

Amendment - 2nd Reading-yellow - Requested by: Ron Marshall - (H) Committee of the Whole

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Jaret Coles,

HB0148.001.001

HOUSE BILL NO. 148

INTRODUCED BY R. MARSHALL, K. LOVE, E. BYRNE, R. GREGG, E. BUTTREY, C. HINKLE, N. NICOL, K. ZOLNIKOV, J. ETCHART, F. NAVE, L. BREWSTER, B. MITCHELL, K. SEEKINS-CROWE, P. FIELDER, C. SCHOMER, L. SCHUBERT, Z. WIRTH

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE TAXATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS; MODIFYING THE FEDERAL CALCULATION FOR TAXATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS ON A STATE RETURN FOR CERTAIN TAX YEARS; EXEMPTING SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FROM THE INCOME TAX BEGINNING IN TAX YEAR 2030; REVISING A DEFINITION; AMENDING SECTIONS 15-30-2101 AND 15-30-2120, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE DATES AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

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

Section 1. Section 15-30-2101, MCA, is amended to read:

"15-30-2101. Definitions. For the purpose of this chapter, unless otherwise required by the context, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Consumer price index" means the consumer price index, United States city average, for all items, for all urban consumers (CPI-U), using the 1982-84 base of 100, as published by the bureau of labor statistics of the U.S. department of labor.

(2) "Corporation" or "C. corporation" means a corporation, limited liability company, or other entity:

(a) that is treated as an association for federal income tax purposes;

(b) for which a valid election under section 1362 of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 1362) is not in effect; and

(c) that is not a disregarded entity.

(3) "Department" means the department of revenue.

(4) "Disregarded entity" means a business entity:

Amendment - 2nd Reading-yellow - Requested by: Ron Marshall - (H) Committee of the Whole

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Jaret Coles,

HB0148.001.001

(e) amounts received from fully matured, privately purchased annuity contracts after cessation of regular employment.

(29) "Purposely" is as defined in 45-2-101.

(30) "Received" means received or accrued, and the term "received or accrued" must be construed according to the method of accounting used to compute federal taxable income.

(31) "Resident" applies only to natural persons and includes, for the purpose of determining liability to the tax imposed by this chapter with reference to the income of any taxable year, any person domiciled in the state of Montana and any other person who maintains a permanent place of abode within the state even though temporarily absent from the state and who has not established a residence elsewhere.

(32) "S. corporation" means an incorporated entity for which a valid election under section 1362 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 1362, is in effect.

(33) "Stock dividends" means new stock issued, for surplus or profits capitalized, to shareholders in proportion to their previous holdings.

(34) "Surviving spouse" means a surviving spouse as defined and described in section 2(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 2(a).

(35) "Tax year" means the taxpayer's taxable year for federal income tax purposes.

(36) "Taxpayer" includes any person, entity, or fiduciary, resident or nonresident, subject to a tax or other obligation imposed by this chapter and unless otherwise specifically provided does not include a C. corporation."

Section 2. 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-

Amendment - 2nd Reading-yellow - Requested by: Ron Marshall - (H) Committee of the Whole

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Jaret Coles,

HB0148.001.001

- 1 interest dividends attributable to that interest except to the extent already included in federal taxable income;
- 2 (b) that portion of a shareholder's income under subchapter S. of Chapter 1 of the Internal
- 3 Revenue Code that has been reduced by any federal taxes paid by the subchapter S. corporation on the
- 4 income;
- 5 (c) depreciation or amortization taken on a title plant as defined in 33-25-105;
- 6 (d) the recovery during the tax year of an amount deducted in any prior tax year to the extent that
- 7 the amount recovered reduced the taxpayer's Montana income tax in the year deducted;
- 8 (e) an item of income, deduction, or expense to the extent that it was used to calculate federal
- 9 taxable income if the item was also used to calculate a credit against a Montana income tax liability;
- 10 (f) a deduction for an income distribution from an estate or trust to a beneficiary that was included
- 11 in the federal taxable income of an estate or trust in accordance with sections 651 and 661 of the Internal
- 12 Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 651 and 661;
- 13 (g) a withdrawal from a medical care savings account provided for in Title 15, chapter 61, used for
- 14 a purpose other than an eligible medical expense or long-term care of the employee or account holder or a
- 15 dependent of the employee or account holder;
- 16 (h) a withdrawal from a first-time home buyer savings account provided for in Title 15, chapter 63,
- 17 used for a purpose other than for eligible costs for the purchase of a single-family residence;
- 18 (i) for a taxpayer that deducts the qualified business income deduction pursuant to section 199A
- 19 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 199A, an amount equal to the qualified business income deduction
- 20 claimed;
- 21 (j) for an individual taxpayer that deducts state income taxes pursuant to section 164(a)(3) of the
- 22 Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 164(a)(3), an additional amount equal to the state income tax deduction
- 23 claimed, not to exceed the amount required to reduce the federal itemized amount computed under section 161
- 24 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 161, to the amount of the federal standard deduction allowable under
- 25 section 63(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 63(c); and
- 26 (k) for a pass-through entity, estate, or trust, the amount of state income taxes deducted pursuant
- 27 to section 164(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 164(a)(3).

Amendment - 2nd Reading-yellow - Requested by: Ron Marshall - (H) Committee of the Whole

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Jaret Coles,

HB0148.001.001

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

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

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

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

(ii) railroad retirement benefits;

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

(ii) the salary received by residents of Montana for active duty in the national guard. For the purposes of this subsection (3)(c)(ii), "active duty" means duty performed under an order issued to a national guard member pursuant to:

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

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

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

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

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

Amendment - 2nd Reading-yellow - Requested by: Ron Marshall - (H) Committee of the Whole

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Jaret Coles,

HB0148.001.001

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

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

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

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

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

(j) the amount of any refund or credit for overpayment of income taxes imposed by this state or any other taxing jurisdiction to the extent included in gross income for federal income tax purposes but not previously allowed as a deduction for Montana income tax purposes;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(ii) subject to subsection (9), up to 50% of all income received as survivor benefits for military

Amendment - 2nd Reading-yellow - Requested by: Ron Marshall - (H) Committee of the Whole

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Jaret Coles,

HB0148.001.001

service provided for in subsection (3)(n)(i)(A) through (3)(n)(i)(D); ~~and~~

(o) social security benefits and tier 1 railroad retirement benefits as determined under subsection (10); and

~~(p)~~ the amount of the property tax rebate received under 15-1-2302.

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

(i) by an amount for wages and salaries for which a federal tax credit was elected under sections 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 wages and salaries paid regardless of the credit taken; or

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

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

(5) (a) An individual who contributes to one or more accounts established under the Montana family education savings program or to a qualified tuition program established and maintained by another state 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 taxable income by the lesser of \$3,000 or the amount of the contribution. In the case of married taxpayers, each spouse is entitled to a reduction, not in excess of \$3,000, for the spouses' contributions to the accounts. Spouses may jointly elect to treat half of the total contributions made by the spouses as being made by each spouse. The reduction in taxable income under this subsection (5)(a) applies only with respect to contributions to an account of which the account owner is the taxpayer, the taxpayer's spouse, or the taxpayer's child or stepchild if the taxpayer's child or stepchild is a Montana resident. The provisions of subsection (2)(d) do not apply with respect to withdrawals of contributions that reduced federal taxable income.

(b) Contributions made pursuant to this subsection (5) are subject to the recapture tax provided for

Amendment - 2nd Reading-yellow - Requested by: Ron Marshall - (H) Committee of the Whole

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Jaret Coles,

HB0148.001.001

1 in 15-62-208.

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

11 (b) Contributions made pursuant to this subsection (6) are subject to the recapture tax provided in
12 53-25-118.

13 (7) By November 1 of each year, the department shall multiply the subtraction from federal taxable
14 income for a taxpayer that has attained the age of 65 contained in subsection (3)(g) by the inflation factor for
15 that tax year, rounding the result to the nearest \$10. The resulting amount is effective for that tax year and must
16 be used as the basis for the subtraction from federal taxable income determined under subsection (3)(g).

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

- 18 (i) the amount of Montana source wage income on the return; or
19 (ii) 50% of the taxpayer's military pension or military retirement income.

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

- 21 (i) wages, salary, tips, and other compensation for services performed in the state;
22 (ii) net income from a trade, business, profession, or occupation carried on in the state; and
23 (iii) net income from farming activities carried on in the state.

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

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

- 26 (i) becomes a resident of the state after June 30, 2023; or
27 (ii) was a resident of the state before receiving military pension or military retirement income and

Amendment - 2nd Reading-yellow - Requested by: Ron Marshall - (H) Committee of the Whole

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Jaret Coles,

HB0148.001.001

1 remained a resident after receiving military pension or military retirement income;

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

3 and

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

5 (10) (a) Subject to subsection (10)(b), a taxpayer who is required to include part of the taxpayer's
6 social security benefits or part of the taxpayer's tier 1 railroad retirement benefits in federal taxable income shall
7 calculate the amount included in Montana taxable income as provided for in section 86 of the Internal Revenue
8 Code, 26 U.S.C. 86, except that:

9 (i) for the tax year beginning January 1, 2026:

10 (A) for each taxpayer filing singly or as a head of household, "base amount" means \$50,000 and
11 "adjusted base amount" means \$59,000; and

12 (B) in the case of married taxpayers filing jointly, "base amount" means \$100,000 and "adjusted
13 base amount" means \$112,000;

14 (ii) for the tax year beginning January 1, 2027:

15 (A) for each taxpayer filing singly or as a head of household, "base amount" means \$60,000 and
16 "adjusted base amount" means \$69,000; and

17 (B) in the case of married taxpayers filing jointly, "base amount" means \$120,000 and "adjusted
18 base amount" means \$132,000;

19 (iii) for the tax year beginning January 1, 2028:

20 (A) for each taxpayer filing singly or as a head of household, "base amount" means \$70,000 and
21 "adjusted base amount" means \$79,000; and

22 (B) in the case of married taxpayers filing jointly, "base amount" means \$140,000 and "adjusted
23 base amount" means \$152,000; and

24 (iii) for the tax year beginning January 1, 2029:

25 (A) for each taxpayer filing singly or as a head of household, "base amount" means \$80,000 and
26 "adjusted base amount" means \$89,000; and

27 (B) in the case of married taxpayers filing jointly, "base amount" means \$160,000 and "adjusted

Amendment - 2nd Reading-yellow - Requested by: Ron Marshall - (H) Committee of the Whole

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Jaret Coles,

HB0148.001.001

1 base amount" means \$172,000.

2 (b) Subsection (10)(a) does not apply if the calculation results in a taxpayer including more in
3 Montana taxable income than the amount included in Montana taxable income before the calculation.

4 (c) For tax years beginning after December 31, 2029, all social security and tier 1 railroad
5 retirement benefits are subtracted from federal taxable income. (Subsection ~~(3)(e)~~ (3)(p) terminates June 30,
6 2025--sec. 10, Ch. 47, L. 2023; subsections (3)(n), (8), and (9) terminate December 31, 2033--sec. 4, Ch. 650,
7 L. 2023.)"

8
9 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date. ~~[This act]~~ (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), [this
10 act] is effective January 1, 2026.

11 (2) [Section 1] is effective January 1, 2030.

12
13 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Applicability. [This act] applies to income tax years beginning after
14 December 31, 2025.

15 - END -