

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 2355

To require a parent who is delinquent in child support to include his unpaid obligation in gross income, and to allow custodial parents a bad debt deduction for unpaid child support payments.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 1993

Mr. COX introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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## A BILL

To require a parent who is delinquent in child support to include his unpaid obligation in gross income, and to allow custodial parents a bad debt deduction for unpaid child support payments.

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 “Child Support Enforce-  
5 ment Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NO EFFECT ON RIGHTS AND LIABILITIES.**

7 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect—

1 (1) the right of an individual or State to receive  
2 any child support payment; or

3 (2) the obligation of an individual to pay child  
4 support.

5 **SEC. 3. INCLUSION IN INCOME OF AMOUNT OF UNPAID**  
6 **CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 108 of the Internal Reve-  
8 nue Code of 1986 (relating to discharge of indebtedness  
9 income) is amended by adding at the end thereof the  
10 following new subsection:

11 “(h) UNPAID CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this chap-  
13 ter, any taxable unpaid child support payments of a  
14 taxpayer for any taxable year shall be treated as  
15 amounts includible in gross income of the taxpayer  
16 for the taxable year by reason of the discharge of in-  
17 debtedness of the taxpayer.

18 “(2) TAXABLE UNPAID CHILD SUPPORT PAY-  
19 MENTS.—For purposes of this subsection, the term  
20 ‘taxable unpaid child support payments’ means pay-  
21 ments—

22 “(A) which were applicable child support  
23 payments which the taxpayer was required to  
24 pay under a support instrument for the support  
25 of a child of the taxpayer, and

1           “(B) with respect to which the notice re-  
2           quirements of paragraph (3) are met.

3           “(3) NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.—

4           “(A) IN GENERAL.—During January of  
5           the second calendar year following a calendar  
6           year in which there begins a taxable year for  
7           which a deduction allowed under section 166(f)  
8           was claimed, the eligible taxpayer shall send a  
9           notice (in such form as the Secretary may pre-  
10          scribe) to the individual who failed to make  
11          payments which contains—

12                   “(i) the amount of the applicable child  
13                   support payments for such taxable year,  
14                   and

15                   “(ii) notice that the individual is re-  
16                   quired to include such amount in gross in-  
17                   come for the taxable year beginning in the  
18                   preceding calendar year.

19           “(B) NOTICE BY SECRETARY.—If notice  
20           cannot be provided under subparagraph (A) be-  
21           cause the address is not known to the eligible  
22           taxpayer, the Secretary shall send such notice if  
23           the address is available to the Secretary.

24           “(C) ADDRESS UNKNOWN.—If notice can-  
25           not be provided under subparagraph (A) or (B)



1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any eligible  
2 taxpayer who has any applicable child support pay-  
3 ments remaining unpaid as of the close of the tax-  
4 able year—

5           “(A) subsections (a) and (d) shall not  
6 apply to such payments, and

7           “(B) there shall be allowed as a deduction  
8 for such taxable year an amount equal to the  
9 amount of such payments.

10           “(2) PER CHILD LIMITATION ON DEDUCTION.—  
11 The aggregate amount allowable as a deduction for  
12 any taxable year under paragraph (1) with respect  
13 to any child for whom applicable child support pay-  
14 ments are required to be paid shall not exceed  
15 \$5,000.

16           “(3) ELIGIBLE TAXPAYER.—For purposes of  
17 this subsection, the term ‘eligible taxpayer’ means  
18 an individual—

19           “(A) whose adjusted gross income for the  
20 taxable year does not exceed \$50,000,

21           “(B) with respect to whom the amount of  
22 applicable child support payments remaining  
23 unpaid as of the close of the taxable year is  
24 equal to or greater than \$500, and

1           “(C) who meets the identification require-  
2           ments of paragraph (5).

3           “(4) APPLICABLE CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT.—

4           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘applicable  
5           child support payment’ means, with respect to  
6           any taxable year of the eligible taxpayer—

7                   “(i) any periodic payment of a fixed  
8                   amount, or

9                   “(ii) any payment of a medical or  
10                  educational expense, insurance premium,  
11                  or other similar item,

12                  which is required to be paid to such taxpayer  
13                  during such taxable year by an individual under  
14                  a support instrument meeting the requirements  
15                  of paragraph (8) for the support of any qualify-  
16                  ing child of such individual.

17           “(B) QUALIFYING CHILD.—For purposes  
18           of this paragraph, the term ‘qualifying child’  
19           means a child of an eligible individual with re-  
20           spect to whom a deduction is allowable under  
21           section 151 for the taxable year (or would be so  
22           allowable but for paragraph (2) or (4) of sec-  
23           tion 152(e)) or, while eligible for such deduc-  
24           tion, was determined to be disabled under sub-  
25           titles 2 or 16 of chapter 42.

1           “(C) PAYMENTS MUST BE DELINQUENT  
2           FOR AT LEAST ENTIRE YEAR.—Any payment  
3           described in subparagraph (A) which is required  
4           to be made by an individual to an eligible tax-  
5           payer shall not be treated as an applicable un-  
6           paid child support payment if at least half of  
7           the payments which are required to be paid to  
8           the eligible taxpayer during the 12-month pe-  
9           riod ending on the last day of the taxable year  
10          are paid. In the case of the 1st taxable year to  
11          which this subsection applies to payments from  
12          any individual, the preceding sentence shall be  
13          applied by substituting ‘24-month’ for ‘12-  
14          month’.

15          “(D) COORDINATION WITH AFDC.—The  
16          term ‘applicable child support payment’ shall  
17          not include any payment the right to which has  
18          been assigned to a State under section  
19          402(a)(26) of the Social Security Act (42  
20          U.S.C. 602(a)(26)).

21          “(5) IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—The  
22          requirements of this paragraph are met if the eligi-  
23          ble taxpayer includes on the return claiming the de-  
24          duction under this subsection the name, address,  
25          and taxpayer identification number of—

1           “(A) each child with respect to whom child  
2           support payments to which this subsection ap-  
3           plies are required to be paid, and

4           “(B) the individual who was required to  
5           make such child support payments.

6           In the case of a failure to provide the information  
7           under subparagraph (B), the preceding sentence  
8           shall not apply if the eligible taxpayer certifies that  
9           any such information is not known.

10           “(6) COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS.—In the  
11           case of any taxable year beginning after 1993, the  
12           \$5,000 amount under paragraph (2), the \$50,000  
13           amount under paragraph (3)(A), and the \$500  
14           amount under paragraph (3)(B) shall each be in-  
15           creased by an amount equal to—

16           “(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by

17           “(B) the cost-of-living adjustment deter-  
18           mined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar  
19           year in which the taxable year begins, except  
20           that section 1(f)(3)(B) shall be applied by sub-  
21           stituting ‘1992’ for ‘1989’.

22           “(7) SUBSEQUENT PAYMENTS.—If any payment  
23           with respect to which a deduction was allowed under  
24           paragraph (1) is subsequently made, such payment  
25           shall be included in gross income of the eligible tax-

1 payer for the taxable year in which paid. This para-  
2 graph shall not apply to any amount if an individual  
3 has assigned the right to receive such amount to a  
4 State (and the State does not pay such amount to  
5 such individual).

6 “(8) SUPPORT INSTRUMENT.—For purposes of  
7 this subsection, a support instrument meets the re-  
8 quirements of this paragraph if it is—

9 “(A) a decree of divorce or separate main-  
10 tenance or a written instrument incident to  
11 such a decree,

12 “(B) a written separation agreement, or

13 “(C) a decree (not described in subpara-  
14 graph (A)) of a court or administrative agency  
15 requiring a parent to make payments for the  
16 support or maintenance of 1 or more children  
17 of such parent.”

18 (b) DEDUCTION FOR NONITEMIZERS.—Section 62(a)  
19 of such Code is amended by adding at the end thereof  
20 the following new paragraph:

21 “(15) UNPAID CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS.—  
22 The deduction allowed by section 166(f).”

23 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 166(d)(2)  
24 of such Code is amended by striking “or” at the end of  
25 subparagraph (A), by striking the period at the end of

1 subparagraph (B) and inserting “, or” and by adding at  
2 the end thereof the following new subparagraph:

3                   “(C) a debt which is an applicable child  
4                   support payment under subsection (f).”

5           (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
6 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after  
7 December 31, 1992.

8 **SEC. 5. REDUCTION OF FEDERAL DEBT.**

9           Net revenues received in the Treasury pursuant to  
10 this Act shall be applied, as provided in appropriation  
11 Acts, solely to the retirement of outstanding public debt  
12 obligations of the United States and may not be obligated  
13 or expended for any other purpose, notwithstanding any  
14 other provision of law that does not specifically refer to  
15 this section.

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