

Amendment by section 401(a)(1), (b)–(g)(1), (2)(C) of Pub. L. 107–16 applicable to taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 2001, see section 401(h) of Pub. L. 107–16, set out as a note under section 25A of this title.

Amendment by section 402(a)(4)(A), (C) of Pub. L. 107–16 applicable to taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 2001, see section 402(h) of Pub. L. 107–16, set out as a note under section 72 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1998 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 105–206 effective, except as otherwise provided, as if included in the provisions of the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, Pub. L. 105–34, to which such amendment relates, see section 6024 of Pub. L. 105–206, set out as a note under section 1 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section applicable to taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 1997, see section 213(f) of Pub. L. 105–34, set out as an Effective Date of 1997 Amendment note under section 26 of this title.

Subchapter G—Corporations Used to Avoid Income Tax on Shareholders

- Part
- I. Corporations improperly accumulating surplus.
 - II. Personal holding companies.
 - [III. Repealed.]
 - IV. Deduction for dividends paid.

AMENDMENTS

2004—Pub. L. 108–357, title IV, §413(c)(31), Oct. 22, 2004, 118 Stat. 1509, struck out item for part III “Foreign personal holding companies”.

PART I—CORPORATIONS IMPROPERLY ACCUMULATING SURPLUS

- Sec.
- 531. Imposition of accumulated earnings tax.
 - 532. Corporations subject to accumulated earnings tax.
 - 533. Evidence of purpose to avoid income tax.
 - 534. Burden of proof.
 - 535. Accumulated taxable income.
 - 536. Income not placed on annual basis.
 - 537. Reasonable needs of the business.

§ 531. Imposition of accumulated earnings tax

In addition to other taxes imposed by this chapter, there is hereby imposed for each taxable year on the accumulated taxable income (as defined in section 535) of each corporation described in section 532, an accumulated earnings tax equal to 20 percent of the accumulated taxable income.

(Aug. 16, 1954, ch. 736, 68A Stat. 179; Pub. L. 100–647, title I, §1001(a)(2)(A), Nov. 10, 1988, 102 Stat. 3349; Pub. L. 103–66, title XIII, §§13201(b)(1), 13202(b), Aug. 10, 1993, 107 Stat. 459, 461; Pub. L. 107–16, title I, §101(c)(4), June 7, 2001, 115 Stat. 43; Pub. L. 108–27, title III, §302(e)(5), May 28, 2003, 117 Stat. 764; Pub. L. 112–240, title I, §102(c)(1)(A), Jan. 2, 2013, 126 Stat. 2319.)

AMENDMENTS

2013—Pub. L. 112–240 substituted “20 percent” for “15 percent”.

2003—Pub. L. 108–27 substituted “equal to 15 percent of the accumulated taxable income.” for “equal to the product of the highest rate of tax under section 1(c) and the accumulated taxable income.”

2001—Pub. L. 107–16 substituted “equal to the product of the highest rate of tax under section 1(c) and the ac-

cumulated taxable income.” for “equal to 39.6 percent of the accumulated taxable income.”

1993—Pub. L. 103–66, §13202(b), substituted “39.6 percent” for “36 percent”.

Pub. L. 103–66, §13201(b)(1), substituted “36 percent” for “28 percent”.

1988—Pub. L. 100–647 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section read as follows: “In addition to other taxes imposed by this chapter, there is hereby imposed for each taxable year on the accumulated taxable income (as defined in section 535) of every corporation described in section 532, an accumulated earnings tax equal to the sum of—

“(1) 27½ percent of the accumulated taxable income not in excess of \$100,000, plus

“(2) 38½ percent of the accumulated taxable income in excess of \$100,000.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2013 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 112–240 applicable to taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 2012, see section 102(d)(1) of Pub. L. 112–240, set out as a note under section 1 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2003 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 108–27 applicable, except as otherwise provided, to taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 2002, see section 302(f) of Pub. L. 108–27, set out as an Effective and Termination Dates of 2003 Amendment note under section 1 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2001 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 107–16 applicable to taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 2000, see section 101(d)(1) of Pub. L. 107–16, set out as an Effective and Termination Dates of 2001 Amendment note under section 1 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1993 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103–66 applicable to taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 1992, see sections 13201(c) and 13202(c) of Pub. L. 103–66, set out as notes under section 1 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1988 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 100–647, title I, §1001(a)(2)(B), Nov. 10, 1988, 102 Stat. 3349, provided that: “The amendment made by subparagraph (A) [amending this section] shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 1987. Such amendment shall not be treated as a change in a rate of tax for purposes of section 15 of the 1986 Code.”

§ 532. Corporations subject to accumulated earnings tax

(a) General rule

The accumulated earnings tax imposed by section 531 shall apply to every corporation (other than those described in subsection (b)) formed or availed of for the purpose of avoiding the income tax with respect to its shareholders or the shareholders of any other corporation, by permitting earnings and profits to accumulate instead of being divided or distributed.

(b) Exceptions

The accumulated earnings tax imposed by section 531 shall not apply to—

(1) a personal holding company (as defined in section 542),

(2) a corporation exempt from tax under subchapter F (section 501 and following), or

(3) a passive foreign investment company (as defined in section 1297).

(c) Application determined without regard to number of shareholders

The application of this part to a corporation shall be determined without regard to the number of shareholders of such corporation.

(Aug. 16, 1954, ch. 736, 68A Stat. 179; Pub. L. 98-369, div. A, title I, §58(a), July 18, 1984, 98 Stat. 574; Pub. L. 99-514, title XII, §1235(f)(1), Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2575; Pub. L. 105-34, title XI, §1122(d)(1), Aug. 5, 1997, 111 Stat. 977; Pub. L. 109-135, title IV, §403(n)(1), Dec. 21, 2005, 119 Stat. 2626.)

AMENDMENTS

2005—Subsec. (b)(2) to (4). Pub. L. 109-135 redesignated pars. (3) and (4) as (2) and (3), respectively, and struck out former par. (2) which read as follows: “a foreign personal holding company (as defined in section 552).”.

1997—Subsec. (b)(4). Pub. L. 105-34 substituted “section 1297” for “section 1296”.

1986—Subsec. (b)(4). Pub. L. 99-514 added par. (4).

1984—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 98-369 added subsec. (c).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2005 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 109-135 effective as if included in the provision of the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004, Pub. L. 108-357, to which such amendment relates, see section 403(nn) of Pub. L. 109-135, set out as a note under section 26 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1997 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 105-34, title XI, §1124, Aug. 5, 1997, 111 Stat. 978, provided that: “The amendments made by this subtitle [subtitle C (§§1121-1124) of title XI of Pub. L. 105-34, enacting section 1296 of this title, amending this section and sections 542, 551, 852, 1291, 1293, 1296 to 1298, and 4982 of this title, redesignating subpart C of part VI of subchapter P of this chapter as subpart D of part VI of subchapter P of this chapter, and renumbering sections 1296 and 1297 of this title as sections 1297 and 1298, respectively, of this title] shall apply to—

“(1) taxable years of United States persons beginning after December 31, 1997, and

“(2) taxable years of foreign corporations ending with or within such taxable years of United States persons.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1986 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 99-514 applicable to taxable years of foreign corporations beginning after Dec. 31, 1986, see section 1235(h) of Pub. L. 99-514, set out as an Effective Date note under section 1291 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 98-369, div. A, title I, §58(c), July 18, 1984, 98 Stat. 576, provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section and section 535 of this title] shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act [July 18, 1984].”

§ 533. Evidence of purpose to avoid income tax

(a) Unreasonable accumulation determinative of purpose

For purposes of section 532, the fact that the earnings and profits of a corporation are permitted to accumulate beyond the reasonable needs of the business shall be determinative of the purpose to avoid the income tax with respect to shareholders, unless the corporation by the preponderance of the evidence shall prove to the contrary.

(b) Holding or investment company

The fact that any corporation is a mere holding or investment company shall be prima facie evidence of the purpose to avoid the income tax with respect to shareholders.

(Aug. 16, 1954, ch. 736, 68A Stat. 179.)

§ 534. Burden of proof

(a) General rule

In any proceeding before the Tax Court involving a notice of deficiency based in whole or in part on the allegation that all or any part of the earnings and profits have been permitted to accumulate beyond the reasonable needs of the business, the burden of proof with respect to such allegation shall—

(1) if notification has not been sent in accordance with subsection (b), be on the Secretary, or

(2) if the taxpayer has submitted the statement described in subsection (c), be on the Secretary with respect to the grounds set forth in such statement in accordance with the provisions of such subsection.

(b) Notification by Secretary

Before mailing the notice of deficiency referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary may send by certified mail or registered mail a notification informing the taxpayer that the proposed notice of deficiency includes an amount with respect to the accumulated earnings tax imposed by section 531.

(c) Statement by taxpayer

Within such time (but not less than 30 days) after the mailing of the notification described in subsection (b) as the Secretary may prescribe by regulations, the taxpayer may submit a statement of the grounds (together with facts sufficient to show the basis thereof) on which the taxpayer relies to establish that all or any part of the earnings and profits have not been permitted to accumulate beyond the reasonable needs of the business.

(d) Jeopardy assessment

If pursuant to section 6861(a) a jeopardy assessment is made before the mailing of the notice of deficiency referred to in subsection (a), for purposes of this section such notice of deficiency shall, to the extent that it informs the taxpayer that such deficiency includes the accumulated earnings tax imposed by section 531, constitute the notification described in subsection (b), and in that event the statement described in subsection (c) may be included in the taxpayer's petition to the Tax Court.

(Aug. 16, 1954, ch. 736, 68A Stat. 180; Aug. 11, 1955, ch. 805, §§4, 5, 69 Stat. 690, 691; Pub. L. 85-866, title I, §89(b), Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1665; Pub. L. 94-455, title XIX, §§1901(a)(73), 1906(b)(13)(A), Oct. 4, 1976, 90 Stat. 1776, 1834.)

AMENDMENTS

1976—Subsec. (a)(1), (2). Pub. L. 94-455, §1906(b)(13)(A), struck out “or his delegate” after “Secretary”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 94-455, §§1901(a)(73)(A), 1906(b)(13)(A), struck out “In the case of a notice of deficiency to which subsection (e)(2) applies and which is mailed on or before the 30th day after the date of enactment of this sentence, the notification referred to in the preceding sentence may be mailed at any time on or before such 30th day” after “section 531”, and “or his delegate” after “Secretary”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 94-455, §1906(b)(13)(A), struck out “or his delegate” after “Secretary”.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 94-455, §1901(a)(73)(B), struck out subsec. (e) relating to application of provisions of section.