2

3 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Transition. The modified inflation factor provided for in 15-30-2103(3)

4 does not apply until tax year 2028.

5

6 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Effective dates. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3), [this
7 act] is effective on October 1, 2025.

8 (2) [~~Section~~ SECTIONS 1 AND 3] is ARE effective January 1, 2026.

9 (3) [Section 2] is effective January 1, 2027.

10

11 NEW SECTION. Section 6. Applicability. (1) [~~Section~~ SECTIONS 1 AND 3] ~~applies~~ APPLY to the
12 income tax year beginning January 1, 2026.

13 (2) [Section 2] applies to income tax years beginning after December 31, 2026.

14

15 NEW SECTION. Section 7. Termination. [Section 1] terminates December 31, 2026.

16 - END -