

HOUSE BILL NO. 845

INTRODUCED BY J. DARLING, M. NIKOLAKAKOS, E. TILLEMAN

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT INCREASING THE INCOME TAX DEDUCTION FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO A FAMILY EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT; PROVIDING FOR INFLATIONARY INCREASES; AMENDING ~~SECTION~~ SECTIONS 15-30-2120 AND 15-62-207, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY DATE."

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

**SECTION 1.** SECTION 15-30-2120, MCA, IS AMENDED TO READ:

**"15-30-2120. Adjustments to federal taxable income to determine Montana taxable income. (1)**

The items in subsection (2) are added to and the items in subsection (3) are subtracted from federal taxable income to determine Montana taxable income.

(2) The following are added to federal taxable income:

(a) to the extent that it is not exempt from taxation by Montana under federal law, interest from obligations of a territory or another state or any political subdivision of a territory or another state and exempt-interest dividends attributable to that interest except to the extent already included in federal taxable income;

(b) that portion of a shareholder's income under subchapter S. of Chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code that has been reduced by any federal taxes paid by the subchapter S. corporation on the income;

(c) depreciation or amortization taken on a title plant as defined in 33-25-105;

(d) the recovery during the tax year of an amount deducted in any prior tax year to the extent that the amount recovered reduced the taxpayer's Montana income tax in the year deducted;

(e) an item of income, deduction, or expense to the extent that it was used to calculate federal taxable income if the item was also used to calculate a credit against a Montana income tax liability;

(f) a deduction for an income distribution from an estate or trust to a beneficiary that was included in the federal taxable income of an estate or trust in accordance with sections 651 and 661 of the Internal

1 Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 651 and 661;

2 (g) a withdrawal from a medical care savings account provided for in Title 15, chapter 61, used for  
3 a purpose other than an eligible medical expense or long-term care of the employee or account holder or a  
4 dependent of the employee or account holder;

5 (h) a withdrawal from a first-time home buyer savings account provided for in Title 15, chapter 63,  
6 used for a purpose other than for eligible costs for the purchase of a single-family residence;

7 (i) for a taxpayer that deducts the qualified business income deduction pursuant to section 199A  
8 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 199A, an amount equal to the qualified business income deduction  
9 claimed;

10 (j) for an individual taxpayer that deducts state income taxes pursuant to section 164(a)(3) of the  
11 Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 164(a)(3), an additional amount equal to the state income tax deduction  
12 claimed, not to exceed the amount required to reduce the federal itemized amount computed under section 161  
13 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 161, to the amount of the federal standard deduction allowable under  
14 section 63(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 63(c); and

15 (k) for a pass-through entity, estate, or trust, the amount of state income taxes deducted pursuant  
16 to section 164(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 164(a)(3).

17 (3) To the extent they are included as income or gain or not already excluded as a deduction or  
18 expense in determining federal taxable income, the following are subtracted from federal taxable income:

19 (a) a deduction for an income distribution from an estate or trust to a beneficiary in accordance  
20 with sections 651 and 661 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 651 and 661, recalculated according to the  
21 additions and subtractions in subsections (2) and (3)(b) through (3)(o);

22 (b) if exempt from taxation by Montana under federal law:

23 (i) interest from obligations of the United States government and exempt-interest dividends  
24 attributable to that interest; and

25 (ii) railroad retirement benefits;

26 (c) (i) salary received from the armed forces by residents of Montana who are serving on active  
27 duty in the regular armed forces and who entered into active duty from Montana;

28 (ii) the salary received by residents of Montana for active duty in the national guard. For the

1 purposes of this subsection (3)(c)(ii), "active duty" means duty performed under an order issued to a national  
2 guard member pursuant to:

3 (A) Title 10, U.S.C.; or

4 (B) Title 32, U.S.C., for a homeland defense activity, as defined in 32 U.S.C. 901, or a contingency  
5 operation, as defined in 10 U.S.C. 101, and the person was a member of a unit engaged in a homeland  
6 defense activity or contingency operation.

7 (iii) the amount received by a beneficiary pursuant to 10-1-1201; and

8 (iv) all payments made under the World War I bonus law, the Korean bonus law, and the veterans'  
9 bonus law. Any income tax that has been or may be paid on income received from the World War I bonus law,  
10 Korean bonus law, and the veterans' bonus law is considered an overpayment and must be refunded upon the  
11 filing of an amended return and a verified claim for refund on forms prescribed by the department in the same  
12 manner as other income tax refund claims are paid.

13 (d) annual contributions and income in a medical care savings account provided for in Title 15,  
14 chapter 61, and any withdrawal for payment of eligible medical expenses or for the long-term care of the  
15 employee or account holder or a dependent of the employee or account holder;

16 (e) contributions or earnings withdrawn from a family education savings account provided for in  
17 Title 15, chapter 62, or from a qualified tuition program established and maintained by another state as  
18 provided in section 529(b)(1)(A)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 529(b)(1)(A)(ii), for qualified  
19 education expenses, as defined in 15-62-103, of a designated beneficiary;

20 (f) interest and other income related to contributions that were made prior to January 1, 2024, that  
21 are retained in a first-time home buyer savings account provided for in Title 15, chapter 63, and any withdrawal  
22 for payment of eligible costs for the first-time purchase of a single-family residence;

23 (g) for each taxpayer that has attained the age of 65, an additional subtraction of \$5,500;

24 (h) the amount of a scholarship to an eligible student by a student scholarship organization  
25 pursuant to 15-30-3104;

26 (i) a payment received by a private landowner for providing public access to public land pursuant  
27 to Title 76, chapter 17, part 1;

28 (j) the amount of any refund or credit for overpayment of income taxes imposed by this state or

1 any other taxing jurisdiction to the extent included in gross income for federal income tax purposes but not  
2 previously allowed as a deduction for Montana income tax purposes;

3 (k) the recovery during the tax year of any amount deducted in any prior tax year to the extent that  
4 the recovered amount did not reduce the taxpayer's Montana income tax in the year deducted;

5 (l) the amount of the gain recognized from the sale or exchange of a mobile home park as  
6 provided in 15-31-163;

7 (m) payments from the Montana end of watch trust as provided in 2-15-2041;

8 (n) (i) subject to subsection (9), a portion of military pensions or military retirement income as  
9 calculated pursuant to subsection (8) that is received by a retired member of:

10 (A) the armed forces of the United States, as defined in 10 U.S.C. 101;

11 (B) the Montana army national guard or the army national guard of other states;

12 (C) the Montana air national guard or the air national guard of other states; or

13 (D) a reserve component, as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101, of the United States armed forces; and

14 (ii) subject to subsection (9), up to 50% of all income received as survivor benefits for military  
15 service provided for in subsection (3)(n)(i)(A) through (3)(n)(i)(D); and

16 (o) the amount of the property tax rebate received under 15-1-2302.

17 (4) (a) A taxpayer who, in determining federal taxable income, has reduced the taxpayer's  
18 business deductions:

19 (i) by an amount for wages and salaries for which a federal tax credit was elected under sections  
20 38 and 51(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 38 and 51(a), is allowed to deduct the amount of the  
21 wages and salaries paid regardless of the credit taken; or

22 (ii) for which a federal tax credit was elected under the Internal Revenue Code is allowed to  
23 deduct the amount of the business expense paid when there is no corresponding state income tax credit or  
24 deduction, regardless of the credit taken.

25 (b) The deductions in subsection (4)(a) must be made in the year that the wages, salaries, or  
26 business expenses were used to compute the credit. In the case of a partnership or small business corporation,  
27 the deductions in subsection (4)(a) must be made to determine the amount of income or loss of the partnership  
28 or small business corporation.

1           (5)     (a) An individual, a head of household, or a married individual who files a separate return on a  
2 separate form pursuant to 15-30-2113 who contributes to one or more accounts established under the Montana  
3 family education savings program or to a qualified tuition program established and maintained by another state  
4 as provided in section 529(b)(1)(A)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 529(b)(1)(A)(ii), may reduce  
5 taxable income by the lesser of ~~\$3,000~~ \$4,500 or the amount of the contribution. ~~In the case of married~~  
6 ~~taxpayers, each spouse is~~ Married taxpayers who file a joint return are entitled to a reduction, not in excess of  
7 ~~\$3,000~~ \$9,000, for the spouses' ~~their~~ contributions to the accounts. ~~Spouses may jointly elect to treat half of the~~  
8 ~~total contributions made by the spouses as being made by each spouse.~~ The reduction in taxable income under  
9 this subsection (5)(a) applies only ~~with respect to~~ contributions to an account of which the account owner is the  
10 taxpayer, the taxpayer's spouse, or the taxpayer's child or stepchild if the taxpayer's child or stepchild is a  
11 Montana resident. The provisions of subsection (2)(d) do not apply ~~with respect to~~ withdrawals of contributions  
12 that reduced federal taxable income.

13           (b)     Contributions made pursuant to this subsection (5) are subject to the recapture tax provided for  
14 in 15-62-208.

15           (6)     (a) An individual who contributes to one or more accounts established under the Montana  
16 achieving a better life experience program or to a qualified program established and maintained by another  
17 state may reduce taxable income by the lesser of \$3,000 or the amount of the contribution. In the case of  
18 married taxpayers, each spouse is entitled to a reduction, not to exceed \$3,000, for the spouses' contributions  
19 to the accounts. Spouses may jointly elect to treat one-half of the total contributions made by the spouses as  
20 being made by each spouse. The reduction in taxable income under this subsection (6)(a) applies only with  
21 respect to contributions to an account for which the account owner is the taxpayer, the taxpayer's spouse, or  
22 the taxpayer's child or stepchild if the taxpayer's child or stepchild is a Montana resident. The provisions of  
23 subsection (2)(d) do not apply with respect to withdrawals of contributions that reduced taxable income.

24           (b)     Contributions made pursuant to this subsection (6) are subject to the recapture tax provided in  
25 53-25-118.

26           (7)     By November 1 of each year, the department shall multiply the subtraction from federal taxable  
27 income for a taxpayer that has attained the age of 65 contained in subsection (3)(g) by the inflation factor for  
28 that tax year, rounding the result to the nearest \$10. The resulting amount is effective for that tax year and must

1 be used as the basis for the subtraction from federal taxable income determined under subsection (3)(g).

2 (8) (a) Subject to subsection (9), the subtraction in subsection (3)(n)(i) is equal to the lesser of:

3 (i) the amount of Montana source wage income on the return; or

4 (ii) 50% of the taxpayer's military pension or military retirement income.

5 (b) For the purposes of subsection (8)(a)(i), "Montana source wage income" means:

6 (i) wages, salary, tips, and other compensation for services performed in the state;

7 (ii) net income from a trade, business, profession, or occupation carried on in the state; and

8 (iii) net income from farming activities carried on in the state.

9 (9) The subtractions in subsection (3)(n):

10 (a) may only be claimed by a person who:

11 (i) becomes a resident of the state after June 30, 2023; or

12 (ii) was a resident of the state before receiving military pension or military retirement income and  
13 remained a resident after receiving military pension or military retirement income;

14 (b) may only be claimed for 5 consecutive years after satisfying the provisions of subsection (9)(a);

15 and

16 (c) are not available if a taxpayer claimed the exemption before becoming a nonresident.

17 (10) For the subtraction under subsection (5) from federal taxable income for a taxpayer who  
18 contributes to one or more accounts established under the Montana family education savings program or to a  
19 qualified tuition program, the total amount of the contributions for each tax year after 2025 is determined by  
20 multiplying the amount in subsection (5)(a) by an inflation factor determined by dividing the consumer price  
21 index fund for June of the previous tax year by the consumer price index for June 2024 and rounding the  
22 resulting figure to the nearest \$100 increment. (Subsection (3)(o) terminates June 30, 2025--sec. 10, Ch. 47, L.  
23 2023; subsections (3)(n), (8), and (9) terminate December 31, 2033--sec. 4, Ch. 650, L. 2023.)"  
24

25 **Section 2.** Section 15-62-207, MCA, is amended to read:

26 **"15-62-207. Deductions for contributions** ~~--INFLATION FACTOR. (1) An~~ Subject to subsection (3), an  
27 AN individual who contributes to one or more accounts in a tax year is entitled to reduce the individual's  
28 adjusted gross income, in accordance with 15-30-2120, by the total amount of the contributions, but not more

1 than ~~\$3,000 \$4,500~~ in tax year 2025.

2 ~~(2)~~ The contribution must be made to an account owned by the contributor, the contributor's  
3 spouse, or the contributor's child or stepchild if the contributor's child or stepchild is a Montana resident.

4  
5 ~~(3)~~ The total amount of the contributions for each subsequent tax year is determined by multiplying  
6 the amount in subsection ( 1 ) by an inflation factor determined by dividing the consumer price index fund for  
7 June of the previous tax year by the consumer price index for June 202 4 and rounding the resulting figure to  
8 the nearest \$100 increment."

9  
10 COORDINATION SECTION. SECTION 3. COORDINATION INSTRUCTION. IF BOTH SENATE BILL NO. 53 AND  
11 [THIS ACT] ARE PASSED AND APPROVED AND IF BOTH BILLS AMEND 15-30-2120(5)(A), THEN THE AMENDMENTS TO 15-  
12 30-2120(5)(A) IN SENATE BILL NO. 53 ARE VOID.

13  
14 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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16 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Retroactive applicability. [This act] applies retroactively, within the  
17 meaning of 1-2-109, to tax years beginning after December 31, 2024.

18 - END -