

103D CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

S. 394

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit for payments or contributions to certain cooperative research organizations, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 18 (legislative day, JANUARY 5), 1993

Mr. LIEBERMAN 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 allow a credit for payments or contributions to certain cooperative research organizations, and for other purposes.

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. CREDIT FOR PAYMENTS OR CONTRIBUTIONS  
4 TO CERTAIN COOPERATIVE RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS.  
5

6 (a) ALLOWANCE OF RESEARCH CREDIT.—Section  
7 41(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to  
8 credit for increasing research activities) is amended by  
9 striking “and” at the end of paragraph (1), by striking

1 the period at the end of paragraph (2) and inserting “,  
2 and”, and by adding at the end the following new para-  
3 graph:

4 “(3) 50 percent of the qualified cooperative re-  
5 search expenditures (as defined in subsection (h))  
6 for the taxable year.

7 (b) QUALIFIED COOPERATIVE RESEARCH EXPENDI-  
8 TURES DEFINED.—Section 41 of such Code is amended  
9 by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i) and by  
10 adding after subsection (g) the following new subsection:

11 “(h) QUALIFIED COOPERATIVE RESEARCH EXPENDI-  
12 TURES.—For purposes of this section—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified cooper-  
14 ative research expenditures’ means the aggregate  
15 amount of qualified contributions to qualified coop-  
16 erative research consortia for qualified research.

17 “(2) QUALIFIED CONTRIBUTIONS.—For pur-  
18 poses of this subsection—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the limita-  
20 tions of subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D), the  
21 term ‘qualified contributions’ means all con-  
22 tributions to qualified cooperative research con-  
23 sortia for qualified research with respect to  
24 which the taxpayer elects to have this sub-  
25 section apply.

1                   “(B) PRIVATE SOURCE FUNDING LIMITA-  
2                   TION.—

3                   “(i) IN GENERAL.—Qualified con-  
4                   tributions of a taxpayer shall not exceed  
5                   the amount which bears the same ratio to  
6                   qualified contributions (determined without  
7                   regard to this subparagraph) as the private  
8                   source funding ratio.

9                   “(ii) PRIVATE SOURCE FUNDING  
10                   RATIO.—For purposes of clause (i), the  
11                   private source funding ratio is the sum  
12                   of—

13                   “(I) 50 percent of the ratio which  
14                   the gross receipts of the organization  
15                   (not including the amount of any gov-  
16                   ernmental support) for the preceding  
17                   taxable year bears to the total gross  
18                   receipts of the organization for such  
19                   taxable year, plus

20                   “(II) 30 percent of such ratio for  
21                   the second preceding taxable year,  
22                   plus

23                   “(III) 20 percent of such ratio  
24                   for the third preceding taxable year.

1               “(C) LIMITATIONS.—For purposes of this  
2 subsection, the following shall not be taken into  
3 account in determining qualified contributions:

4               “(i) Contributions representing costs  
5 allocated to services performed by a tax-  
6 payer’s employees to the extent they exceed  
7 cash contributions.

8               “(ii) Contributions representing over-  
9 head allocated to services performed by a  
10 taxpayer’s employees to the extent such  
11 overhead exceeds 25 percent of the salary  
12 and benefit amounts allocated to such serv-  
13 ices.

14               “(iii) Contributions by a taxpayer to a  
15 qualified cooperative research consortium  
16 to the extent they exceed one-third of the  
17 consortium’s total nongovernmental sup-  
18 port for the consortium’s taxable year with  
19 or within which the taxpayer’s taxable year  
20 ends.

21               “(D) CONSORTIUM WITH FEWER THAN 5  
22 PARTICIPANTS.—If a qualified cooperative re-  
23 search consortium has less than 5 persons mak-  
24 ing nongovernmental contributions, the quali-  
25 fied contributions of each such person (deter-

7                   “(3) QUALIFIED COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CON-  
8                   SORTIUM.—The term ‘qualified cooperative research  
9                   consortium’ means any organization—

1                         “(ii) had either 3 or 4 contributors,  
2                         but only if—

3                         “(I) no single member contrib-  
4                         uted more than 50 percent (and no 2  
5                         members contributed more than 85  
6                         percent) of the total nongovernmental  
7                         contributions, and

8                         “(II) the contributors are en-  
9                         gaged in the same trade or business.

10                         “(4) SPECIAL RULES.—For purposes of this  
11                         subsection—

12                         “(A) NONCASH CONTRIBUTIONS.—Quali-  
13                         fied contributions other than cash (including  
14                         services provided by a taxpayer’s employees)  
15                         shall be taken into account at their cost (or  
16                         such other basis determined under regulations).

17                         “(B) OVERHEAD.—The cost of services  
18                         provided by a taxpayer’s employees shall include  
19                         overhead properly allocable to such services.

20                         “(5) NO DOUBLE BENEFIT.—Amounts taken  
21                         into account under this subsection in computing  
22                         qualified cooperative research expenditures shall not  
23                         be taken into account under subsection (a) (1) or  
24                         (2).

1                 “(6) PREPAID AMOUNTS.—If any contributions  
2        paid or incurred during the taxable year to qualified  
3        cooperative research consortia are attributable to  
4        qualified research to be conducted after the close of  
5        the taxable year, such amount shall be treated as  
6        paid or incurred during the period which the qual-  
7        fied research is conducted.

8                 “(7) REPORTS.—Each qualified cooperative re-  
9        search consortium shall provide to the Secretary a  
10        report containing—

11                 “(A) its certification as such an organiza-  
12        tion,

13                 “(B) its private source funding ratio, and  
14                 “(C) such other information as the Sec-  
15        retary may require.

16        Each consortium shall provide a copy of the report  
17        to each contributor.”

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

