

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 749

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance tax benefits for research activities.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 15, 2021

Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. SASSE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance tax benefits for research activities.

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 “American Innovation
5 and Jobs Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. RESTORING IMMEDIATE EXPENSING FOR RE-**
7 **SEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENTS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 174 of the Internal Rev-
9 enue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 174. RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTAL EXPENDITURES.**

2 “(a) TREATMENT AS EXPENSES.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A taxpayer may treat re-
4 search or experimental expenditures which are paid
5 or incurred by him during the taxable year in con-
6 nection with his trade or business as expenses which
7 are not chargeable to capital account. The expendi-
8 tures so treated shall be allowed as a deduction.

9 “(2) WHEN METHOD MAY BE ADOPTED.—

10 “(A) WITHOUT CONSENT.—A taxpayer
11 may, without the consent of the Secretary,
12 adopt the method provided in this subsection
13 for his first taxable year for which expenditures
14 described in paragraph (1) are paid or incurred.

15 “(B) WITH CONSENT.—A taxpayer may,
16 with the consent of the Secretary, adopt at any
17 time the method provided in this subsection.

18 “(3) SCOPE.—The method adopted under this
19 subsection shall apply to all expenditures described
20 in paragraph (1). The method adopted shall be ad-
21 hered to in computing taxable income for the taxable
22 year and for all subsequent taxable years unless,
23 with the approval of the Secretary, a change to a
24 different method is authorized with respect to part
25 or all of such expenditures.

1 “(b) AMORTIZATION OF CERTAIN RESEARCH AND
2 EXPERIMENTAL EXPENDITURES.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—At the election of the tax-
4 payer, made in accordance with regulations pre-
5 scribed by the Secretary, research or experimental
6 expenditures which are—

7 “(A) paid or incurred by the taxpayer in
8 connection with his trade or business,

9 “(B) not treated as expenses under sub-
10 section (a), and

11 “(C) chargeable to capital account but not
12 chargeable to property of a character which is
13 subject to the allowance under section 167 (re-
14 lating to allowance for depreciation, etc.) or sec-
15 tion 611 (relating to allowance for depletion),

16 may be treated as deferred expenses. In computing
17 taxable income, such deferred expenses shall be al-
18 lowed as a deduction ratably over such period of not
19 less than 60 months as may be selected by the tax-
20 payer (beginning with the month in which the tax-
21 payer first realizes benefits from such expenditures).
22 Such deferred expenses are expenditures properly
23 chargeable to capital account for purposes of section
24 1016(a)(1) (relating to adjustments to basis of prop-
25 erty).

1 “(2) TIME FOR AND SCOPE OF ELECTION.—The
2 election provided by paragraph (1) may be made for
3 any taxable year, but only if made not later than the
4 time prescribed by law for filing the return for such
5 taxable year (including extensions thereof). The
6 method so elected, and the period selected by the
7 taxpayer, shall be adhered to in computing taxable
8 income for the taxable year for which the election is
9 made and for all subsequent taxable years unless,
10 with the approval of the Secretary, a change to a
11 different method (or to a different period) is author-
12 ized with respect to part or all of such expenditures.
13 The election shall not apply to any expenditure paid
14 or incurred during any taxable year before the tax-
15 able year for which the taxpayer makes the election.

16 “(c) LAND AND OTHER PROPERTY.—This section
17 shall not apply to any expenditure for the acquisition or
18 improvement of land, or for the acquisition or improve-
19 ment of property to be used in connection with the re-
20 search or experimentation and of a character which is sub-
21 ject to the allowance under section 167 (relating to allow-
22 ance for depreciation, etc.) or section 611 (relating to al-
23 lowance for depletion); but for purposes of this section al-
24 lowances under section 167, and allowances under section
25 611, shall be considered as expenditures.

1 “(d) EXPLORATION EXPENDITURES.—This section
 2 shall not apply to any expenditure paid or incurred for
 3 the purpose of ascertaining the existence, location, extent,
 4 or quality of any deposit of ore or other mineral (including
 5 oil and gas).

6 “(e) ONLY REASONABLE RESEARCH EXPENDITURES
 7 ELIGIBLE.—This section shall apply to a research or ex-
 8 perimental expenditure only to the extent that the amount
 9 thereof is reasonable under the circumstances.

10 “(f) CROSS REFERENCES.—

11 “(1) For adjustments to basis of property for
 12 amounts allowed as deductions as deferred expenses
 13 under subsection (b), see section 1016(a)(14).

14 “(2) For election of 10-year amortization of ex-
 15 penditures allowable as a deduction under subsection
 16 (a), see section 59(e).”.

17 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 18 for part VI of subchapter B of chapter 1 is amended by
 19 striking the item relating to section 174 and inserting the
 20 following new item:

“Sec. 174. Research and experimental expenditures”.

21 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

22 (1) Section 41(d)(1)(A) is amended by striking
 23 “specified research or experimental expenditures
 24 under section 174” and inserting “expenses under
 25 section 174”.

1 (2) Section 280C(c) is amended to read as fol-
 2 lows:

3 “(c) CREDIT FOR INCREASING RESEARCH ACTIVI-
 4 TIES.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—No deduction shall be al-
 6 lowed for that portion of the qualified research ex-
 7 penses (as defined in section 41(b)) or basic re-
 8 search expenses (as defined in section 41(e)(2)) oth-
 9 erwise allowable as a deduction for the taxable year
 10 which is equal to the amount of the credit deter-
 11 mined for such taxable year under section 41(a).

12 “(2) SIMILAR RULE WHERE TAXPAYER CAP-
 13 ITALIZES RATHER THAN DEDUCTS EXPENSES.—If—

14 “(A) the amount of the credit determined
 15 for the taxable year under section 41(a)(1), ex-
 16 ceeds

17 “(B) the amount allowable as a deduction
 18 for such taxable year for qualified research ex-
 19 penses or basic research expenses (determined
 20 without regard to paragraph (1)),
 21 the amount chargeable to capital account for the
 22 taxable year for such expenses shall be reduced by
 23 the amount of such excess.

24 “(3) ELECTION OF REDUCED CREDIT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any taxable year for which an election is made under this paragraph—

“(i) paragraphs (1) and (2) shall not apply, and

“(ii) the amount of the credit under section 41(a) shall be the amount determined under subparagraph (B).

“(B) AMOUNT OF REDUCED CREDIT.—The amount of credit determined under this subparagraph for any taxable year shall be the amount equal to the excess of—

“(i) the amount of credit determined under section 41(a) without regard to this paragraph, over

“(ii) the product of—

“(I) the amount described in clause (i), and

“(II) the rate of tax under section 11(b).

“(C) ELECTION.—An election under this paragraph for any taxable year shall be made not later than the time for filing the return of tax for such year (including extensions), shall be made on such return, and shall be made in

1 such manner as the Secretary may prescribe.
 2 Such an election, once made, shall be irrev-
 3 ocable.

4 “(4) CONTROLLED GROUPS.—Paragraph (3) of
 5 subsection (b) shall apply for purposes of this sub-
 6 section.”.

7 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 8 this section shall apply to amounts paid or incurred in tax-
 9 able years beginning after December 31, 2021.

10 **SEC. 3. EXPANDING REFUNDABLE RESEARCH CREDIT FOR**
 11 **NEW AND SMALL BUSINESSES.**

12 (a) INCREASING CAP ON REFUNDABLE CREDIT.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Clause (i) of section
 14 41(h)(4)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
 15 is amended by striking “\$250,000” and inserting
 16 “the applicable amount”.

17 (2) APPLICABLE AMOUNT.—Section
 18 41(h)(4)(B) of such Code is amended by adding at
 19 the end the following new clause:

20 “(iii) APPLICABLE AMOUNT.—For
 21 purposes of clause (i), the applicable
 22 amount is—

23 “(I) in the case of any taxable
 24 year beginning after December 31,

1 2021, and before January 1, 2023,
2 \$500,000,

3 “(II) in the case of any taxable
4 year beginning after December 31,
5 2022, and before January 1, 2024,
6 \$525,000,

7 “(III) in the case of any taxable
8 year beginning after December 31,
9 2023, and before January 1, 2025,
10 \$550,000,

11 “(IV) in the case of any taxable
12 year beginning after December 31,
13 2024, and before January 1, 2026,
14 \$575,000,

15 “(V) in the case of any taxable
16 year beginning after December 31,
17 2025, and before January 1, 2027,
18 \$600,000,

19 “(VI) in the case of any taxable
20 year beginning after December 31,
21 2026, and before January 1, 2028,
22 \$625,000,

23 “(VII) in the case of any taxable
24 year beginning after December 31,

1 2027, and before January 1, 2029,
2 \$650,000,

3 “(VIII) in the case of any taxable
4 year beginning after December 31,
5 2028, and before January 1, 2030,
6 \$675,000,

7 “(IX) in the case of any taxable
8 year beginning after December 31,
9 2029, and before January 1, 2031,
10 \$700,000,

11 “(X) in the case of any taxable
12 year beginning after December 31,
13 2030, and before January 1, 2032,
14 \$725,000, and

15 “(XI) in the case of any taxable
16 year beginning after December 31,
17 2031, \$750,000.”.

18 (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Clause (ii) of
19 section 41(h)(5)(B) of such Code is amended by
20 striking “the \$250,000 amount” and inserting “the
21 applicable amount”.

22 (b) EXTENSION OF ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICABILITY
23 OF ELECTION.—

24 (1) STARTUP DATE.—Subclause (II) of section
25 41(h)(3)(A)(i) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986

1 is amended by striking “5-taxable-year period” and
 2 inserting “8-taxable-year period”.

3 (2) EXTENSION OF LIMITATION ON ELEC-
 4 TION.—Clause (ii) of section 41(h)(4)(B) of such
 5 Code is amended by striking “5 or more” and in-
 6 serting “8 or more”.

7 (c) GROSS RECEIPTS TEST.—Clause (i) of section
 8 41(h)(3)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is
 9 amended—

10 (1) by striking “\$5,000,000” in subclause (I)
 11 and inserting “\$15,000,000”, and

12 (2) by striking “gross receipts” in subclause
 13 (II) and inserting “gross receipts in excess of
 14 \$25,000”.

15 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 16 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after
 17 December 31, 2021.

18 **SEC. 4. INCREASING ACCESS TO THE RESEARCH CREDIT**
 19 **FOR STARTUPS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (4) of section 41(c) of
 21 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding
 22 at the end the following new subparagraph:

23 “(D) SPECIAL RULES FOR QUALIFIED
 24 SMALL BUSINESSES.—In the case of a qualified

1 small business (as defined in subsection
2 (h)(3))—

3 “(i) subparagraph (A) shall be applied
4 by substituting ‘20 percent’ for ‘14 per-
5 cent’, and

6 “(ii) if subparagraph (B) applies to
7 such taxpayer, at the election of the tax-
8 payer—

9 “(I) subparagraph (B)(ii) shall
10 be applied by substituting ‘10 percent’
11 for ‘6 percent’, or

12 “(II) in lieu of applying subpara-
13 graph (B), the average under sub-
14 paragraph (A) shall be determined by
15 disregarding any taxable year in the
16 3-year period described in such sub-
17 paragraph in which there were no
18 qualified research expenses.”.

19 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
20 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after
21 the date of the enactment of this Act.

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