

interest arising from a transaction entered into during the period beginning after December 17, 1987, and ending before January 1, 1990, such section shall not apply to such interest if—

“(A) during such period, such actions are taken as are necessary to have such section 2036(c)(1) not apply to such transaction (and any such interest), or

“(B) the original transferor and his spouse on January 1, 1990 (or, if earlier, the date of the original transferor’s death), does not hold any interest in the enterprise involved.

“(5) CLARIFICATION OF EFFECTIVE DATE.—For purposes of section 10402(b) of the Revenue Act of 1987 [Pub. L. 100-203, set out as an Effective Date of 1987 Amendment note below], with respect to property transferred on or before December 17, 1987—

“(A) any failure to exercise a right of conversion,

“(B) any failure to pay dividends, and

“(c) [sic] failures to exercise other rights specified in regulations, shall not be treated as a subsequent transfer.”

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1987 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 100-203, title X, §10402(b), Dec. 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 1330-432, provided that: “The amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall apply with respect to estates of decedents dying after December 31, 1987, but only in the case of property transferred after December 17, 1987.” [For clarification of this note, see section 3031(h)(5) of Pub. L. 100-647, set out as an Effective Date of 1988 Amendment note above.]

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1978 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 95-600, title VII, §702(i)(3), Nov. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 2931, provided that: “The amendments made by this subsection [amending this section] shall apply to transfers made after June 22, 1976.”

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 94-455, title XX, §2009(e)(1), Oct. 4, 1976, 90 Stat. 1896, provided that: “The amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall apply to transfers made after June 22, 1976.”

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1962 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 87-834 applicable to estates of decedents dying after Oct. 16, 1962, except as otherwise provided, see section 18(b) of Pub. L. 87-834, set out as a note under section 2031 of this title.

### § 2037. Transfers taking effect at death

#### (a) General rule

The value of the gross estate shall include the value of all property to the extent of any interest therein of which the decedent has at any time after September 7, 1916, made a transfer (except in case of a bona fide sale for an adequate and full consideration in money or money’s worth), by trust or otherwise, if—

(1) possession or enjoyment of the property can, through ownership of such interest, be obtained only by surviving the decedent, and

(2) the decedent has retained a reversionary interest in the property (but in the case of a transfer made before October 8, 1949, only if such reversionary interest arose by the express terms of the instrument of transfer), and the value of such reversionary interest immediately before the death of the decedent exceeds 5 percent of the value of such property.

#### (b) Special rules

For purposes of this section, the term “reversionary interest” includes a possibility that property transferred by the decedent—

(1) may return to him or his estate, or

(2) may be subject to a power of disposition by him,

but such term does not include a possibility that the income alone from such property may return to him or become subject to a power of disposition by him. The value of a reversionary interest immediately before the death of the decedent shall be determined (without regard to the fact of the decedent’s death) by usual methods of valuation, including the use of tables of mortality and actuarial principles, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary. In determining the value of a possibility that property may be subject to a power of disposition by the decedent, such possibility shall be valued as if it were a possibility that such property may return to the decedent or his estate. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an interest so transferred shall not be included in the decedent’s gross estate under this section if possession or enjoyment of the property could have been obtained by any beneficiary during the decedent’s life through the exercise of a general power of appointment (as defined in section 2041) which in fact was exercisable immediately before the decedent’s death.

(Aug. 16, 1954, ch. 736, 68A Stat. 382; Pub. L. 87-834, §18(a)(2)(E), Oct. 16, 1962, 76 Stat. 1052; Pub. L. 94-455, title XIX, §1906(b)(13)(A), Oct. 4, 1976, 90 Stat. 1834.)

#### AMENDMENTS

1976—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 94-455 struck out “or his delegate” after “Secretary”.

1962—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 87-834 struck out provisions which excepted real property situated outside of the United States.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1962 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 87-834 applicable to estates of decedents dying after Oct. 16, 1962, except as otherwise provided, see section 18(b) of Pub. L. 87-834, set out as a note under section 2031 of this title.

### § 2038. Revocable transfers

#### (a) In general

The value of the gross estate shall include the value of all property—

##### (1) Transfers after June 22, 1936

To the extent of any interest therein of which the decedent has at any time made a transfer (except in case of a bona fide sale for an adequate and full consideration in money or money’s worth), by trust or otherwise, where the enjoyment thereof was subject at the date of his death to any change through the exercise of a power (in whatever capacity exercisable) by the decedent alone or by the decedent in conjunction with any other person (without regard to when or from what source the decedent acquired such power), to alter, amend, revoke, or terminate, or where any such power is relinquished during the 3 year period ending on the date of the decedent’s death.

##### (2) Transfers on or before June 22, 1936

To the extent of any interest therein of which the decedent has at any time made a