

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1282

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the exclusion from gross income of certain wages of a certified master teacher, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 3, 2007

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. SNOWE) 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 provide for the exclusion from gross income of certain wages of a certified master teacher, 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. MASTER TEACHER EXCLUSION.**

4 (a) MASTER TEACHER EXCLUSION.—Part III of sub-
5 chapter B of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of
6 1986 is amended by inserting after section 139A the fol-
7 lowing new section:

1 **“SEC. 139B. CERTAIN WAGES OF CERTIFIED MASTER**
2 **TEACHERS.**

3 “(a) 25 PERCENT EXCLUSION.—Gross income does
4 not include 25 percent of wages earned by a certified mas-
5 ter teacher in remuneration for employment at a qualified
6 school in need of improvement or a Head Start program
7 assisted under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et
8 seq.).

9 “(b) CERTIFIED MASTER TEACHER.—For purposes
10 of this section—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘certified master
12 teacher’ means any eligible teacher who is certified
13 by a State as being eligible for the exclusion from
14 gross income provided under subsection (a) with re-
15 spect to wages earned during a 4-year certification
16 period. A teacher shall not be treated as a certified
17 master teacher except during the certification period.

18 “(2) RECERTIFICATION PROHIBITED.—A teach-
19 er shall not be certified as a certified master teacher
20 for more than one certification period.

21 “(3) STATE LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF CER-
22 TIFIED MASTER TEACHERS.—A State may not cer-
23 tify any teacher if such certification would result (at
24 the time of such certification) in more than 10 per-
25 cent of the State’s public school teachers being cer-
26 tified master teachers.

1 “(c) QUALIFIED SCHOOL IN NEED OF IMPROVE-
 2 MENT.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘qualified
 3 school in need of improvement’ means, with respect to any
 4 certified master teacher—

5 “(1) the school in need of improvement which
 6 first employs such teacher during the certification
 7 period,

8 “(2) any school in need of improvement which
 9 subsequently employs such teacher, but only if each
 10 school in need of improvement which previously em-
 11 ployed such teacher during the certification period
 12 has ceased to be a school in need of improvement,
 13 and

14 “(3) any school described in paragraph (1) or
 15 (2) which ceases to be a school in need of improve-
 16 ment, but only if such teacher was employed by such
 17 school (during such teacher’s certification period) at
 18 the time that such school ceased to be a school in
 19 need of improvement.

20 “(d) SCHOOL IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT.—For pur-
 21 poses of this section, the term ‘school in need of improve-
 22 ment’ means a public elementary or secondary school
 23 that—

24 “(1) is identified for school improvement, cor-
 25 rective action, or restructuring under section 1116

1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
 2 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6316), and

3 “(2) is eligible for a schoolwide program under
 4 section 1114 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
 5 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6314).

6 “(e) ELIGIBLE TEACHER.—For purposes of this sec-
 7 tion, the term ‘eligible teacher’ means a teacher who—

8 “(1) has had at least 5 years of teaching experi-
 9 ence in a public elementary or secondary school,

10 “(2) is highly qualified, as defined in section
 11 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
 12 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801),

13 “(3) has a master’s degree, and

14 “(4) has earned—

15 “(A) advanced certification in the teacher’s
 16 State licensing system, or

17 “(B) in the case of a teacher in a State
 18 that does not offer advanced certification, cer-
 19 tification from the National Board for Profes-
 20 sional Teaching Standards.

21 “(f) CERTIFICATION PERIOD.—For purposes of this
 22 section, the term ‘certification period’ means, with respect
 23 to any certified master teacher, the 4-year period de-
 24 scribed in subsection (b).

1 “(g) STATE IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED ON RE-
 2 TURN.—With respect to any certified master teacher, no
 3 exclusion shall be allowed under subsection (a) for any
 4 taxable year unless the certified master teacher includes
 5 the State in which the teacher has been certified on the
 6 certified master teacher’s return of tax for such taxable
 7 year.

8 “(h) TERMINATION.—This section shall not apply to
 9 any taxable year beginning after December 31, 2013.”.

10 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 11 for part III of subchapter B of chapter 1 of the Internal
 12 Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting after the
 13 item relating to section 139A the following new item:

“Sec. 139B. Certain wages of certified master teachers.”.

14 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary of the
 15 Treasury shall transmit to the Congress for each of cal-
 16 endar years 2007 through 2013 an annual report stating,
 17 with respect to each State, the number of individuals cer-
 18 tified by such State as certified master teachers who were
 19 allowed an exclusion from gross income under section
 20 139B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for a taxable
 21 year ending in such calendar year.

22 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 23 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after
 24 December 31, 2006.