

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4621

To provide tax relief for persons affected by certain 2020 disasters.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. HARRIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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# A BILL

To provide tax relief for persons affected by certain 2020 disasters.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “2020 Disasters Tax  
5       Relief Act”.

**6 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7       For purposes of this Act—

8           (1) QUALIFIED DISASTER AREA.—The term  
9       “qualified disaster area” means any area with re-  
10      spect to which a major disaster was declared, during

1       the period beginning on January 1, 2020, and end-  
2       ing on the date which is 60 days after the date of  
3       the enactment of this Act, by the President under  
4       section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
5       and Emergency Assistance Act if the incident period  
6       of the disaster with respect to which such declara-  
7       tion is made begins after the date of the enactment  
8       of the Taxpayer Certainty and Disaster Tax Relief  
9       Act of 2019 and on or before the date of the enact-  
10      ment of this Act.

11                  (2) QUALIFIED DISASTER ZONE.—The term  
12       “qualified disaster zone” means that portion of any  
13       qualified disaster area which was determined by the  
14       President, during the period beginning on January  
15       1, 2020, and ending on the date which is 60 days  
16       after the date of the enactment of this Act, to war-  
17       rant individual or individual and public assistance  
18       from the Federal Government under the Robert T.  
19       Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance  
20       Act by reason of the qualified disaster with respect  
21       to such disaster area.

22                  (3) QUALIFIED DISASTER.—

23                          (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “qualified  
24       disaster” means, with respect to any qualified  
25       disaster area, the disaster by reason of which a

1           major disaster was declared with respect to  
2           such area.

7                             (4) INCIDENT PERIOD.—The term “incident pe-  
8                             riod” means, with respect to any qualified disaster,  
9                             the period specified by the Federal Emergency Man-  
10                          agement Agency as the period during which such  
11                          disaster occurred (except that for purposes of this  
12                          Act such period shall not be treated as beginning be-  
13                          fore January 1, 2020, or ending after the date which  
14                          is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this  
15                          Act).

**16 SEC. 3. SPECIAL DISASTER-RELATED RULES FOR USE OF  
17 RETIREMENT FUNDS.**

18       (a) TAX-FAVORED WITHDRAWALS FROM RETIRE-  
19 MENT PLANS —

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 72(t) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall not apply to any qualified disaster distribution.

1           tions received by an individual which may be  
2           treated as qualified disaster distributions for  
3           any taxable year shall not exceed the excess (if  
4           any) of—

- 5                         (i) \$100,000, over  
6                         (ii) the aggregate amounts treated as  
7                         qualified disaster distributions received by  
8                         such individual for all prior taxable years.

9                 (B) TREATMENT OF PLAN DISTRIBUTIONS.—If a distribution to an individual would  
10                 (without regard to subparagraph (A)) be a  
11                 qualified disaster distribution, a plan shall not  
12                 be treated as violating any requirement of the  
13                 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 merely because  
14                 the plan treats such distribution as a qualified  
15                 disaster distribution, unless the aggregate  
16                 amount of such distributions from all plans  
17                 maintained by the employer (and any member  
18                 of any controlled group which includes the em-  
19                 ployer) to such individual exceeds \$100,000.

21                 (C) CONTROLLED GROUP.—For purposes  
22                 of subparagraph (B), the term “controlled  
23                 group” means any group treated as a single  
24                 employer under subsection (b), (c), (m), or (o)

1           of section 414 of the Internal Revenue Code of  
2           1986.

3           (D) SPECIAL RULE FOR INDIVIDUALS AF-  
4           FECTED BY MORE THAN ONE DISASTER.—The  
5           limitation of subparagraph (A) shall be applied  
6           separately with respect to distributions made  
7           with respect to each qualified disaster.

8           (3) AMOUNT DISTRIBUTED MAY BE REPAYED.—

9           (A) IN GENERAL.—Any individual who re-  
10          ceives a qualified disaster distribution may, at  
11          any time during the 3-year period beginning on  
12          the day after the date on which such distribu-  
13          tion was received, make 1 or more contributions  
14          in an aggregate amount not to exceed the  
15          amount of such distribution to an eligible retire-  
16          ment plan of which such individual is a bene-  
17          ficiary and to which a rollover contribution of  
18          such distribution could be made under section  
19          402(c), 403(a)(4), 403(b)(8), 408(d)(3), or  
20          457(e)(16), of the Internal Revenue Code of  
21          1986, as the case may be.

22           (B) TREATMENT OF REPAYMENTS OF DIS-  
23          TRIBUTIONS FROM ELIGIBLE RETIREMENT  
24          PLANS OTHER THAN IRAS.—For purposes of  
25          the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, if a con-

1 tribution is made pursuant to subparagraph (A)  
2 with respect to a qualified disaster distribution  
3 from an eligible retirement plan other than an  
4 individual retirement plan, then the taxpayer  
5 shall, to the extent of the amount of the con-  
6 tribution, be treated as having received the  
7 qualified disaster distribution in an eligible roll-  
8 over distribution (as defined in section  
9 402(c)(4) of such Code) and as having trans-  
10 ferred the amount to the eligible retirement  
11 plan in a direct trustee to trustee transfer with-  
12 in 60 days of the distribution.

13 (C) TREATMENT OF REPAYMENTS OF DIS-  
14 TRIBUTIONS FROM IRAS.—For purposes of the  
15 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, if a contribu-  
16 tion is made pursuant to subparagraph (A)  
17 with respect to a qualified disaster distribution  
18 from an individual retirement plan (as defined  
19 by section 7701(a)(37) of such Code), then, to  
20 the extent of the amount of the contribution,  
21 the qualified disaster distribution shall be treat-  
22 ed as a distribution described in section  
23 408(d)(3) of such Code and as having been  
24 transferred to the eligible retirement plan in a

1                   direct trustee to trustee transfer within 60 days  
2                   of the distribution.

3                   (4) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sub-  
4                   section—

5                   (A) QUALIFIED DISASTER DISTRIBUTION.—Except as provided in paragraph (2),  
6                   the term “qualified disaster distribution” means  
7                   any distribution from an eligible retirement  
8                   plan made—

10                  (i) on or after the first day of the in-  
11                  cident period of a qualified disaster and  
12                  before the date which is 180 days after the  
13                  date of the enactment of this Act, and

14                  (ii) to an individual whose principal  
15                  place of abode at any time during the inci-  
16                  dent period of such qualified disaster is lo-  
17                  cated in the qualified disaster area with re-  
18                  spect to such qualified disaster and who  
19                  has sustained an economic loss by reason  
20                  of such qualified disaster.

21                  (B) ELIGIBLE RETIREMENT PLAN.—The  
22                  term “eligible retirement plan” shall have the  
23                  meaning given such term by section  
24                  402(c)(8)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of  
25                  1986.

10 (B) SPECIAL RULE.—For purposes of sub-  
11 paragraph (A), rules similar to the rules of sub-  
12 paragraph (E) of section 408A(d)(3) of the In-  
13 ternal Revenue Code of 1986 shall apply.

14 (6) SPECIAL RULES.—

1 tribution shall be treated as meeting the re-  
2 quirements of sections 401(k)(2)(B)(i),  
3 403(b)(7)(A)(i), 403(b)(11), and 457(d)(1)(A)  
4 of such Code and section 8433(h)(1) of title 5,  
5 United States Code, and, in the case of a  
6 money purchase pension plan, a qualified dis-  
7 aster distribution which is an in-service with-  
8 drawal shall be treated as meeting the distribu-  
9 tion rules of section 401(a) of such Code.

10 (b) RECONTRIBUTIONS OF WITHDRAWALS FOR  
11 HOME PURCHASES.—

12 (1) RECONTRIBUTIONS.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—Any individual who re-  
14 ceived a qualified distribution may, during the  
15 applicable period, make 1 or more contributions  
16 in an aggregate amount not to exceed the  
17 amount of such qualified distribution to an eli-  
18 gible retirement plan (as defined in section  
19 402(c)(8)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of  
20 1986) of which such individual is a beneficiary  
21 and to which a rollover contribution of such dis-  
22 tribution could be made under section 402(c),  
23 403(a)(4), 403(b)(8), or 408(d)(3), of such  
24 Code, as the case may be.

(B) TREATMENT OF REPAYMENTS.—Rules similar to the rules of subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subsection (a)(3) shall apply for purposes of this subsection.

(B) which was to be used to purchase or construct a principal residence in a qualified disaster area, but which was not so used on account of the qualified disaster with respect to such area, and

18 (C) which was received during the period  
19 beginning on the date which is 180 days before  
20 the first day of the incident period of such  
21 qualified disaster and ending on the date which  
22 is 30 days after the last day of such incident  
23 period.

1       the case of a principal residence in a qualified dis-  
2       aster area with respect to any qualified disaster, the  
3       period beginning on the first day of the incident pe-  
4       riod of such qualified disaster and ending on the  
5       date which is 180 days after the date of the enact-  
6       ment of this Act.

7           (c) LOANS FROM QUALIFIED PLANS.—

8              (1) INCREASE IN LIMIT ON LOANS NOT TREAT-  
9       ED AS DISTRIBUTIONS.—In the case of any loan  
10      from a qualified employer plan (as defined under  
11      section 72(p)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of  
12      1986) to a qualified individual made during the 180-  
13      day period beginning on the date of the enactment  
14      of this Act—

15               (A) clause (i) of section 72(p)(2)(A) of  
16      such Code shall be applied by substituting  
17      “\$100,000” for “\$50,000”, and

18               (B) clause (ii) of such section shall be ap-  
19      plied by substituting “the present value of the  
20      nonforfeitable accrued benefit of the employee  
21      under the plan” for “one-half of the present  
22      value of the nonforfeitable accrued benefit of  
23      the employee under the plan”.

24              (2) DELAY OF REPAYMENT.—In the case of a  
25      qualified individual (with respect to any qualified

1       disaster) with an outstanding loan (on or after the  
2       first day of the incident period of such qualified dis-  
3       aster) from a qualified employer plan (as defined in  
4       section 72(p)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of  
5       1986)—

6                     (A) if the due date pursuant to subpara-  
7       graph (B) or (C) of section 72(p)(2) of such  
8       Code for any repayment with respect to such  
9       loan occurs during the period beginning on the  
10      first day of the incident period of such qualified  
11      disaster and ending on the date which is 180  
12      days after the last day of such incident period,  
13      such due date shall be delayed for 1 year (or,  
14      if later, until the date which is 180 days after  
15      the date of the enactment of this Act),

16                     (B) any subsequent repayments with re-  
17       spect to any such loan shall be appropriately  
18       adjusted to reflect the delay in the due date  
19       under subparagraph (A) and any interest accru-  
20       ing during such delay, and

21                     (C) in determining the 5-year period and  
22       the term of a loan under subparagraph (B) or  
23       (C) of section 72(p)(2) of such Code, the period  
24       described in subparagraph (A) of this para-  
25       graph shall be disregarded.

1                         (3) QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of  
2     this subsection, the term “qualified individual”  
3     means any individual—

4                             (A) whose principal place of abode at any  
5     time during the incident period of any qualified  
6     disaster is located in the qualified disaster area  
7     with respect to such qualified disaster, and  
8                             (B) who has sustained an economic loss by  
9     reason of such qualified disaster.

10                         (d) PROVISIONS RELATING TO PLAN AMEND-  
11     MENTS.—

12                         (1) IN GENERAL.—If this subsection applies to  
13     any amendment to any plan or annuity contract,  
14     such plan or contract shall be treated as being oper-  
15     ated in accordance with the terms of the plan during  
16     the period described in paragraph (2)(B)(i).

17                         (2) AMENDMENTS TO WHICH SUBSECTION AP-  
18     PLIES.—

19                         (A) IN GENERAL.—This subsection shall  
20     apply to any amendment to any plan or annuity  
21     contract which is made—

22                             (i) pursuant to any provision of this  
23     section, or pursuant to any regulation  
24     issued by the Secretary or the Secretary of

1           Labor under any provision of this section,  
2           and

3               (ii) on or before the last day of the  
4           first plan year beginning on or after January  
5           1, 2022, or such later date as the Sec-  
6           retary may prescribe.

7           In the case of a governmental plan (as defined  
8           in section 414(d) of the Internal Revenue Code  
9           of 1986), clause (ii) shall be applied by sub-  
10          stituting the date which is 2 years after the  
11          date otherwise applied under clause (ii).

12           (B) CONDITIONS.—This subsection shall  
13          not apply to any amendment unless—

14               (i) during the period—

15                       (I) beginning on the date that  
16                  this section or the regulation de-  
17                  scribed in subparagraph (A)(i) takes  
18                  effect (or in the case of a plan or con-  
19                  tract amendment not required by this  
20                  section or such regulation, the effec-  
21                  tive date specified by the plan), and

22                       (II) ending on the date described  
23                  in subparagraph (A)(ii) (or, if earlier,  
24                  the date the plan or contract amend-  
25                  ment is adopted),

1           the plan or contract is operated as if such plan  
2           or contract amendment were in effect, and  
3               (ii) such plan or contract amendment  
4               applies retroactively for such period.

5   **SEC. 4. EMPLOYEE RETENTION CREDIT FOR EMPLOYERS**  
6           **AFFECTED BY QUALIFIED DISASTERS.**

7       (a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 38 of the  
8 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, in the case of an eligible  
9 employer, the 2020 qualified disaster employee retention  
10 credit shall be treated as a credit listed at the end of sub-  
11 section (b) of such section. For purposes of this sub-  
12 section, the 2020 qualified disaster employee retention  
13 credit for any taxable year is an amount equal to 40 per-  
14 cent of the qualified wages with respect to each eligible  
15 employee of such employer for such taxable year. The  
16 amount of qualified wages with respect to any employee  
17 which may be taken into account under this subsection  
18 by the employer for any taxable year shall not exceed  
19 \$6,000 (reduced by the amount of qualified wages with  
20 respect to such employee which may be so taken into ac-  
21 count for any prior taxable year).

22       (b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—  
23               (1) ELIGIBLE EMPLOYER.—The term “eligible  
24               employer” means any employer—

1                             (A) which conducted an active trade or  
2                             business in a qualified disaster zone at any time  
3                             during the incident period of the qualified dis-  
4                             aster with respect to such qualified disaster  
5                             zone, and

6                             (B) with respect to whom the trade or  
7                             business described in subparagraph (A) is inop-  
8                             erable at any time during the period beginning  
9                             on the first day of the incident period of such  
10                            qualified disaster and ending on the date of the  
11                            enactment of this Act, as a result of damage  
12                            sustained by reason of such qualified disaster.

13                           (2) ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEE.—The term “eligible  
14                            employee” means with respect to an eligible em-  
15                            ployer an employee whose principal place of employ-  
16                            ment with such eligible employer (determined imme-  
17                            diately before the qualified disaster referred to in  
18                            paragraph (1)) was in the qualified disaster zone re-  
19                            ferred to in such paragraph.

20                           (3) QUALIFIED WAGES.—The term “qualified  
21                            wages” means wages (as defined in section 51(c)(1)  
22                            of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, but without  
23                            regard to section 3306(b)(2)(B) of such Code) paid  
24                            or incurred by an eligible employer with respect to  
25                            an eligible employee at any time on or after the date

1       on which the trade or business described in para-  
2       graph (1) first became inoperable at the principal  
3       place of employment of the employee (determined  
4       immediately before the qualified disaster referred to  
5       in such paragraph) and before the earlier of—

6                 (A) the date on which such trade or busi-  
7       ness has resumed significant operations at such  
8       principal place of employment, or

9                 (B) the date which is 150 days after the  
10       last day of the incident period of the qualified  
11       disaster referred to in paragraph (1).

12      Such term shall include wages paid without regard  
13       to whether the employee performs no services, per-  
14       forms services at a different place of employment  
15       than such principal place of employment, or per-  
16       forms services at such principal place of employment  
17       before significant operations have resumed.

18      (c) CERTAIN RULES TO APPLY.—For purposes of  
19       this section, rules similar to the rules of sections 51(i)(1),  
20       52, and 280C(a), of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,  
21       shall apply.

22      (d) EMPLOYEE NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT MORE  
23       THAN ONCE.—An employee shall not be treated as an eli-  
24       gible employee for purposes of this section for any period  
25       with respect to any employer if such employer is allowed

1 a credit under section 51 of the Internal Revenue Code  
2 of 1986 with respect to such employee for such period.

3 **SEC. 5. OTHER DISASTER-RELATED TAX RELIEF PROVI-**  
4 **SIONS.**

5 (a) SPECIAL RULES FOR QUALIFIED DISASTER-RE-  
6 LATED PERSONAL CASUALTY LOSSES.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—If an individual has a net  
8 disaster loss for any taxable year—

9 (A) the amount determined under section  
10 165(h)(2)(A)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code  
11 of 1986 shall be equal to the sum of—

12 (i) such net disaster loss, and  
13 (ii) so much of the excess referred to  
14 in the matter preceding clause (i) of sec-  
15 tion 165(h)(2)(A) of such Code (reduced  
16 by the amount in clause (i) of this sub-  
17 paragraph) as exceeds 10 percent of the  
18 adjusted gross income of the individual,

19 (B) section 165(h)(1) of such Code shall  
20 be applied by substituting “\$500” for “\$500  
21 (\$100 for taxable years beginning after Decem-  
22 ber 31, 2009)”,

23 (C) the standard deduction determined  
24 under section 63(c) of such Code shall be in-  
25 creased by the net disaster loss, and

20 (b) SPECIAL RULE FOR DETERMINING EARNED IN-  
21 COME.—

22                   (1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a qualified in-  
23                   dividual, if the earned income of the taxpayer for the  
24                   applicable taxable year is less than the earned in-  
25                   come of the taxpayer for the preceding taxable year,

1       the credits allowed under sections 24(d) and 32 of  
2       the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 may, at the elec-  
3       tion of the taxpayer, be determined by sub-  
4       stituting—

5                 (A) such earned income for the preceding  
6       taxable year, for

7                 (B) such earned income for the applicable  
8       taxable year.

9                 (2) **QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL.**—For purposes of  
10      this subsection, the term “qualified individual”  
11      means any individual whose principal place of abode  
12      at any time during the incident period of any qual-  
13      fied disaster was located—

14                 (A) in the qualified disaster zone with re-  
15       spect to such qualified disaster, or

16                 (B) in the qualified disaster area with re-  
17       spect to such qualified disaster (but outside the  
18       qualified disaster zone with respect to such  
19       qualified disaster) and such individual was dis-  
20       placed from such principal place of abode by  
21       reason of such qualified disaster.

22                 (3) **APPLICABLE TAXABLE YEAR.**—For pur-  
23       poses of this subsection, the term “applicable taxable  
24       year” means—

(B) in the case of a qualified individual described in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2), any taxable year which includes any portion of the period described in such subparagraph.

**15 (5) SPECIAL RULES.—**

(B) UNIFORM APPLICATION OF ELECTION.—Any election made under paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to both sections 24(d) and 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(D) NO EFFECT ON DETERMINATION OF GROSS INCOME, ETC.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be applied without regard to any substitution under paragraph (1).

16 SEC. 6. ADDITIONAL LOW-INCOME HOUSING CREDIT ALLO-  
17 CATIONS.

18           (a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 42 of the  
19 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the State housing credit  
20 ceiling for any qualified State for calendar year 2021 shall  
21 be increased by the lesser of—

1       ings located in qualified disaster zones in such qualifi-  
2       ed State, or

3               (2) 50 percent of the sum of the State housing  
4       credit ceilings for such qualified State for calendar  
5       year 2020.

6       (b) ALLOCATIONS TREATED AS MADE FIRST FROM

7 ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION FOR PURPOSES OF DETER-

8 MINING CARRYOVER.—For purposes of determining the

9 unused State housing credit ceiling for any calendar year

10 under section 42(h)(3)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code

11 of 1986, any increase in the State housing credit ceiling

12 under subsection (a) shall be treated as an amount de-

13 scribed in clause (ii) of such section.

14       (c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

15               (1) QUALIFIED STATE.—The term “qualified  
16       State” means any State in which there is a qualified  
17       disaster zone.

18               (2) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—Terms used in this  
19       section which are also used in section 42 of the In-  
20       ternal Revenue Code of 1986 shall have the same  
21       meaning in this section as in such section 42.

22 SEC. 7. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN POSSESSIONS.

23       (a) PAYMENTS TO POSSESSIONS WITH MIRROR

24 CODE TAX SYSTEMS.—The Secretary of the Treasury

25 shall pay to each possession of the United States which

1 has a mirror code tax system amounts equal to the loss  
2 (if any) to that possession by reason of the application  
3 of the provisions of this Act. Such amounts shall be deter-  
4 mined by the Secretary of the Treasury based on informa-  
5 tion provided by the government of the respective posses-  
6 sion.

7       (b) PAYMENTS TO OTHER POSSESSIONS.—The Sec-  
8 retary of the Treasury shall pay to each possession of the  
9 United States which does not have a mirror code tax sys-  
10 tem amounts estimated by the Secretary of the Treasury  
11 as being equal to the aggregate benefits (if any) that  
12 would have been provided to residents of such possession  
13 by reason of the provisions of this Act if a mirror code  
14 tax system had been in effect in such possession. The pre-  
15 ceding sentence shall not apply unless the respective pos-  
16 session has a plan, which has been approved by the Sec-  
17 retary of the Treasury, under which such possession will  
18 promptly distribute such payments to its residents.

19       (c) MIRROR CODE TAX SYSTEM.—For purposes of  
20 this section, the term “mirror code tax system” means,  
21 with respect to any possession of the United States, the  
22 income tax system of such possession if the income tax  
23 liability of the residents of such possession under such sys-  
24 tem is determined by reference to the income tax laws of

1 the United States as if such possession were the United  
2 States.

3 (d) TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS.—For purposes of  
4 section 1324 of title 31, United States Code, the payments  
5 under this section shall be treated in the same manner  
6 as a refund due from a credit provision referred to in sub-  
7 section (b)(2) of such section.

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