

By: Representatives Hood, Miles, Dixon,
Holloway

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 1557

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 27-7-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 INCREASE FROM \$15,000.00 TO \$25,000.00, THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION
3 RECEIVED BY A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OR RESERVE FORCES OF
4 THE UNITED STATES THAT IS EXCLUDED FROM THE MEANING OF "GROSS
5 INCOME" FOR PURPOSES OF THE STATE INCOME TAX LAW; AND FOR RELATED
6 PURPOSES.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 27-7-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 27-7-15. (1) For the purposes of this article, except as
11 otherwise provided, the term "gross income" means and includes the
12 income of a taxpayer derived from salaries, wages, fees or
13 compensation for service, of whatever kind and in whatever form
14 paid, including income from governmental agencies and subdivisions
15 thereof; or from professions, vocations, trades, businesses,
16 commerce or sales, or renting or dealing in property, or
17 reacquired property; also from annuities, interest, rents,
18 dividends, securities, insurance premiums, reinsurance premiums,
19 considerations for supplemental insurance contracts, or the



20 transaction of any business carried on for gain or profit, or
21 gains, or profits, and income derived from any source whatever and
22 in whatever form paid. The amount of all such items of income
23 shall be included in the gross income for the taxable year in
24 which received by the taxpayer. The amount by which an eligible
25 employee's salary is reduced pursuant to a salary reduction
26 agreement authorized under Section 25-17-5 shall be excluded from
27 the term "gross income" within the meaning of this article.

28 (2) In determining gross income for the purpose of this
29 section, the following, under regulations prescribed by the
30 commissioner, shall be applicable:

31 (a) **Dealers in property.** Federal rules, regulations
32 and revenue procedures shall be followed with respect to
33 installment sales unless a transaction results in the shifting of
34 income from inside the state to outside the state.

35 (b) **Casual sales of property.**

36 (i) Prior to January 1, 2001, federal rules,
37 regulations and revenue procedures shall be followed with respect
38 to installment sales except they shall be applied and administered
39 as if H.R. 3594, the Installment Tax Correction Act of 2000 of the
40 106th Congress, had not been enacted. This provision will
41 generally affect taxpayers, reporting on the accrual method of
42 accounting, entering into installment note agreements on or after
43 December 17, 1999. Any gain or profit resulting from the casual
44 sale of property will be recognized in the year of sale.



45 (ii) From and after January 1, 2001, federal
46 rules, regulations and revenue procedures shall be followed with
47 respect to installment sales except as provided in this
48 subparagraph (ii). Gain or profit from the casual sale of
49 property shall be recognized in the year of sale. When a taxpayer
50 recognizes gain on the casual sale of property in which the gain
51 is deferred for federal income tax purposes, a taxpayer may elect
52 to defer the payment of tax resulting from the gain as allowed and
53 to the extent provided under regulations prescribed by the
54 commissioner. If the payment of the tax is made on a deferred
55 basis, the tax shall be computed based on the applicable rate for
56 the income reported in the year the payment is made. Except as
57 otherwise provided in subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph (b),
58 deferring the payment of the tax shall not affect the liability
59 for the tax. If at any time the installment note is sold,
60 contributed, transferred or disposed of in any manner and for any
61 purpose by the original note holder, or the original note holder
62 is merged, liquidated, dissolved or withdrawn from this state,
63 then all deferred tax payments under this section shall
64 immediately become due and payable.

65 (iii) If the selling price of the property is
66 reduced by any alteration in the terms of an installment note,
67 including default by the purchaser, the gain to be recognized is
68 recomputed based on the adjusted selling price in the same manner
69 as for federal income tax purposes. The tax on this amount, less



70 the previously paid tax on the recognized gain, is payable over
71 the period of the remaining installments. If the tax on the
72 previously recognized gain has been paid in full to this state,
73 the return on which the payment was made may be amended for this
74 purpose only. The statute of limitations in Section 27-7-49 shall
75 not bar an amended return for this purpose.

76 (c) **Reserves of insurance companies.** In the case of
77 insurance companies, any amounts in excess of the legally required
78 reserves shall be included as gross income.

79 (d) **Affiliated companies or persons.** As regards sales,
80 exchanges or payments for services from one to another of
81 affiliated companies or persons or under other circumstances where
82 the relation between the buyer and seller is such that gross
83 proceeds from the sale or the value of the exchange or the payment
84 for services are not indicative of the true value of the subject
85 matter of the sale, exchange or payment for services, the
86 commissioner shall prescribe uniform and equitable rules for
87 determining the true value of the gross income, gross sales,
88 exchanges or payment for services, or require consolidated returns
89 of affiliates.

90 (e) **Alimony and separate maintenance payments.** The
91 federal rules, regulations and revenue procedures in determining
92 the deductibility and taxability of alimony payments shall be
93 followed in this state.



94 (f) **Reimbursement for expenses of moving.** There shall
95 be included in gross income (as compensation for services) any
96 amount received or accrued, directly or indirectly, by an
97 individual as a payment for or reimbursement of expenses of moving
98 from one residence to another residence which is attributable to
99 employment or self-employment.

100 (3) In the case of taxpayers other than residents, gross
101 income includes gross income from sources within this state.

102 (4) The words "gross income" do not include the following
103 items of income which shall be exempt from taxation under this
104 article:

105 (a) The proceeds of life insurance policies and
106 contracts paid upon the death of the insured. However, the income
107 from the proceeds of such policies or contracts shall be included
108 in the gross income.

109 (b) The amount received by the insured as a return of
110 premium or premiums paid by him under life insurance policies,
111 endowment, or annuity contracts, either during the term or at
112 maturity or upon surrender of the contract.

113 (c) The value of property acquired by gift, bequest,
114 devise or descent, but the income from such property shall be
115 included in the gross income.

116 (d) Interest upon the obligations of the United States
117 or its possessions, or securities issued under the provisions of
118 the Federal Farm Loan Act of 1916, or bonds issued by the War



119 Finance Corporation, or obligations of the State of Mississippi or
120 political subdivisions thereof.

121 (e) The amounts received through accident or health
122 insurance as compensation for personal injuries or sickness, plus
123 the amount of any damages received for such injuries or such
124 sickness or injuries, or through the War Risk Insurance Act, or
125 any law for the benefit or relief of injured or disabled members
126 of the military or naval forces of the United States.

127 (f) Income received by any religious denomination or by
128 any institution or trust for moral or mental improvements,
129 religious, Bible, tract, charitable, benevolent, fraternal,
130 missionary, hospital, infirmary, educational, scientific,
131 literary, library, patriotic, historical or cemetery purposes or
132 for two (2) or more of such purposes, if such income be used
133 exclusively for carrying out one or more of such purposes.

134 (g) Income received by a domestic corporation which is
135 "taxable in another state" as this term is defined in this
136 article, derived from business activity conducted outside this
137 state. Domestic corporations taxable both within and without the
138 state shall determine Mississippi income on the same basis as
139 provided for foreign corporations under the provisions of this
140 article.

141 (h) In case of insurance companies, there shall be
142 excluded from gross income such portion of actual premiums
143 received from an individual policyholder as is paid back or



144 credited to or treated as an abatement of premiums of such
145 policyholder within the taxable year.

146 (i) Income from dividends that has already borne a tax
147 as dividend income under the provisions of this article, when such
148 dividends may be specifically identified in the possession of the
149 recipient.

150 (j) Amounts paid by the United States to a person as
151 added compensation for hazardous duty pay as a member of the Armed
152 Forces of the United States in a combat zone designated by
153 Executive Order of the President of the United States.

154 (k) Amounts received as retirement allowances,
155 pensions, annuities or optional retirement allowances paid under
156 the federal Social Security Act, the Railroad Retirement Act, the
157 Federal Civil Service Retirement Act, or any other retirement
158 system of the United States government, retirement allowances paid
159 under the Mississippi Public Employees' Retirement System,
160 Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol Retirement System or any other
161 retirement system of the State of Mississippi or any political
162 subdivision thereof. The exemption allowed under this paragraph
163 (k) shall be available to the spouse or other beneficiary at the
164 death of the primary retiree.

165 (l) Amounts received as retirement allowances,
166 pensions, annuities or optional retirement allowances paid by any
167 public or governmental retirement system not designated in
168 paragraph (k) or any private retirement system or plan of which



169 the recipient was a member at any time during the period of his
170 employment. Amounts received as a distribution under a Roth
171 Individual Retirement Account shall be treated in the same manner
172 as provided under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.
173 The exemption allowed under this paragraph (l) shall be available
174 to the spouse or other beneficiary at the death of the primary
175 retiree.

176 (m) National Guard or Reserve Forces of the United
177 States compensation not to exceed the aggregate sum of Five
178 Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for any taxable year through the 2005
179 taxable year, and not to exceed the aggregate sum of Fifteen
180 Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) for any taxable year thereafter
181 through the 2015 taxable year, and not to exceed the aggregate sum
182 of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) for any taxable year
183 thereafter.

184 (n) Compensation received for active service as a
185 member below the grade of commissioned officer and so much of the
186 compensation as does not exceed the maximum enlisted amount
187 received for active service as a commissioned officer in the Armed
188 Forces of the United States for any month during any part of which
189 such members of the Armed Forces (i) served in a combat zone as
190 designated by Executive Order of the President of the United
191 States or a qualified hazardous duty area as defined by federal
192 law, or both; or (ii) was hospitalized as a result of wounds,
193 disease or injury incurred while serving in such combat zone. For



194 the purposes of this paragraph (n), the term "maximum enlisted
195 amount" means and has the same definition as that term has in 26
196 USCS 112.

197 (o) The proceeds received from federal and state
198 forestry incentive programs.

199 (p) The amount representing the difference between the
200 increase of gross income derived from sales for export outside the
201 United States as compared to the preceding tax year wherein gross
202 income from export sales was highest, and the net increase in
203 expenses attributable to such increased exports. In the absence
204 of direct accounting, the ratio of net profits to total sales may
205 be applied to the increase in export sales. This paragraph (p)
206 shall only apply to businesses located in this state engaging in
207 the international export of Mississippi goods and services. Such
208 goods or services shall have at least fifty percent (50%) of value
209 added at a location in Mississippi.

210 (q) Amounts paid by the federal government for the
211 construction of soil conservation systems as required by a
212 conservation plan adopted pursuant to 16 USCS 3801 et seq.

213 (r) The amount deposited in a medical savings account,
214 and any interest accrued thereon, that is a part of a medical
215 savings account program as specified in the Medical Savings
216 Account Act under Sections 71-9-1 through 71-9-9; provided,
217 however, that any amount withdrawn from such account for purposes



218 other than paying eligible medical expense or to procure health
219 coverage shall be included in gross income.

220 (s) Amounts paid by the Mississippi Soil and Water
221 Conservation Commission from the Mississippi Soil and Water
222 Cost-Share Program for the installation of water quality best
223 management practices.

224 (t) Dividends received by a holding corporation, as
225 defined in Section 27-13-1, from a subsidiary corporation, as
226 defined in Section 27-13-1.

227 (u) Interest, dividends, gains or income of any kind on
228 any account in the Mississippi Affordable College Savings Trust
229 Fund, as established in Sections 37-155-101 through 37-155-125, to
230 the extent that such amounts remain on deposit in the MACS Trust
231 Fund or are withdrawn pursuant to a qualified withdrawal, as
232 defined in Section 37-155-105.

233 (v) Interest, dividends or gains accruing on the
234 payments made pursuant to a prepaid tuition contract, as provided
235 for in Section 37-155-17.

236 (w) Income resulting from transactions with a related
237 member where the related member subject to tax under this chapter
238 was required to, and did in fact, add back the expense of such
239 transactions as required by Section 27-7-17(2). Under no
240 circumstances may the exclusion from income exceed the deduction
241 add-back of the related member, nor shall the exclusion apply to
242 any income otherwise excluded under this chapter.



243 (x) Amounts that are subject to the tax levied pursuant
244 to Section 27-7-901, and are paid to patrons by gaming
245 establishments licensed under the Mississippi Gaming Control Act.

246 (y) Amounts that are subject to the tax levied pursuant
247 to Section 27-7-903, and are paid to patrons by gaming
248 establishments not licensed under the Mississippi Gaming Control
249 Act.

250 (z) Interest, dividends, gains or income of any kind on
251 any account in a qualified tuition program and amounts received as
252 distributions under a qualified tuition program shall be treated
253 in the same manner as provided under the United States Internal
254 Revenue Code, as amended. For the purposes of this paragraph (z),
255 the term "qualified tuition program" means and has the same
256 definition as that term has in 26 USCS 529.

257 (aa) The amount deposited in a health savings account,
258 and any interest accrued thereon, that is a part of a health
259 savings account program as specified in the Health Savings
260 Accounts Act created in Sections 83-62-1 through 83-62-9; however,
261 any amount withdrawn from such account for purposes other than
262 paying qualified medical expenses or to procure health coverage
263 shall be included in gross income, except as otherwise provided by
264 Sections 83-62-7 and 83-62-9.

265 (bb) Amounts received as qualified disaster relief
266 payments shall be treated in the same manner as provided under the
267 United States Internal Revenue Code, as amended.



268 (cc) Amounts received as a "qualified Hurricane Katrina
269 distribution" as defined in the United States Internal Revenue
270 Code, as amended.

271 (dd) Amounts received by an individual which may be
272 excluded from income as foreign earned income for federal income
273 tax purposes.

274 (ee) Amounts received by a qualified individual,
275 directly or indirectly, from an employer or nonprofit housing
276 organization that are qualified housing expenses associated with
277 an employer-assisted housing program. For purposes of this
278 paragraph (ee):

279 (i) "Qualified individual" means any individual
280 whose household income does not exceed one hundred twenty percent
281 (120%) of the area median gross income (as defined by the United
282 States Department of Housing and Urban Development), adjusted for
283 household size, for the area in which the housing is located.

284 (ii) "Nonprofit housing organization" means an
285 organization that is organized as a not-for-profit organization
286 under the laws of this state or another state and has as one of
287 its purposes:

288 1. Homeownership education or counseling;
289 2. The development of affordable housing; or
290 3. The development or administration of
291 employer-assisted housing programs.



292 (iii) "Employer-assisted housing program" means a
293 separate written plan of any employer (including, without
294 limitation, tax-exempt organizations and public employers) for the
295 exclusive benefit of the employer's employees to pay qualified
296 housing expenses to assist the employer's employees in securing
297 affordable housing.

298 (iv) "Qualified housing expenses" means:

299 1. With respect to rental assistance, an
300 amount not to exceed Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) paid for the
301 purpose of assisting employees with security deposits and rental
302 subsidies; and

303 2. With respect to homeownership assistance,
304 an amount not to exceed the lesser of Ten Thousand Dollars
305 (\$10,000.00) or six percent (6%) of the purchase price of the
306 employee's principal residence that is paid for the purpose of
307 assisting employees with down payments, payment of closing costs,
308 reduced interest mortgages, mortgage guarantee programs, mortgage
309 forgiveness programs, equity contribution programs, or
310 contributions to home buyer education and/or homeownership
311 counseling of eligible employees.

312 (ff) For the 2010 taxable year and any taxable year
313 thereafter, amounts converted in accordance with the United States
314 Internal Revenue Code, as amended, from a traditional Individual
315 Retirement Account to a Roth Individual Retirement Account. The
316 exemption allowed under this paragraph (ff) shall be available to



317 the spouse or other beneficiary at the death of the primary
318 retiree.

319 (gg) Amounts received for the performance of disaster
320 or emergency-related work as defined in Section 27-113-5.

321 (hh) The amount deposited in a catastrophe savings
322 account established under Sections 27-7-1001 through 27-7-1007,
323 interest income earned on the catastrophe savings account, and
324 distributions from the catastrophe savings account; however, any
325 amount withdrawn from a catastrophe savings account for purposes
326 other than paying qualified catastrophe expenses shall be included
327 in gross income, except as otherwise provided by Sections
328 27-7-1001 through 27-7-1007.

329 (5) Prisoners of war, missing in action-taxable status.

330 (a) **Members of the Armed Forces.** Gross income does not
331 include compensation received for active service as a member of
332 the Armed Forces of the United States for any month during any
333 part of which such member is in a missing status, as defined in
334 paragraph (d) of this subsection, during the Vietnam Conflict as a
335 result of such conflict.

336 (b) **Civilian employees.** Gross income does not include
337 compensation received for active service as an employee for any
338 month during any part of which such employee is in a missing
339 status during the Vietnam Conflict as a result of such conflict.

340 (c) **Period of conflict.** For the purpose of this
341 subsection, the Vietnam Conflict began February 28, 1961, and ends



342 on the date designated by the President by Executive Order as the
343 date of the termination of combatant activities in Vietnam. For
344 the purpose of this subsection, an individual is in a missing
345 status as a result of the Vietnam Conflict if immediately before
346 such status began he was performing service in Vietnam or was
347 performing service in Southeast Asia in direct support of military
348 operations in Vietnam. "Southeast Asia," as used in this
349 paragraph, is defined to include Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and
350 waters adjacent thereto.

351 (d) "Missing status" means the status of an employee or
352 member of the Armed Forces who is in active service and is
353 officially carried or determined to be absent in a status of (i)
354 missing; (ii) missing in action; (iii) interned in a foreign
355 country; (iv) captured, beleaguered or besieged by a hostile
356 force; or (v) detained in a foreign country against his will; but
357 does not include the status of an employee or member of the Armed
358 Forces for a period during which he is officially determined to be
359 absent from his post of duty without authority.

360 (e) "Active service" means active federal service by an
361 employee or member of the Armed Forces of the United States in an
362 active duty status.

363 (f) "Employee" means one who is a citizen or national
364 of the United States or an alien admitted to the United States for
365 permanent residence and is a resident of the State of Mississippi



366 and is employed in or under a federal executive agency or
367 department of the Armed Forces.

368 (g) "Compensation" means (i) basic pay; (ii) special
369 pay; (iii) incentive pay; (iv) basic allowance for quarters; (v)
370 basic allowance for subsistence; and (vi) station per diem
371 allowances for not more than ninety (90) days.

372 (h) If refund or credit of any overpayment of tax for
373 any taxable year resulting from the application of this subsection
374 (5) * * * is prevented by the operation of any law or rule of law,
375 such refund or credit of such overpayment of tax may,
376 nevertheless, be made or allowed if claim therefor is filed with
377 the Department of Revenue within three (3) years after the date of
378 the enactment of this subsection.

379 (i) The provisions of this subsection shall be
380 effective for taxable years ending on or after February 28, 1961.

381 (6) A shareholder of an S corporation, as defined in Section
382 27-8-3(1)(g), shall take into account the income, loss, deduction
383 or credit of the S corporation only to the extent provided in
384 Section 27-8-7(2).

385 **SECTION 2.** Nothing in this act shall affect or defeat any
386 claim, assessment, appeal, suit, right or cause of action for
387 taxes due or accrued under the income tax laws before the date on
388 which this act becomes effective, whether such claims,
389 assessments, appeals, suits or actions have been begun before the
390 date on which this act becomes effective or are begun thereafter;



391 and the provisions of the income tax laws are expressly continued
392 in full force, effect and operation for the purpose of the
393 assessment, collection and enrollment of liens for any taxes due
394 or accrued and the execution of any warrant under such laws before
395 the date on which this act becomes effective, and for the
396 imposition of any penalties, forfeitures or claims for failure to
397 comply with such laws.

398 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
399 and after January 1, 2016.

