

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 607 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY O'BRIEN, DRISCOLL, YOUNGBLOOD, CARROLL, BISHOP, V. BROWN, COHEN, D. COSTA, FARINA, KINSEY, KIRKLAND, KORTZ, KOTIK, McNEILL, MURT, READSHAW, SAMUELSON, SCHREIBER, SCHWEYER, SIMS, THOMAS AND DONATUCCI, FEBRUARY 24, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, FEBRUARY 24, 2015

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), entitled "An
 2 act relating to tax reform and State taxation by codifying
 3 and enumerating certain subjects of taxation and imposing
 4 taxes thereon; providing procedures for the payment,
 5 collection, administration and enforcement thereof; providing
 6 for tax credits in certain cases; conferring powers and
 7 imposing duties upon the Department of Revenue, certain
 8 employers, fiduciaries, individuals, persons, corporations
 9 and other entities; prescribing crimes, offenses and
 10 penalties," in personal income tax, providing for income tax
 11 credit for interest paid on student loans.

12 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 13 hereby enacts as follows:

14 Section 1. The act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as
 15 the Tax Reform Code of 1971, is amended by adding a section to
 16 read:

17 Section 314.1. Income Tax Credit for Interest Paid on
 18 Student Loans.--(a) A resident taxpayer before allowance of any
 19 credit under section 312 shall be allowed a credit for student
 20 loan interest against the tax otherwise due under this article
 21 for the amount of any income tax, wage tax or tax on or measured

1 by gross or net earned or unearned income.

2 (b) To qualify for the credit, a resident taxpayer's
3 modified adjusted gross income must be less than seventy-five
4 thousand dollars (\$75,000) or less than one hundred fifty-five
5 thousand dollars (\$155,000) if filing a joint return. The credit
6 can reduce the amount of income subject to tax by up to two
7 thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per taxpayer.

8 (c) The qualified student loan must have been taken solely
9 to pay educational expenses, including tuition and fees, room
10 and board, books, supplies and equipment and other necessary
11 expenses, and the loan cannot be from a related person or made
12 under a qualified employer plan.

13 (d) The tax credit provided in this section may be used
14 during the remaining period of the student loan.

15 (e) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
16 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
17 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

18 (1) "Qualified educational institution." A college,
19 university, vocational school or other postsecondary educational
20 institution eligible to participate in a student aid program
21 administered by the Federal Department of Education.

22 (2) "Qualified student loan." Indebtedness incurred by a
23 taxpayer to pay educational expenses, which are incurred on
24 behalf of the taxpayer, taxpayer's spouse or any dependent of
25 the taxpayer at the time the indebtedness was incurred.

26 (3) "Student loan interest." Interest paid during the year
27 on a qualified student loan to attend a qualified educational
28 institution, including both required and voluntary interest
29 payments.

30 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.