

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section applicable to taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 1975, see section 508 of Pub. L. 94-455, set out as an Effective Date of 1976 Amendment note under section 3 of this title.

PROGRAM TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS

Pub. L. 101-508, title XI, §11114, Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1388-414, provided that: "Not later than the first calendar year following the date of the enactment of this subtitle [Nov. 5, 1990], the Secretary of the Treasury, or the Secretary's delegate, shall establish a taxpayer awareness program to inform the taxpaying public of the availability of the credit for dependent care allowed under section 21 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the earned income credit and child health insurance under section 32 of such Code. Such public awareness program shall be designed to assure that individuals who may be eligible are informed of the availability of such credit and filing procedures. The Secretary shall use appropriate means of communication to carry out the provisions of this section."

§ 22. Credit for the elderly and the permanently and totally disabled

(a) General rule

In the case of a qualified individual, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this chapter for the taxable year an amount equal to 15 percent of such individual's section 22 amount for such taxable year.

(b) Qualified individual

For purposes of this section, the term "qualified individual" means any individual—

- (1) who has attained age 65 before the close of the taxable year, or
- (2) who retired on disability before the close of the taxable year and who, when he retired, was permanently and totally disabled.

(c) Section 22 amount

For purposes of subsection (a)—

(1) In general

An individual's section 22 amount for the taxable year shall be the applicable initial amount determined under paragraph (2), reduced as provided in paragraph (3) and in subsection (d).

(2) Initial amount

(A) In general

Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the initial amount shall be—

- (i) \$5,000 in the case of a single individual, or a joint return where only one spouse is a qualified individual,
- (ii) \$7,500 in the case of a joint return where both spouses are qualified individuals, or
- (iii) \$3,750 in the case of a married individual filing a separate return.

(B) Limitation in case of individuals who have not attained age 65

(i) In general

In the case of a qualified individual who has not attained age 65 before the close of the taxable year, except as provided in clause (ii), the initial amount shall not exceed the disability income for the taxable year.

(ii) Special rules in case of joint return

In the case of a joint return where both spouses are qualified individuals and at least one spouse has not attained age 65 before the close of the taxable year—

(I) if both spouses have not attained age 65 before the close of the taxable year, the initial amount shall not exceed the sum of such spouses' disability income, or

(II) if one spouse has attained age 65 before the close of the taxable year, the initial amount shall not exceed the sum of \$5,000 plus the disability income for the taxable year of the spouse who has not attained age 65 before the close of the taxable year.

(iii) Disability income

For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "disability income" means the aggregate amount includable in the gross income of the individual for the taxable year under section 72 or 105(a) to the extent such amount constitutes wages (or payments in lieu of wages) for the period during which the individual is absent from work on account of permanent and total disability.

(3) Reduction

(A) In general

The reduction under this paragraph is an amount equal to the sum of the amounts received by the individual (or, in the case of a joint return, by either spouse) as a pension or annuity or as a disability benefit—

- (i) which is excluded from gross income and payable under—
 - (I) title II of the Social Security Act,
 - (II) the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974, or
 - (III) a law administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, or
- (ii) which is excluded from gross income under any provision of law not contained in this title.

No reduction shall be made under clause (i)(III) for any amount described in section 104(a)(4).

(B) Treatment of certain workmen's compensation benefits

For purposes of subparagraph (A), any amount treated as a social security benefit under section 86(d)(3) shall be treated as a disability benefit received under title II of the Social Security Act.

(d) Adjusted gross income limitation

If the adjusted gross income of the taxpayer exceeds—

- (1) \$7,500 in the case of a single individual,
- (2) \$10,000 in the case of a joint return, or
- (3) \$5,000 in the case of a married individual filing a separate return,

the section 22 amount shall be reduced by one-half of the excess of the adjusted gross income over \$7,500, \$10,000, or \$5,000, as the case may be.

(e) Definitions and special rules

For purposes of this section—

(1) Married couple must file joint return

Except in the case of a husband and wife who live apart at all times during the taxable year, if the taxpayer is married at the close of the taxable year, the credit provided by this section shall be allowed only if the taxpayer and his spouse file a joint return for the taxable year.

(2) Marital status

Marital status shall be determined under section 7703.

(3) Permanent and total disability defined

An individual is permanently and totally disabled if he is unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months. An individual shall not be considered to be permanently and totally disabled unless he furnishes proof of the existence thereof in such form and manner, and at such times, as the Secretary may require.

(f) Nonresident alien ineligible for credit

No credit shall be allowed under this section to any nonresident alien.

(Aug. 16, 1954, ch. 736, 68A Stat. 15, §37; Aug. 9, 1955, ch. 659, §1, 69 Stat. 591; Jan. 28, 1956, ch. 17, §1, 70 Stat. 8; Pub. L. 87-792, §7(a), Oct. 10, 1962, 76 Stat. 828; Pub. L. 87-876, §1, Oct. 24, 1962, 76 Stat. 1199; Pub. L. 88-272, title I, §113(a), title II, §§201(d)(3), 202(a), Feb. 26, 1964, 78 Stat. 24, 32, 33; Pub. L. 93-406, title II, §2002(g)(1), Sept. 2, 1974, 88 Stat. 968; Pub. L. 94-455, title V, §503(a), title XIX, §1901(c)(1), Oct. 4, 1976, 90 Stat. 1559, 1803; Pub. L. 95-600, title VII, §§701(a)(1)-(3), 703(j)(11), Nov. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 2897, 2942; Pub. L. 96-222, title I, §107(a)(1)(E)(i), Apr. 1, 1980, 94 Stat. 222; Pub. L. 97-34, title I, §111(b)(4), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 194; Pub. L. 98-21, title I, §122(a), Apr. 20, 1983, 97 Stat. 85; renumbered §22 and amended Pub. L. 98-369, div. A, title IV, §§471(c), 474(d), July 18, 1984, 98 Stat. 826, 830; Pub. L. 99-514, title XIII, §1301(j)(8), Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2658; Pub. L. 115-141, div. U, title IV, §401(a)(2)(A), Mar. 23, 2018, 132 Stat. 1184.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Social Security Act, referred to in subsec. (c)(3)(A)(i)(I), (B), is act Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, 49 Stat. 620, as amended. Title II of the Social Security Act is classified generally to subchapter II (§401 et seq.) of chapter 7 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1305 of Title 42 and Tables.

The Railroad Retirement Act of 1974, referred to in subsec. (c)(3)(A)(i)(II), is act Aug. 29, 1935, ch. 812, as amended generally by Pub. L. 93-445, title I, §101, Oct. 16, 1974, 88 Stat. 1305, which is classified generally to subchapter IV (§231 et seq.) of chapter 9 of Title 45, Railroads. For further details and complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Codification note set out preceding section 231 of Title 45, section 231t of Title 45, and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (c)(3)(A)(i)(III). Pub. L. 115-141 substituted “Department of Veterans Affairs” for “Veterans’ Administration”.

1986—Subsec. (e)(2). Pub. L. 99-514 substituted “section 7703” for “section 143”.

1984—Pub. L. 98-369, §471(c), renumbered section 37 of this title as this section.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 98-369, §474(d)(1), substituted “section 22 amount” for “section 37 amount”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 98-369, §474(d)(2), substituted “Section 22 amount” for “Section 37 amount” in heading.

Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 98-369, §474(d)(1), substituted “section 22 amount” for “section 37 amount”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 98-369, §474(d)(3), amended subsec. (d) generally, striking out heading “Limitations” and designation “(1)” before “Adjusted gross income limitation” thereby making existing par. (1) the entire subsec. (d), redesignating existing subpars. (A), (B), and (C) as pars. (1), (2), and (3), respectively, and striking out provisions, formerly comprising par. (2), which had limited the amount of the credit allowed by this section for the taxable year to the amount of the tax imposed by this chapter for such taxable year.

1983—Pub. L. 98-21 inserted reference to permanently and totally disabled in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 98-21 amended subsec. (a) generally, substituting reference to a qualified individual for reference to an individual who has attained the age of 65 before the close of the taxable year.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 98-21 in amending section generally added subsec. (b). Former subsec. (b) redesignated (c).

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 98-21 in amending section generally, redesignated former subsec. (b) as (c) and, in (c) as so redesignated, added par. (2) and struck out former (2), which had provided that the initial amount was \$2,500 in the case of a single individual, \$2,500 in the case of a joint return where only one spouse was eligible for the credit under subsection (a), \$3,750 in the case of a joint return where both spouses were eligible for the credit under subsection (a), or \$1,875 in the case of a married individual filing a separate return, redesignated existing provisions as par. (3)(A), inserted “benefit” after “disability” therein, struck out former subpars. (A) to (C), which had specified sources of amounts received under title II of the Social Security Act, under the Railroad Retirement Act of 1935 or 1937, or otherwise excluded from gross income, added cls. (i) and (ii), substituted provision that no reduction would be made under cl. (i)(III) for any amount described in section 104(a)(4) for provision that no reduction would be made under former par. (3) for any amount excluded from gross income under section 72 (relating to annuities), 101 (relating to life insurance proceeds), 104 (relating to compensation for injuries or sickness), 105 (relating to amounts received under accident and health plans), 120 (relating to amounts received under qualified group legal services plans), 402 (relating to taxability of beneficiary of employees’ trust), 403 (relating to taxation of employee annuities), or 405 (relating to qualified bond purchase plans), and added subpar. (B). Former subsec. (c) redesignated (d).

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 98-21 in amending section generally redesignated former subsec. (c) as (d). Former subsec. (d) redesignated (e).

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 98-21 in amending section generally, redesignated former subsec. (d) as (e) and struck out provision that “joint return” meant the joint return of a husband and wife made under section 6013 and inserted provisions defining permanent and total disability. Former subsec. (e), which provided for an election of prior law with respect to public retirement system income, was struck out.

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 98-21 reenacted subsec. (f) without change.

1981—Subsec. (e)(9)(B). Pub. L. 97-34 substituted “section 911(d)(2)” for “section 911(b)”.

1978—Subsec. (e)(2). Pub. L. 95-600, §701(a)(1), inserted “(and whose gross income includes income described in paragraph (4)(B))” after “who has not attained age 65 before the close of the taxable year”.

Subsec. (e)(4)(B). Pub. L. 95-600, §701(a)(2), (3)(B), as amended by Pub. L. 96-222, §107(a)(1)(E)(i), inserted

“and who performed the services giving rise to the pension or annuity (or is the spouse of the individual who performed the services)” after “before the close of the taxable year” and substituted reference to paragraph (9)(A) for reference to paragraph (8)(A).

Subsec. (e)(5)(B). Pub. L. 95-600, §701(a)(3)(C), as amended by Pub. L. 96-222, §107(a)(1)(E)(i), substituted reference to paragraph (9)(A) for reference to paragraph (8)(A).

Subsec. (e)(8), (9). Pub. L. 95-600, §701(a)(3)(A), as amended by Pub. L. 96-222, §107(a)(1)(E)(i), added par. (8) and redesignated former par. (8) as (9).

1976—Pub. L. 94-455, §503(a), among other changes, substituted “Credits for the elderly” for “Retirement income” in section catchline and in text substituted provisions permitting taxpayers who have all types of income to be eligible for the tax credit for provisions permitting taxpayers who have only retirement income to be eligible for the tax credit, eliminated provisions requiring taxpayers to earn \$600 for the previous ten years for tax credit eligibility and provisions relating variations in treatment of married couples, and inserted provisions broadening coverage of the tax credit relief to low and middle income taxpayers.

Pub. L. 94-455, §1901(c)(1), purported to amend subsec. (f) of this section by striking out “a Territory”. The amendment could not be executed in view of the prior general amendment of this section by section 503(a) of Pub. L. 94-455. Section 1901(c)(1) was repealed by section 703(j)(11) of Pub. L. 95-600.

1974—Subsec. (c)(1)(E), (F). Pub. L. 93-406 inserted reference in subpar. (E) to retirement bonds described in section 409 and added subpar. (F).

1964—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 88-272, §§113(a), 201(d)(3), substituted “an amount equal to 17 percent, in the case of a taxable year beginning in 1964, or 15 percent, in the case of a taxable year beginning after December 31, 1964, of the amount received by such individual as retirement income (as defined in subsection (c) and as limited by subsection (d));” for “an amount equal to the amount received by such individual as retirement income (as defined in subsection (c) and as limited by subsection (d)), multiplied by the rate provided in section 1 for the first \$2,000 of taxable income;”, and struck out “section 34 (relating to credit for dividends received by individuals)”, before “and section 35”.

Subsecs. (i), (j). Pub. L. 88-272, §202(a), added subsec. (i) and redesignated former subsec. (i) as (j).

1962—Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 87-792 inserted provisions in subpar. (A) requiring inclusion, in the case of an individual who is, or has been, an employee within the meaning of section 401(c)(1), distributions by a trust described in section 401(a) which is exempt from tax under section 501(a), and added subpar. (E).

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 87-876 increased the limit on retirement income from \$1,200 to \$1,524, lowered the age requirement in par. (2)(A) from 65 to 62, and substituted provisions in par. (2)(B) which reduce the amount of retirement income for individuals who reach age 62, by one-half the amount of earned income in excess of \$1,200 but not in excess of \$1,700, and by the amount received over \$1,700, for provisions which reduced such income by the amount earned over \$1,200 by persons having reached age 65, and which defined income as in subsec. (g) of this section.

1956—Subsec. (d)(2). Act Jan. 28, 1956, reduced from 75 to 72 the age at which there will be no limitation on earned income and increased from \$900 to \$1,200 the amount that an individual over 65 can earn without reducing the \$1,200 on which the retirement credit is computed.

1955—Subsec. (f). Act Aug. 9, 1955, extended the retirement income tax credit to members of the Armed Forces.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1986 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 99-514 applicable to bonds issued after Aug. 15, 1986, except as otherwise provided, see sections 1311 to 1318 of Pub. L. 99-514, set out as an Effective Date; Transitional Rules note under section 141 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 474(d) of Pub. L. 98-369 applicable to taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 1983, and to carrybacks from such years, see section 475(a) of Pub. L. 98-369, set out as a note under section 21 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1983 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 98-21, title I, §122(d), Apr. 20, 1983, 97 Stat. 87, as amended by Pub. L. 99-514, §2, Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2095, provided that:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section [amending sections 37 [now 22], 41 [now 24], 44A [now 21], 46, 53, 85, 105, 128, 403, 415, 904, and 7871 of this title] shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 1983.

“(2) TRANSITIONAL RULE.—If an individual’s annuity starting date was deferred under section 105(d)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 [formerly I.R.C. 1954] (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this section [Apr. 20, 1983]), such deferral shall end on the first day of such individual’s first taxable year beginning after December 31, 1983.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1981 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 97-34 applicable with respect to taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 1981, see section 115 of Pub. L. 97-34, set out as a note under section 911 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1978 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 95-600, title VII, §701(a)(4), Nov. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 2898, provided that:

“(A) The amendments made by paragraphs (1) and (2) [amending this section] shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 1975.

“(B) The amendments made by paragraph (3) [amending this section] shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 1977.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 94-455 applicable with respect to taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 1975, see section 508 of Pub. L. 94-455, set out as a note under section 3 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1974 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 93-406 effective Jan. 1, 1974, see section 2002(i)(2) of Pub. L. 93-406, set out as an Effective Date note under section 4973 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1964 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 113(a) of Pub. L. 88-272, except for purposes of section 21 [now 15] of this title, effective with respect to taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 1963, see section 131 of Pub. L. 88-272, set out as a note under section 1 of this title.

Pub. L. 88-272, title II, §201(e), Feb. 26, 1964, 78 Stat. 32, provided that: “The amendments made by subsection (a) [amending section 34 of this title] shall apply with respect to taxable years ending after December 31, 1963. The amendment made by subsection (b) [repealing section 34 of this title] shall apply with respect to taxable years ending after December 31, 1964. The amendment made by subsection (c) [amending section 116 of this title] shall apply with respect to taxable years beginning after December 31, 1963. The amendments made by subsection (d) [amending sections 35, 37 [now 22], 46, 116, 584, 642, 702, 854, 857, 871, 1375, and 6014 of this title] shall apply with respect to dividends received after December 31, 1964, in taxable years ending after such date”.

Pub. L. 88-272, title II, §202(b), Feb. 26, 1964, 78 Stat. 33, provided that: “The amendments made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 1963.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1962 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 87-876, §2, Oct. 24, 1962, 76 Stat. 1199, provided that: “The amendment made by the first section of this

Act [amending this section] shall apply only to taxable years ending after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 24, 1962].”

Pub. L. 87-792, § 8, Oct. 10, 1962, 76 Stat. 831, provided that: “The amendments made by this Act [enacting sections 405 and 6047 of this title and amending sections 37 [now 22], 62, 72, 101, 104, 105, 172, 401 to 404, 503, 805, 1361, 2039, 2517, 3306, 3401 and 7207 of this title] shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 1962.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1956 AMENDMENT

Act Jan. 28, 1956, ch. 18, § 2, 70 Stat. 9, provided that: “The amendment made by the first section of this Act [amending this section] shall apply only with respect to taxable years beginning after December 31, 1955.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1955 AMENDMENT

Act Aug. 9, 1955, ch. 659, § 2, 69 Stat. 591, provided that: “The amendment made by this Act [amending this section] shall be applicable to taxable years beginning after December 31, 1954.”

DETERMINATION OF RETIREMENT INCOME CREDIT UNDER PROVISIONS AS THEY EXISTED PRIOR TO AMENDMENT BY PUB. L. 94-455 ELECTION

Pub. L. 95-30, title IV, § 403, May 23, 1977, 91 Stat. 155, as amended by Pub. L. 99-514, § 2, Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2095, provided that: “A taxpayer may elect (at such time and in such manner as the Secretary of the Treasury or his delegate shall prescribe) to determine the amount of his credit under section 37 [now 22] of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 [formerly I.R.C. 1954] for his first taxable year beginning in 1976 under the provisions of such section as they existed before the amendment made by section 503 of the Tax Reform Act of 1976 [Pub. L. 94-455].”

§ 23. Adoption expenses

(a) Allowance of credit

(1) In general

In the case of an individual, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this chapter the amount of the qualified adoption expenses paid or incurred by the taxpayer.

(2) Year credit allowed

The credit under paragraph (1) with respect to any expense shall be allowed—

(A) in the case of any expense paid or incurred before the taxable year in which such adoption becomes final, for the taxable year following the taxable year during which such expense is paid or incurred, and

(B) in the case of an expense paid or incurred during or after the taxable year in which such adoption becomes final, for the taxable year in which such expense is paid or incurred.

(3) \$10,000 credit for adoption of child with special needs regardless of expenses

In the case of an adoption of a child with special needs which becomes final during a taxable year, the taxpayer shall be treated as having paid during such year qualified adoption expenses with respect to such adoption in an amount equal to the excess (if any) of \$10,000 over the aggregate qualified adoption expenses actually paid or incurred by the taxpayer with respect to such adoption during such taxable year and all prior taxable years.

(b) Limitations

(1) Dollar limitation

The aggregate amount of qualified adoption expenses which may be taken into account under subsection (a) for all taxable years with respect to the adoption of a child by the taxpayer shall not exceed \$10,000.

(2) Income limitation

(A) In general

The amount allowable as a credit under subsection (a) for any taxable year (determined without regard to subsection (c)) shall be reduced (but not below zero) by an amount which bears the same ratio to the amount so allowable (determined without regard to this paragraph but with regard to paragraph (1)) as—

- (i) the amount (if any) by which the taxpayer's adjusted gross income exceeds \$150,000, bears to
- (ii) \$40,000.

(B) Determination of adjusted gross income

For purposes of subparagraph (A), adjusted gross income shall be determined without regard to sections 911, 931, and 933.

(3) Denial of double benefit

(A) In general

No credit shall be allowed under subsection (a) for any expense for which a deduction or credit is allowed under any other provision of this chapter.

(B) Grants

No credit shall be allowed under subsection (a) for any expense to the extent that funds for such expense are received under any Federal, State, or local program.

(c) Carryforwards of unused credit

(1) In general

If the credit allowable under subsection (a) for any taxable year exceeds the limitation imposed by section 26(a) for such taxable year reduced by the sum of the credits allowable under this subpart (other than this section and section 25D), such excess shall be carried to the succeeding taxable year and added to the credit allowable under subsection (a) for such taxable year.

(2) Limitation

No credit may be carried forward under this subsection to any taxable year following the fifth taxable year after the taxable year in which the credit arose. For purposes of the preceding sentence, credits shall be treated as used on a first-in first-out basis.

(d) Definitions

For purposes of this section—

(1) Qualified adoption expenses

The term “qualified adoption expenses” means reasonable and necessary adoption fees, court costs, attorney fees, and other expenses—

(A) which are directly related to, and the principal purpose of which is for, the legal adoption of an eligible child by the taxpayer,