ASSEMBLY BILL No. 595

Introduced by Assembly Member Leach

February 22, 2001

An act to amend Section 17054 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, relating to taxation, to take effect immediately, tax levy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 595, as introduced, Leach. Income taxes: dependent exemption credit.

The Personal Income Tax Law authorizes a credit of $227 for each taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 1999, adjusted for inflation thereafter, as specified, for each dependent of the taxpayer.

This bill would increase that credit to $500 for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2001.

This bill would take effect immediately as a tax levy.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 17054 of the Revenue and Taxation Code is amended to read:

17054. In the case of individuals, the following credits for personal exemption may be deducted from the tax imposed under Section 17041 or 17048, less any increases imposed under paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) or paragraph (1) of subdivision (e), or both, of Section 17560.

(a) In the case of a single individual, a head of household, or a married individual making a separate return, a credit of fifty-one dollars ($51) for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1987, and before January 1, 1988, and fifty-two dollars ($52) for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1988.

(b) In the case of a surviving spouse (as defined in Section 17046), or a husband and wife making a joint return, a credit of one hundred two dollars ($102) for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1987, and before January 1, 1988, and one hundred four dollars ($104) for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1988. If one spouse was a resident for the entire taxable year and the other spouse was a nonresident for all or any portion of the taxable year, the personal exemption shall be divided equally.

(c) In addition to any other credit provided in this section, in the case of an individual who is 65 years of age or over by the end of the taxable year, a credit of fifty-one dollars ($51) for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1987, and before January 1, 1988, and fifty-two dollars ($52) for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1988.

(d) (1) A credit of fifty-one dollars ($51) for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1987, and before January 1, 1988, fifty-two dollars ($52) for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1988, and before January 1, 1998, two hundred fifty-three dollars ($253) for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1998, and before January 1, 1999, ~~and~~ two hundred twenty-seven dollars ($227) for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1999, *and before January 1, 2001, and five hundred dollars ($500) for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2001*, for each dependent (as defined in Section 17056) for whom an exemption is allowable under Section 151(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, relating to additional exemption for dependents. The credit allowed under this subdivision for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1999, shall not be adjusted pursuant to subdivision (i) for any taxable year beginning before January 1, 2000.

(2) The credit allowed under paragraph (1) shall not be denied on the basis that the identification number of the dependent, as defined in Section 17056, for whom an exemption is allowable under Section 151(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, relating to

additional exemption for dependents, is not included on the return claiming the credit.

(e) A credit for personal exemption of fifty-one dollars ($51) for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1987, and before January 1, 1988, and fifty-two dollars ($52) for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1988, for the taxpayer if he or she is blind at the end of his or her taxable year.

(f) A credit for personal exemption of fifty-one dollars ($51) for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1987, and before January 1, 1988, and fifty-two dollars ($52) for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1988, for the spouse of the taxpayer if a separate return is made by the taxpayer, and if the spouse is blind and, for the calendar year in which the taxable year of the taxpayer begins, has no gross income and is not the dependent of another taxpayer.

(g) For the purposes of this section, an individual is blind only if either: his or her central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye with correcting lenses, or his or her visual acuity is greater than 20/200 but is accompanied by a limitation in the fields of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees.

(h) In the case of an individual with respect to whom a credit under this section is allowable to another taxpayer for a taxable year beginning in the calendar year in which the individual's taxable year begins, the credit amount applicable to that individual for that individual's taxable year ~~shall be~~ *is* zero.

(i) For each taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 1989, the Franchise Tax Board shall compute the credits prescribed in this section. That computation shall be made as follows:

(1) The California Department of Industrial Relations shall transmit annually to the Franchise Tax Board the percentage change in the California Consumer Price Index as modified for rental equivalent homeownership for all items from June of the prior calendar year to June of the current calendar year, no later than August 1 of the current calendar year.

(2) The Franchise Tax Board shall add 100 percent to the percentage change figure ~~which~~ *that* is furnished to them pursuant to paragraph (1), and divide the result by 100.

(3) The Franchise Tax Board shall multiply the immediately preceding taxable year credits by the inflation adjustment factor

determined in paragraph (2), and round off the resulting products to the nearest one dollar ($1).

(4) In computing the credits pursuant to this subdivision, the credit provided in subdivision (b) shall be twice the credit provided in subdivision (a).

(j) The amendments made to this section by the act adding this subdivision shall be applied only in the computation of taxes for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1990.

SEC. 2. This act provides for a tax levy within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect.

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