

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 291

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the availability of the Internal Revenue Service's Taxpayer Assistance Centers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 12, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas 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 expand the availability of the Internal Revenue Service's Taxpayer Assistance Centers.

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 "Expanding Tax Assist-
5 ance Act of 2011".

6 **SEC. 2. EXPANDED AVAILABILITY OF TAXPAYER ASSIST-**
7 **ANCE CENTERS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter E of chapter 77 of the
9 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to miscellaneous

1 provisions) is amended by adding at the end the following
2 new section:

3 **“SEC. 7529. TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE CENTERS.**

4 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, subject to
5 the availability of appropriated funds, take steps to ensure
6 the expanded availability of Taxpayer Assistance Centers
7 with the goal of providing at least 1 Taxpayer Assistance
8 Center in each district represented by a Member of the
9 House of Representatives.

10 “(b) USE OF VOLUNTEERS AND PRIVATE CONTRAC-
11 TORS.—To carry out the expansion required by subsection
12 (a), the Secretary may use the services of—

13 “(1) volunteers,

14 “(2) organizations described in section 501(c)
15 and exempt from tax under section 501(a), and

16 “(3) persons engaged in the trade or business
17 of providing the type of assistance otherwise pro-
18 vided by employees of the Internal Revenue Service
19 at Taxpayer Assistance Centers.

20 “(c) FEES.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not more than a nominal
22 fee shall be charged for services provided at Tax-
23 payer Assistance Centers.

24 “(2) FREE SERVICES FOR CERTAIN INDIVID-
25 UALS.—No fee shall be charged for services provided

1 at Taxpayer Assistance Centers for any individual
2 whose income does not exceed 250 percent of the
3 poverty level, as determined in accordance with cri-
4 teria established by the Director of the Office of
5 Management and Budget.

6 “(3) EXCEPTION FOR ACTUAL COSTS.—Para-
7 graphs (1) and (2) shall not apply to reimbursement
8 of actual costs incurred.

9 “(d) GRANTS.—The Secretary may, subject to the
10 availability of appropriated funds, make grants and enter
11 into contracts to secure the assistance of persons described
12 in paragraph (2) and (3) of subsection (b) at Taxpayer
13 Assistance Centers.”.

14 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
15 for subchapter E of chapter 77 of such Code is amended
16 by adding at the end the following new item:

“Sec. 7529. Taxpayer assistance centers.”.

17 (c) MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING CENTERS.—Nothing
18 in this Act shall be construed to permit the closure of any
19 Taxpayer Assistance Center operating on the date of the
20 enactment of this Act until each district represented by
21 a Member of the House of Representatives that is served
22 by such Center is served by a Taxpayer Assistance Center
23 located in such district.

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