

SUBPART A—GENERAL RULES FOR TAXATION OF
ESTATES AND TRUSTS

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AMENDMENTS

2001—Pub. L. 107-16, title VI, § 671(c)(1), June 7, 2001, 115 Stat. 147, added item 646.

1998—Pub. L. 105-206, title VI, § 6013(a)(2), July 22, 1998, 112 Stat. 819, renumbered item 646 as 645.

1997—Pub. L. 105-34, title V, § 507(b)(3), title XIII, § 1305(c), Aug. 5, 1997, 111 Stat. 857, 1041, added items 644 and 646 and struck out former items 644 “Special rule for gain on property transferred to trust at less than fair market value” and 645 “Taxable year of trusts”.

1986—Pub. L. 99-514, title XIV, § 1403(b), Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2713, added item 645.

1976—Pub. L. 94-455, title VII, § 701(g)(2), Oct. 4, 1976, 90 Stat. 1580, added item 644.

§ 641. Imposition of tax

(a) Application of tax

The tax imposed by section 1(e) shall apply to the taxable income of estates or of any kind of property held in trust, including—

(1) income accumulated in trust for the benefit of unborn or unascertained persons or persons with contingent interests, and income accumulated or held for future distribution under the terms of the will or trust;

(2) income which is to be distributed currently by the fiduciary to the beneficiaries, and income collected by a guardian of an infant which is to be held or distributed as the court may direct;

(3) income received by estates of deceased persons during the period of administration or settlement of the estate; and

(4) income which, in the discretion of the fiduciary, may be either distributed to the beneficiaries or accumulated.

(b) Computation and payment

The taxable income of an estate or trust shall be computed in the same manner as in the case of an individual, except as otherwise provided in this part. The tax shall be computed on such taxable income and shall be paid by the fiduciary. For purposes of this subsection, a foreign trust or foreign estate shall be treated as a non-resident alien individual who is not present in the United States at any time.

(c) Special rules for taxation of electing small business trusts

(1) In general

For purposes of this chapter—

(A) the portion of any electing small business trust which consists of stock in 1 or more S corporations shall be treated as a separate trust, and

(B) the amount of the tax imposed by this chapter on such separate trust shall be determined with the modifications of paragraph (2).

(2) Modifications

For purposes of paragraph (1), the modifications of this paragraph are the following:

(A) Except as provided in section 1(h), the amount of the tax imposed by section 1(e) shall be determined by using the highest rate of tax set forth in section 1(e).

(B) The exemption amount under section 55(d) shall be zero.

(C) The only items of income, loss, deduction, or credit to be taken into account are the following:

(i) The items required to be taken into account under section 1366.

(ii) Any gain or loss from the disposition of stock in an S corporation.

(iii) To the extent provided in regulations, State or local income taxes or administrative expenses to the extent allocable to items described in clauses (i) and (ii).

(iv) Any interest expense paid or accrued on indebtedness incurred to acquire stock in an S corporation.

No deduction or credit shall be allowed for any amount not described in this paragraph, and no item described in this paragraph shall be apportioned to any beneficiary.

(D) No amount shall be allowed under paragraph (1) or (2) of section 1211(b).

(3) Treatment of remainder of trust and distributions

For purposes of determining—

(A) the amount of the tax imposed by this chapter on the portion of any electing small business trust not treated as a separate trust under paragraph (1), and

(B) the distributable net income of the entire trust,

the items referred to in paragraph (2)(C) shall be excluded. Except as provided in the preceding sentence, this subsection shall not affect the taxation of any distribution from the trust.

(4) Treatment of unused deductions where termination of separate trust

If a portion of an electing small business trust ceases to be treated as a separate trust under paragraph (1), any carryover or excess deduction of the separate trust which is referred to in section 642(h) shall be taken into account by the entire trust.

(5) Electing small business trust

For purposes of this subsection, the term “electing small business trust” has the meaning given such term by section 1361(e)(1).

(Aug. 16, 1954, ch. 736, 68A Stat. 215; Pub. L. 91-172, title VIII, § 803(d)(3), Dec. 30, 1969, 83 Stat. 684; Pub. L. 94-455, title VII, § 701(e)(2), Oct. 4, 1976, 90 Stat. 1579; Pub. L. 95-30, title I, § 101(d)(8), May 23, 1977, 91 Stat. 134; Pub. L. 104-188, title I, § 1302(d), Aug. 20, 1996, 110 Stat. 1778; Pub. L. 105-34, title XVI, § 1601(i)(3)(B), Aug. 5, 1997, 111 Stat. 1093; Pub. L. 105-206, title VI, § 6007(f)(2), July 22, 1998, 112 Stat. 810; Pub. L. 110-28, title VIII, § 8236(a), May 25, 2007, 121 Stat. 199.)