1	SENATE BILL NO. 170
2	INTRODUCED BY DICK BARRETT
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4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING A JOINT INCOME TAX RETURN OR A COMBINED
5	FILING SEPARATELY INCOME TAX RETURN WHEN A JOINT FEDERAL INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RETURN
6	IS FILED FOR THE SAME TAX YEAR; ELIMINATING MARRIAGE UNDER STATE LAW AS A PREREQUISITE
7	TO FILING A JOINT INCOME TAX RETURN; GENERALLY DELETING THE TERMS HUSBAND, WIFE
8	MARRIED, AND SPOUSE FROM THE INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX CODE; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS
9	AMENDING SECTIONS 15-30-2101, 15-30-2110, 15-30-2113, 15-30-2114, 15-30-2131, 15-30-2132
10	15-30-2342, 15-30-2364, 15-30-2366, 15-30-2387, 15-30-2389, 15-30-2390, 15-30-2392, 15-30-2512
11	15-30-2602, 15-30-2618, 15-30-2632, 15-30-2646, 15-61-102, 15-62-207, 15-63-102, AND 15-63-202, MCA
12	AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."
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14	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
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16	Section 1. Section 15-30-2101, MCA, is amended to read:
17	"15-30-2101. Definitions. For the purpose of this chapter, unless otherwise required by the context, the
18	following definitions apply:
19	(1) "Base year structure" means the following elements of the income tax structure:
20	(a) the tax brackets established in 15-30-2103, but unadjusted by 15-30-2103(2), in effect on June 30
21	of the taxable year;
22	(b) the exemptions contained in 15-30-2114, but unadjusted by 15-30-2114(6), in effect on June 30 or
23	the taxable year;
24	(c) the maximum standard deduction provided in 15-30-2132, but unadjusted by 15-30-2132(2), in effection
25	on June 30 of the taxable year.
26	(2) "Combined filing separately" means a state filing status for which an individual taxpayer and a
27	qualifying filer may elect to file separate Montana income tax returns for the same tax year by separating income
28	and liabilities between the taxpayer and the qualifying filer.
29	(3) "Combined joint" means a state filing status for which one Montana income tax return is made jointly
30	by an individual taxpayer and a qualifying filer for the same tax year.

1 (2)(4) "Consumer price index" means the consumer price index, United States city average, for all items, 2 for all urban consumers (CPI-U), using the 1982-84 base of 100, as published by the bureau of labor statistics 3 of the U.S. department of labor.

- (3)(5) "Corporation" or "C. corporation" means a corporation, limited liability company, or other entity:
- 5 (a) that is treated as an association for federal income tax purposes:
- 6 (b) for which a valid election under section 1362 of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 1362) is not 7 in effect; and
- 8 (c) that is not a disregarded entity.

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- 9 (4)(6) "Department" means the department of revenue.
- 10 (5)(7) "Disregarded entity" means a business entity:
- (a) that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner for federal tax purposes, as provided in United States treasury regulations 301.7701-2 or 301.7701-3, 26 CFR 301.7701-2 or 26 CFR 301.7701-3, or as 12 13 those regulations may be labeled or amended; or
  - (b) that is a qualified subchapter S. subsidiary that is not treated as a separate corporation, as provided in section 1361(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 1361(b)(3)).
- 16 (6)(8) "Dividend" means:
  - (a) any distribution made by a C. corporation out of its earnings and profits to its shareholders or members, whether in cash or in other property or in stock of the corporation, other than stock dividends; and
    - (b) any distribution made by an S. corporation treated as a dividend for federal income tax purposes.
  - (7)(9) "Fiduciary" means a guardian, trustee, executor, administrator, receiver, conservator, or any person, whether individual or corporate, acting in any fiduciary capacity for any person, trust, or estate.
- 22 <del>(8)</del>(10) "Foreign C. corporation" means a corporation that is not engaged in or doing business in 23 Montana, as provided in 15-31-101.
  - (9)(11) "Foreign government" means any jurisdiction other than the one embraced within the United States, its territories, and its possessions.
    - (10)(12) "Gross income" means the taxpayer's gross income for federal income tax purposes as defined in section 61 of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 61) or as that section may be labeled or amended, excluding unemployment compensation included in federal gross income under the provisions of section 85 of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 85) as amended.
- 30 (11)(13) "Inflation factor" means a number determined for each tax year by dividing the consumer price



1 index for June of the tax year by the consumer price index for June 2005.

(12)(14) "Information agents" includes all individuals and entities acting in whatever capacity, including lessees or mortgagors of real or personal property, fiduciaries, brokers, real estate brokers, employers, and all officers and employees of the state or of any municipal corporation or political subdivision of the state, having the control, receipt, custody, disposal, or payment of interest, rent, salaries, wages, premiums, annuities, compensations, remunerations, emoluments, or other fixed or determinable annual or periodical gains, profits, and income with respect to which any person or fiduciary is taxable under this chapter.

(13)(15) "Internal Revenue Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or as it may be labeled or further amended. References to specific provisions of the Internal Revenue Code mean those provisions as they may be otherwise labeled or further amended.

- (16) "Joint federal return" means a federal filing status for which one federal income tax return is filed together by two people reporting their aggregate income pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code.
- 13 (14)(17) "Knowingly" is as defined in 45-2-101.

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- (15)(18) "Limited liability company" means a limited liability company, domestic limited liability company, or a foreign limited liability company as defined in 35-8-102.
- 16 (16)(19) "Limited liability partnership" means a limited liability partnership as defined in 35-10-102.
- 17 (17)(20) "Lottery winnings" means income paid either in lump sum or in periodic payments to:
- 18 (a) a resident taxpayer on a lottery ticket; or
- 19 (b) a nonresident taxpayer on a lottery ticket purchased in Montana.
- 20 (18)(21) (a) "Montana source income" means:
- 21 (i) wages, salary, tips, and other compensation for services performed in the state or while a resident 22 of the state:
  - (ii) gain attributable to the sale or other transfer of tangible property located in the state, sold or otherwise transferred while a resident of the state, or used or held in connection with a trade, business, or occupation carried on in the state;
  - (iii) gain attributable to the sale or other transfer of intangible property received or accrued while a resident of the state:
- 28 (iv) interest received or accrued while a resident of the state or from an installment sale of real property 29 or tangible commercial or business personal property located in the state;
  - (v) dividends received or accrued while a resident of the state;



(vi) net income or loss derived from a trade, business, profession, or occupation carried on in the state or while a resident of the state;

- (vii) net income or loss derived from farming activities carried on in the state or while a resident of the state;
- (viii) net rents from real property and tangible personal property located in the state or received or accrued while a resident of the state;
- (ix) net royalties from real property and from tangible real property to the extent the property is used in the state or the net royalties are received or accrued while a resident of the state. The extent of use in the state is determined by multiplying the royalties by a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of days of physical location of the property in the state during the royalty period in the tax year and the denominator of which is the number of days of physical location of the property everywhere during all royalty periods in the tax year. If the physical location is unknown or unascertainable by the taxpayer, the property is considered used in the state in which it was located at the time the person paying the royalty obtained possession.
- (x) patent royalties to the extent the person paying them employs the patent in production, fabrication, manufacturing, or other processing in the state, a patented product is produced in the state, or the royalties are received or accrued while a resident of the state:
- (xi) net copyright royalties to the extent printing or other publication originates in the state or the royalties are received or accrued while a resident of the state;
  - (xii) partnership income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit or item of income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit:
  - (A) derived from a trade, business, occupation, or profession carried on in the state;
- 21 (B) derived from the sale or other transfer or the rental, lease, or other commercial exploitation of 22 property located in the state; or
  - (C) taken into account while a resident of the state;
  - (xiii) an S. corporation's separately and nonseparately stated income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit or item of income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit:
    - (A) derived from a trade, business, occupation, or profession carried on in the state;
- 27 (B) derived from the sale or other transfer or the rental, lease, or other commercial exploitation of 28 property located in the state; or
  - (C) taken into account while a resident of the state;
- 30 (xiv) social security benefits received or accrued while a resident of the state;



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(xv) taxable individual retirement account distributions, annuities, pensions, and other retirement benefits received while a resident of the state;

(xvi) any other income attributable to the state, including but not limited to lottery winnings, state and federal tax refunds, nonemployee compensation, recapture of tax benefits, and capital loss addbacks; and

(xvii) in the case of a nonresident who sells the nonresident's interest in a publicly traded partnership doing business in Montana, the gain described in section 751 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 751, multiplied by the Montana apportionment factor. If the net gain or loss resulting from the use of the apportionment factor as provided in this subsection (18)(a)(xvii) (21)(a)(xvii) does not fairly and equitably represent the nonresident taxpayer's business activity interest, then the nonresident taxpayer may petition for, or the department may require with respect to any and all of the partnership interest, the employment of another method to effectuate an equitable allocation or apportionment of the nonresident's income. This subsection (18)(a)(xvii) (21)(a)(xvii) is intended to preserve the rights and privileges of a nonresident taxpayer and align those rights with taxpayers who are afforded the same rights under 15-1-601 and 15-31-312.

(b) The term does not include:

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- (i) compensation for military service of members of the armed services of the United States who are not Montana residents and who are residing in Montana solely by reason of compliance with military orders and does not include income derived from their personal property located in the state except with respect to personal property used in or arising from a trade or business carried on in Montana; or
- (ii) interest paid on loans held by out-of-state financial institutions recognized as such in the state of their domicile, secured by mortgages, trust indentures, or other security interests on real or personal property located in the state, if the loan is originated by a lender doing business in Montana and assigned out-of-state and there is no activity conducted by the out-of-state lender in Montana except periodic inspection of the security.
- (19)(22) "Net income" means the adjusted gross income of a taxpayer less the deductions allowed by this chapter.
  - (20)(23) "Nonresident" means a natural person who is not a resident.
- (21)(24) "Paid", for the purposes of the deductions and credits under this chapter, means paid or accrued or paid or incurred, and the terms "paid or accrued" and "paid or incurred" must be construed according to the method of accounting upon the basis of which the taxable income is computed under this chapter.
- 29 (22)(25) "Partner" means a member of a partnership or a manager or member of any other entity, if treated as a partner for federal income tax purposes.



(23)(26) "Partnership" means a general or limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, or other entity, if treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes.

- 3 (24)(27) "Pass-through entity" means a partnership, an S. corporation, or a disregarded entity.
- 4 (25)(28) "Pension and annuity income" means:

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- (a) systematic payments of a definitely determinable amount from a qualified pension plan, as that term is used in section 401 of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 401), or systematic payments received as the result of contributions made to a qualified pension plan that are paid to the recipient or recipient's beneficiary upon the cessation of employment;
- (b) payments received as the result of past service and cessation of employment in the uniformed services of the United States;
- (c) lump-sum distributions from pension or profit-sharing plans to the extent that the distributions are included in federal adjusted gross income;
- (d) distributions from individual retirement, deferred compensation, and self-employed retirement plans recognized under sections 401 through 408 of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 401 through 408) to the extent that the distributions are not considered to be premature distributions for federal income tax purposes; or
- (e) amounts received from fully matured, privately purchased annuity contracts after cessation of regular employment.
- 18 (26)(29) "Purposely" is as defined in 45-2-101.
- 19 (30) "Qualifying filer" means the person who legally filed a joint federal return with the taxpayer.
  - (27)(31) "Received", for the purpose of computation of taxable income under this chapter, means received or accrued, and the term "received or accrued" must be construed according to the method of accounting upon the basis of which the taxable income is computed under this chapter.
  - (28)(32) "Resident" applies only to natural persons and includes, for the purpose of determining liability to the tax imposed by this chapter with reference to the income of any taxable year, any person domiciled in the state of Montana and any other person who maintains a permanent place of abode within the state even though temporarily absent from the state and who has not established a residence elsewhere.
  - (29)(33) "S. corporation" means an incorporated entity for which a valid election under section 1362 of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 1362) is in effect.
- 29 (30)(34) "Stock dividends" means new stock issued, for surplus or profits capitalized, to shareholders in proportion to their previous holdings.



1 (31)(35) "Tax year" means the taxpayer's taxable year for federal income tax purposes.

(32)(36) "Taxable income" means the adjusted gross income of a taxpayer less the deductions and exemptions provided for in this chapter.

(33)(37) "Taxpayer" includes any person, entity, or fiduciary, resident or nonresident, subject to a tax or other obligation imposed by this chapter and unless otherwise specifically provided does not include a C. corporation."

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- **Section 2.** Section 15-30-2110, MCA, is amended to read:
- "15-30-2110. Adjusted gross income. (1) Subject to subsection (13), adjusted gross income is the taxpayer's federal adjusted gross income as defined in section 62 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 62, and in addition includes the following:
- (a) (i) interest received on obligations of another state or territory or county, municipality, district, or other political subdivision of another state, except to the extent that the interest is exempt from taxation by Montana under federal law;
- (ii) exempt-interest dividends as defined in section 852(b)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 852(b)(5), that are attributable to the interest referred to in subsection (1)(a)(i);
- (b) refunds received of federal income tax, to the extent that the deduction of the tax resulted in a reduction of Montana income tax liability;
- (c) that portion of a shareholder's income under subchapter S. of Chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code that has been reduced by any federal taxes paid by the subchapter S. corporation on the income;
  - (d) depreciation or amortization taken on a title plant as defined in 33-25-105;
- (e) the recovery during the tax year of an amount deducted in any prior tax year to the extent that the amount recovered reduced the taxpayer's Montana income tax in the year deducted;
- (f) if the state taxable distribution of an estate or trust is greater than the federal taxable distribution of the same estate or trust, the difference between the state taxable distribution and the federal taxable distribution of the same estate or trust for the same tax period; and
- (g) except for exempt-interest dividends described in subsection (2)(a)(ii), for tax years commencing after December 31, 2002, the amount of any dividend to the extent that the dividend is not included in federal adjusted gross income.
  - (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, adjusted gross income does not

- 1 include the following, which are exempt from taxation under this chapter:
- 2 (a) (i) all interest income from obligations of the United States government, the state of Montana, or a 3 county, municipality, district, or other political subdivision of the state and any other interest income that is exempt 4 from taxation by Montana under federal law;
  - (ii) exempt-interest dividends as defined in section 852(b)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 852(b)(5), that are attributable to the interest referred to in subsection (2)(a)(i);
  - (b) interest income earned by a taxpayer who is 65 years of age or older in a tax year up to and including \$800 for a taxpayer filing a separate return and \$1,600 for each combined joint return;
  - (c) (i) except as provided in subsection (2)(c)(ii), the first \$3,600 of all pension and annuity income received as defined in 15-30-2101;
    - (ii) for pension and annuity income described under subsection (2)(c)(i), as follows:
  - (A) each taxpayer filing singly, head of household, or married combined filing separately shall reduce the total amount of the exclusion provided in subsection (2)(c)(i) by \$2 for every \$1 of federal adjusted gross income in excess of \$30,000 as shown on the taxpayer's return;
  - (B) in the case of married taxpayers filing jointly combined joint, if both taxpayers are receiving pension or annuity income or if only one taxpayer is receiving pension or annuity income, the exclusion claimed as provided in subsection (2)(c)(i) must be reduced by \$2 for every \$1 of federal adjusted gross income in excess of \$30,000 as shown on their combined joint return;
    - (d) all Montana income tax refunds or tax refund credits;
    - (e) gain required to be recognized by a liquidating corporation under 15-31-113(1)(a)(ii);
  - (f) all tips or gratuities that are covered by section 3402(k) or service charges that are covered by section 3401 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, 26 U.S.C. 3402(k) or 3401, as amended and applicable on January 1, 1983, received by a person for services rendered to patrons of premises licensed to provide food, beverage, or lodging;
    - (g) all benefits received under the workers' compensation laws;
  - (h) all health insurance premiums paid by an employer for an employee if attributed as income to the employee under federal law, including premiums paid by the employer for an employee pursuant to 33-22-166;
  - (i) all money received because of a settlement agreement or judgment in a lawsuit brought against a manufacturer or distributor of "agent orange" for damages resulting from exposure to "agent orange";
    - (j) principal and income in a medical care savings account established in accordance with 15-61-201



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or withdrawn from an account for eligible medical expenses, as defined in 15-61-102, of the taxpayer or a dependent of the taxpayer or for the long-term care of the taxpayer or a dependent of the taxpayer;

- (k) principal and income in a first-time home buyer savings account established in accordance with 15-63-201 or withdrawn from an account for eligible costs, as provided in 15-63-202(7), for the first-time purchase of a single-family residence;
- (I) contributions or earnings withdrawn from a family education savings account or from a qualified tuition program established and maintained by another state as provided by section 529(b)(1)(A)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 529(b)(1)(A)(ii), for qualified higher education expenses, as defined in 15-62-103, of a designated beneficiary;
- (m) the recovery during the tax year of any amount deducted in any prior tax year to the extent that the recovered amount did not reduce the taxpayer's Montana income tax in the year deducted;
- (n) if the federal taxable distribution of an estate or trust is greater than the state taxable distribution of the same estate or trust, the difference between the federal taxable distribution and the state taxable distribution of the same estate or trust for the same tax period;
- (o) deposits, not exceeding the amount set forth in 15-30-3003, deposited in a Montana farm and ranch risk management account, as provided in 15-30-3001 through 15-30-3005, in any tax year for which a deduction is not provided for federal income tax purposes;
- (p) income of a dependent child that is included in the taxpayer's federal adjusted gross income pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code. The child is required to file a Montana personal income tax return if the child and taxpayer meet the filing requirements in 15-30-2602.
- (q) principal and income deposited in a health care expense trust account, as defined in 2-18-1303, or withdrawn from the account for payment of qualified health care expenses as defined in 2-18-1303;
  - (r) that part of the refundable credit provided in 33-22-2006 that reduces Montana tax below zero; and
- (s) the amount of the gain recognized from the sale or exchange of a mobile home park as provided in 15-31-163.
- (3) A shareholder of a DISC that is exempt from the corporate income tax under 15-31-102(1)(I) shall include in the shareholder's adjusted gross income the earnings and profits of the DISC in the same manner as provided by section 995 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 995, for all periods for which the DISC election is effective.
  - (4) A taxpayer who, in determining federal adjusted gross income, has reduced the taxpayer's business



deductions by an amount for wages and salaries for which a federal tax credit was elected under sections 38 and 51(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 38 and 51(a), is allowed to deduct the amount of the wages and salaries paid regardless of the credit taken. The deduction must be made in the year that the wages and salaries were used to compute the credit. In the case of a partnership or small business corporation, the deduction must be made to determine the amount of income or loss of the partnership or small business corporation.

- (5) Married taxpayers Two individuals filing a joint federal return who are required to include part of their social security benefits or part of their tier 1 railroad retirement benefits in federal adjusted gross income may split the federal base used in calculation of federal taxable social security benefits or federal taxable tier 1 railroad retirement benefits when they file separate Montana income tax returns. The federal base must be split equally on the Montana return.
- (6) Married taxpayers Two individuals filing a joint federal return who are allowed a capital loss deduction under section 1211 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 1211, and who file separate Montana income tax returns combined filing separately may claim the same amount of the capital loss deduction that is allowed on the federal return. If the allowable capital loss is clearly attributable to one spouse individual, the loss must be shown on that spouse's individual's return; otherwise, the loss must be split equally on each return.
- (7) In the case of passive and rental income losses, married taxpayers two individuals filing a joint federal return and who file separate Montana income tax returns combined filing separately are not required to recompute allowable passive losses according to the federal passive activity rules for married joint federal taxpayers filing separately under section 469 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 469. If the allowable passive loss is clearly attributable to one spouse individual, the loss must be shown on that spouse's individual's return; otherwise, the loss must be split equally on each return.
- (8) Married taxpayers Two individuals filing a joint federal return in which one or both of the taxpayers are allowed a deduction for an individual retirement contribution under section 219 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 219, and who file separate Montana income tax returns combined filing separately may claim the same amount of the deduction that is allowed on the federal return. The deduction must be attributed to the spouse taxpayer who made the contribution.
- (9) (a) Married taxpayers Two individuals filing a joint federal return who are allowed a deduction for interest paid for a qualified education loan under section 221 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 221, and who file separate Montana income tax returns combined filing separately may claim the same amount of the deduction that is allowed on the federal return. The deduction may be split equally on each return or in proportion

to each taxpayer's share of federal adjusted gross income.

(b) Married taxpayers Two individuals filing a joint federal return who are allowed a deduction for qualified tuition and related expenses under section 222 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 222, and who file separate Montana income tax returns combined filing separately may claim the same amount of the deduction that is allowed on the federal return. The deduction may be split equally on each return or in proportion to each taxpayer's share of federal adjusted gross income.

(10) A taxpayer receiving retirement disability benefits who has not attained 65 years of age by the end of the tax year and who has retired as permanently and totally disabled may exclude from adjusted gross income up to \$100 a week received as wages or payments in lieu of wages for a period during which the employee is absent from work due to the disability. If the adjusted gross income before this exclusion exceeds \$15,000, the excess reduces the exclusion by an equal amount. This limitation affects the amount of exclusion, but not the taxpayer's eligibility for the exclusion. If eligible, married individuals individual taxpayers filing with qualifying filers shall apply the exclusion separately, but the limitation for income exceeding \$15,000 is determined with respect to the spouses both individuals on their combined adjusted gross income. For the purpose of this subsection, "permanently and totally disabled" means unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determined physical or mental impairment lasting or expected to last at least 12 months.

- (11) (a) An individual who contributes to one or more accounts established under the Montana family education savings program or to a qualified tuition program established and maintained by another state as provided by section 529(b)(1)(A)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 529(b)(1)(A)(ii), may reduce adjusted gross income by the lesser of \$3,000 or the amount of the contribution. In the case of married taxpayers filing with qualifying filers, each spouse individual is entitled to a reduction, not in excess of \$3,000, for the spouses' individual's contributions to the accounts. Spouses The individuals may jointly elect to treat half of the total contributions made by the spouses individuals as being made by each spouse individual. The reduction in adjusted gross income under this subsection applies only with respect to contributions to an account of which the account owner is the taxpayer, the taxpayer's spouse a qualifying filer, or the taxpayer's child or stepchild if the taxpayer's child or stepchild is a Montana resident. The provisions of subsection (1)(e) do not apply with respect to withdrawals of contributions that reduced adjusted gross income.
- (b) Contributions made pursuant to this subsection (11) are subject to the recapture tax provided in 15-62-208.
  - (12) (a) A taxpayer may exclude the amount of the loan payment received pursuant to subsection



1 (12)(a)(iv), not to exceed \$5,000, from the taxpayer's adjusted gross income if the taxpayer:

- (i) is a health care professional licensed in Montana as provided in Title 37;
- (ii) is serving a significant portion of a designated geographic area, special population, or facility population in a federally designated health professional shortage area, a medically underserved area or population, or a federal nursing shortage county as determined by the secretary of health and human services or by the governor;
  - (iii) has had a student loan incurred as a result of health-related education; and
- (iv) has received a loan payment during the tax year made on the taxpayer's behalf by a loan repayment program described in subsection (12)(b) as an incentive to practice in Montana.
- (b) For the purposes of subsection (12)(a), a loan repayment program includes a federal, state, or qualified private program. A qualified private loan repayment program includes a licensed health care facility, as defined in 50-5-101, that makes student loan payments on behalf of the person who is employed by the facility as a licensed health care professional.
- (13) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), adjusted gross income does not include 40% of capital gains on the sale or exchange of capital assets before December 31, 1986, as capital gains are determined under subchapter P. of Chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code as it read on December 31, 1986.
- (14) By November 1 of each year, the department shall multiply the amount of pension and annuity income contained in subsection (2)(c)(i) and the federal adjusted gross income amounts in subsection (2)(c)(ii) by the inflation factor for that tax year, but using the year 2009 consumer price index, and rounding the results to the nearest \$10. The resulting amounts are effective for that tax year and must be used as the basis for the exemption determined under subsection (2)(c). (Subsection (2)(f) terminates on occurrence of contingency--sec. 3, Ch. 634, L. 1983; subsection (2)(o) terminates on occurrence of contingency--sec. 9, Ch. 262, L. 2001.)"

- **Section 3.** Section 15-30-2113, MCA, is amended to read:
- "15-30-2113. Determination of marital filing status. For purposes of this chapter:
- (1) the determination of whether an individual is married will file with a qualifying filer must be made as of the close of the individual's tax year, except that if the individual's spouse a person that would normally be a qualifying filer dies during the individual's tax year, the determination must be made as of the time of death; and
- (2) an individual legally separated from the individual's spouse previous qualifying filer under a decree of divorce or of separate maintenance may not be considered as married file a combined joint return or combined



- filing separately returns;
- (3) individuals may not file combined joint or combined filing separately for any tax year that a joint federal return was not filed; and
- (4) except as provided in 15-30-2602 and this section, an individual shall file a combined joint return or a combined filing separately return with the qualifying filer for any tax year that a joint federal return was filed."

- **Section 4.** Section 15-30-2114, MCA, is amended to read:
- "15-30-2114. Exemptions -- inflation adjustment. (1) Subject to subsection (6), an individual is allowed as deductions in computing taxable income the exemptions provided by subsections (2) through (5).
  - (2) (a) An exemption of \$1,900 is allowed for all taxpayers.
- (b) An additional exemption of \$1,900 is allowed for the spouse qualifying filer of the taxpayer if a separate return is made by the taxpayer and if the spouse qualifying filer, for the calendar year in which the tax year of the taxpayer begins, does not have gross income and is not the dependent of another taxpayer.
- (3) (a) An additional exemption of \$1,900 is allowed for the taxpayer if the taxpayer has attained the age of 65 before the close of the taxpayer's tax year.
- (b) An additional exemption of \$1,900 is allowed for the spouse <u>qualifying filer</u> of the taxpayer if a separate return is made by the taxpayer and if the spouse <u>qualifying filer</u> has attained the age of 65 before the close of the tax year and, for the calendar year in which the tax year of the taxpayer begins, does not have gross income and is not the dependent of another taxpayer.
- (4) (a) An additional exemption of \$1,900 is allowed for the taxpayer if the taxpayer is blind at the close of the taxpayer's tax year.
- (b) An additional exemption of \$1,900 is allowed for the spouse qualifying filer of the taxpayer if a separate return is made by the taxpayer and if the spouse qualifying filer is blind and, for the calendar year in which the tax year of the taxpayer begins, does not have gross income and is not the dependent of another taxpayer. For the purposes of this subsection (4)(b), the determination of whether the spouse qualifying filer is blind must be made as of the close of the tax year of the taxpayer, except that if the spouse qualifying filer dies during the tax year, the determination must be made as of the time of death provided in 15-30-2113.
- (c) For purposes of this subsection (4), an individual is blind only if the person's central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye with correcting lenses or if visual acuity is greater than 20/200 but is accompanied by a limitation in the fields of vision to an extent that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends

- 1 an angle no greater than 20 degrees.
- 2 (5) (a) An exemption of \$1,900 is allowed for each dependent:

3 (i) whose gross income for the calendar year in which the tax year of the taxpayer begins is less than 4 or equal to the exemption amount provided in subsection (2)(a); or

- (ii) who is a qualifying child as defined in section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 152, including a student as defined in that section.
- (b) An exemption is not allowed under this subsection for a dependent who has made a <u>combined</u> joint return with the dependent's <u>spouse qualifying filer</u> for the tax year beginning in the calendar year in which the tax year of the taxpayer begins.
- (6) The department, by November 1 of each year, shall multiply all the exemptions provided in this section by the inflation factor for that tax year and round the product to the nearest \$10. The resulting adjusted exemptions are effective for that tax year and must be used in calculating the tax imposed in 15-30-2103."

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- Section 5. Section 15-30-2131, MCA, is amended to read:
- "15-30-2131. Deductions allowed in computing net income. (1) In computing net income, there areallowed as deductions:
  - (a) the items referred to in sections 161, including the contributions referred to in 33-15-201(5)(b), and 211 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 161 and 211, subject to the following exceptions, which are not deductible:
  - (i) items provided for in 15-30-2133;
- 21 (ii) state income tax paid;
- 22 (iii) premium payments for medical care as provided in subsection (1)(g)(i);
- 23 (iv) long-term care insurance premium payments as provided in subsection (1)(g)(ii); and
- (v) a charitable contribution using a charitable gift annuity unless the annuity is a qualified charitable gift annuity as defined in 33-20-701;
  - (b) federal income tax paid within the tax year, not to exceed \$5,000 for each taxpayer filing singly, head of household, or married combined filing separately or \$10,000 if married and filing jointly filing combined joint;
  - (c) expenses of household and dependent care services as outlined in subsections (1)(c)(i) through (1)(c)(iii) and (2) and subject to the limitations and rules as set out in subsections (1)(c)(iv) through (1)(c)(vi), as follows:



1 (i) expenses for household and dependent care services necessary for gainful employment incurred for:

- (A) a dependent under 15 years of age for whom an exemption can be claimed;
- 3 (B) a dependent as allowable under 15-30-2114(5), except that the limitations for age and gross income 4 do not apply, who is unable to provide self-care because of physical or mental illness; and
- 5 (C) a spouse an individual taxpayer's qualifying filer who is unable to provide self-care because of 6 physical or mental illness;
  - (ii) employment-related expenses incurred for the following services, but only if the expenses are incurred to enable the taxpayer to be gainfully employed:
    - (A) household services that are attributable to the care of the qualifying individual; and
- 10 (B) care of an individual who qualifies under subsection (1)(c)(i);
  - (iii) expenses incurred in maintaining a household if over half of the cost of maintaining the household is furnished by an individual or, if the individual is married during the applicable period, is furnished by the an individual and the individual's spouse a qualifying filer;
    - (iv) the amounts deductible in subsections (1)(c)(i) through (1)(c)(iii), subject to the following limitations:
  - (A) a deduction is allowed under subsection (1)(c)(i) for employment-related expenses incurred during the year only to the extent that the expenses do not exceed \$4.800:
  - (B) expenses for services in the household are deductible under subsection (1)(c)(i) for employment-related expenses only if they are incurred for services in the taxpayer's household, except that employment-related expenses incurred for services outside the taxpayer's household are deductible, but only if incurred for the care of a qualifying individual described in subsection (1)(c)(i)(A) and only to the extent that the expenses incurred during the year do not exceed:
  - (I) \$2,400 in the case of one qualifying individual;
- 23 (II) \$3,600 in the case of two qualifying individuals; and
- 24 (III) \$4,800 in the case of three or more qualifying individuals;
  - (v) if the combined adjusted gross income of the taxpayers exceeds \$18,000 for the tax year during which the expenses are incurred, the amount of the employment-related expenses incurred, to be reduced by one-half of the excess of the combined adjusted gross income over \$18,000;
    - (vi) for purposes of this subsection (1)(c):
- (A) married couples an individual taxpayer filing with a qualifying filer shall file a combined joint return
  or file combined filing separately on the same form;



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(B) if the taxpayer is married files with a qualifying filer during any period of the tax year, employment-related expenses incurred are deductible only if:

- (I) both <del>spouses</del> individuals are gainfully employed, in which case the expenses are deductible only to the extent that they are a direct result of the employment; or
  - (II) the spouse qualifying filer is a qualifying individual described in subsection (1)(c)(i)(C);
- 6 (C) an individual legally separated from the individual's spouse previous qualifying filer under a decree of divorce or of separate maintenance may not be considered as married is subject to the provisions of 15-30-2113;
  - (D) the deduction for employment-related expenses must be divided equally between the spouses taxpayer and the qualifying filer when filing combined filing separately on the same form;
  - (E) payment made to a child of the taxpayer who is under 19 years of age at the close of the tax year and payments made to an individual with respect to whom a deduction is allowable under 15-30-2114(5) are not deductible as employment-related expenses:
  - (d) in the case of an individual, political contributions determined in accordance with the provisions of section 218(a) and (b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (now repealed) that were in effect for the tax year that ended December 31, 1978;
  - (e) that portion of expenses for organic fertilizer and inorganic fertilizer produced as a byproduct allowed as a deduction under 15-32-303 that was not otherwise deducted in computing taxable income;
  - (f) contributions to the child abuse and neglect prevention program provided for in 52-7-101, subject to the conditions set forth in 15-30-2143:
  - (g) the entire amount of premium payments made by the taxpayer, except premiums deducted in determining Montana adjusted gross income, or for which a credit was claimed under 15-30-2366, for:
  - (i) insurance for medical care, as defined in 26 U.S.C. 213(d), for coverage of the taxpayer, the taxpayer's dependents, and the parents and grandparents of the taxpayer; and
  - (ii) long-term care insurance policies or certificates that provide coverage primarily for any qualified long-term care services, as defined in 26 U.S.C. 7702B(c), for:
    - (A) the benefit of the taxpayer for tax years beginning after December 31, 1994; or
- 28 (B) the benefit of the taxpayer, the taxpayer's dependents, and the parents and grandparents of the 29 taxpayer for tax years beginning after December 31, 1996;
  - (h) light vehicle registration fees, as provided for in 61-3-321(2) and 61-3-562, paid during the tax year;



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2 (i) per capita livestock fees imposed pursuant to 15-24-921, 15-24-922, 81-6-104, 81-6-204, 81-6-209, 81-7-118, or 81-7-201.

- (2) (a) Subject to the conditions of subsection (1)(c), a taxpayer who operates a family day-care home or a group day-care home, as these terms are defined in 52-2-703, and who cares for the taxpayer's own child and at least one unrelated child in the ordinary course of business may deduct employment-related expenses considered to have been paid for the care of the child.
- (b) The amount of employment-related expenses considered to have been paid by the taxpayer is equal to the amount that the taxpayer charges for the care of a child of the same age for the same number of hours of care. The employment-related expenses apply regardless of whether any expenses actually have been paid. Employment-related expenses may not exceed the amounts specified in subsection (1)(c)(iv)(B).
- (c) Only a day-care operator who is licensed and registered as required in 52-2-721 is allowed the deduction under this subsection (2)."

**Section 6.** Section 15-30-2132, MCA, is amended to read:

"15-30-2132. Standard deduction. (1) A standard deduction equal to 20% of adjusted gross income is allowed if elected by the taxpayer on a return. The standard deduction is in lieu of all deductions allowed under 15-30-2131. The minimum standard deduction is \$1,580, as adjusted under the provisions of subsection (2), or 20% of adjusted gross income, whichever is greater, to a maximum standard deduction of \$3,560, as adjusted under the provisions of subsection (2). However, in the case of a single combined joint return of husband and wife or in the case of a single individual who qualifies to file as a head of household on the federal income tax return, the minimum standard deduction is twice the amount of the minimum standard deduction for a single return, as adjusted under the provisions of subsection (2), or 20% of adjusted gross income, whichever is greater, to a maximum standard deduction of twice the amount of the maximum standard deduction for a single return, as adjusted under the provisions of subsection (2). The In the case of an individual taxpayer filing with a qualifying filer, the standard deduction may not be allowed to either the husband or the wife individual if the tax of one of the spouses individuals is determined without regard to the standard deduction. For purposes of this section, the determination of whether an individual is married must be made as of the last day of the tax year unless one of the spouses dies during the tax year, in which case the determination must be made as of the date of death taxpayer files with a qualifying filer is determined pursuant to 15-30-2113.



(2) By November 1 of each year, the department shall multiply both the minimum and the maximum standard deduction for single returns by the inflation factor for that tax year and round the product to the nearest \$10. The resulting adjusted deductions are effective for that tax year and must be used in calculating the tax imposed in 15-30-2103."

- **Section 7.** Section 15-30-2342, MCA, is amended to read:
- "15-30-2342. Credit for preservation of historic buildings. (1) There is allowed as a credit against the taxes imposed by 15-30-2103 a percentage of the credit allowed for qualified rehabilitation expenditures with respect to any certified historic building located in Montana as provided in 15-31-151.
- (2) The credit may not be allocated between spouses an individual taxpayer and a qualifying filer unless the property is used by a small business corporation or a partnership in which they are shareholders or partners."

- **Section 8.** Section 15-30-2364, MCA, is amended to read:
- "15-30-2364. Adoption tax credit -- limitations. (1) There is allowed a tax credit against the tax imposed by 15-30-2103 or 15-30-2151 for the legal adoption of an eligible child for which the taxpayer qualifies for the credit for adoption expenses under section 23 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 23.
- (2) The amount of the credit allowed under subsection (1) is equal to \$1,000 in the tax year the adoption is final. Only one credit is allowed for each eligible child. However, married taxpayers filing combined filing separately on the same form may allocate the credit between spouses the two individuals.
  - (3) To claim the credit under this section, the taxpayer shall:
- (a) include the name, age, and federal tax identification number, if known, of the eligible child on the tax return; and
- (b) provide other information as required by the department, including identification of an agent assisting with the adoption.
- (4) The credit allowed by this section may not be refunded if the taxpayer has a tax liability less than the amount of the credit. If the sum of credit carryovers from the credit, if any, and the amount of credit allowed by this section for the tax year exceed the taxpayer's tax liability for the current tax year, the excess attributable to the current tax year's credit is a credit carryover to the 5 succeeding tax years. The entire amount of unused credit must be carried forward to the earliest of the succeeding years, and the oldest available unused credit must be used first."

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2 Section 9. Section 15-30-2366, MCA, is amended to read:

3 "15-30-2366. Credit for expense of caring for certain elderly family members. (1) There is a credit 4 against the tax imposed by this chapter for qualified elderly care expenses paid by an individual for the care of 5 a qualifying family member during the taxable year.

- (2) A qualifying family member is an individual who:
- (a) is related to the taxpayer by blood or marriage;
- 8 (b) (i) is at least 65 years of age; or
- 9 (ii) has been determined to be disabled by the social security administration; and
- (c) has a family income of \$15,000 or less for an unmarried individual that is permitted to file a single or head of household return and \$30,000 or less for a married individual an individual that is permitted to file with 12 a qualifying filer for the taxable year.
  - (3) For purposes of this section, "family income" means, in the case of an individual who is not married permitted to file a single or head of household return, the gross income, including all nontaxable income, of the individual or, in the case of a married individual an individual who is permitted to file with a qualifying filer, the gross income, including all nontaxable income, of the individual and the individual's spouse both individuals.
    - (4) Qualified elderly care expenses include:
  - (a) payments by the taxpayer for home health agency services, personal-care attendant services and care in a long-term care facility, as defined in 50-5-101, that is licensed by the department of public health and human services, homemaker services, adult day care, respite care, or health care equipment and supplies:
  - (i) provided to the qualifying family member;
- 22 (ii) provided by an organization or individual not related to the taxpayer or the qualifying family member;
- 24 (iii) not compensated for by insurance or otherwise;
- 25 (b) premiums paid for long-term care insurance coverage for a qualifying family member.
- 26 (5) The percentage amount of credit allowable under this section is:
- 27 (a) for a taxpayer whose adjusted gross income does not exceed \$25,000, 30% of qualified elderly care 28 expenses; or
- 29 (b) for a taxpayer whose adjusted gross income exceeds \$25,000, the greater of:
- 30 (i) 20% of qualified elderly care expenses; or



(ii) 30% of qualified elderly care expenses, less 1% for each \$2,000 or fraction of \$2,000 by which the adjusted gross income of the taxpayer for the taxable year exceeds \$25,000.

- (6) The dollar amount of credit allowable under this section is:
- (a) reduced by \$1 for each dollar of the adjusted gross income over \$50,000 for a taxpayer whose adjusted gross income exceeds \$50,000;
  - (b) limited to \$5,000 per qualifying family member in a taxable year and to \$10,000 total for two or more family members in a taxable year;
  - (c) prorated among multiple taxpayers who each contribute to qualified elderly care expenses of the same qualified family member in a taxable year in the same proportion that their contributions bear to the total qualified elderly care expenses paid by those taxpayers for that qualified family member.
  - (7) A deduction or credit is not allowed under any other provision of this chapter with respect to any amount for which a credit is allowed under this section. The credit allowed under this section may not be claimed as a carryback or carryforward and may not be refunded if the taxpayer has no tax liability.
  - (8) In the case of a married an individual filing a separate return combined filing separately, the percentage amount of credit under subsection (5) and the dollar amount of credit under subsection (6) are limited to one-half of the figures indicated in those subsections."

Section 10. Section 15-30-2387, MCA, is amended to read:

"15-30-2387. (Temporary) Voluntary checkoff for nongame wildlife programs. (1) Each individual taxpayer who is required to file an income tax return under Title 15, chapter 30, may contribute to the funding of nongame wildlife programs in Montana by marking the appropriate box on the state income tax return.

(2) The department shall include on each Montana state individual income tax return form a clear and conspicuous provision by which the taxpayer may indicate a contribution to nongame wildlife programs. The provision must be in substantially the following form:

Montana nongame wildlife funding. Check the appropriate blank if you wish to contribute, in addition to your existing tax liability, \_\_\_\_ \$5, \_\_\_\_ \$10, or \_\_\_\_ (specify an amount) to fund nongame wildlife programs in Montana. If a <u>combined</u> joint return, check the appropriate blank if your <del>spouse</del> <u>qualifying filer</u> wishes to contribute, in addition to your existing tax liability, \_\_\_\_ \$5, \_\_\_\_ \$10, or \_\_\_\_ (specify an amount) for the same purpose.

(3) Money received under this section, after the department has deducted the administrative charge



1 provided for in 15-30-2386, must be deposited in the nongame wildlife account established by 87-5-121. 2 (Terminates on occurrence of contingency--secs. 1, 2, Ch. 321, L. 1999.)" 3 4 **Section 11.** Section 15-30-2389, MCA, is amended to read: 5 "15-30-2389. Voluntary checkoff for agriculture literacy in Montana schools program. (1) Each 6 individual taxpayer who is required to file an income tax return under Title 15, chapter 30, may contribute to the 7 funding of the agriculture literacy in Montana schools program by marking an appropriate box on the state income 8 tax return. 9 (2) The department shall include on each Montana state individual income tax return form a clear and 10 conspicuous provision by which the taxpayer may indicate a contribution to the agriculture literacy in Montana schools program. The contribution may be made from the amount to be refunded to the taxpayer or, if no refund 11 12 is due, must be in addition to the amount of tax required to be paid. The provision must be in substantially the 13 following form: 14 Check the appropriate blank if you wish to contribute \_\_\_ \$5, \_\_\_ \$10, \_\_\_ \$20, or \_\_\_ (specify an 15 amount) of your tax refund, or add such amount to your tax payment, to fund the agriculture literacy in Montana 16 schools program. If a combined joint return, check the appropriate blank if your spouse qualifying filer wishes to designate \_\_\_\_\$5, \_\_\_\$10, \_\_\_\$20, or \_\_\_\_ (specify an amount) for the same purpose. 17 18 (3) Money received under this section must be deposited in the agriculture literacy in Montana schools 19 program account established by 15-30-2388 after the department has deducted the amount necessary for the 20 department to administer this section as provided in 15-30-2386." 21 22 **Section 12.** Section 15-30-2390, MCA, is amended to read: 23 "15-30-2390. (Temporary) Voluntary checkoff for child abuse and neglect prevention program. 24 (1) Each individual taxpayer who is required to file an income tax return under this chapter and who is entitled 25 to a refund may contribute to the child abuse and neglect prevention program provided for in 52-7-101, by 26 marking the appropriate box on the state income tax return. 27 (2) Each Montana state individual income tax return form must contain a provision for indicating a 28 contribution to the child abuse and neglect prevention program in substantially the following form: 29 Child abuse and neglect prevention program. Check this box if you wish to designate \$5 \_\_\_\_, \$10 \_\_\_\_, 30 or more \_\_\_\_ (indicate amount) of your tax refund to help fund the child abuse and neglect prevention program

1 in Montana. On If a combined joint return, check the corresponding box for your spouse appropriate blank if your spouse gualifying filer wishes to contribute \$5 \_\_\_\_, \$10 \_\_\_\_, or more \_\_\_\_ (indicate amount) of the refund for the 2 3 same purpose. 4 (3) Money received under this section must be deposited in the children's trust fund account, created 5 under 52-7-102, after the department has deducted the amount necessary for the department to administer this 6 section as provided in 15-30-2386. (Terminates on occurrence of contingency--secs. 1, 2, Ch. 321, L. 1999.)" 7 8 **Section 13.** Section 15-30-2392, MCA, is amended to read: 9 "15-30-2392. Voluntary checkoff for Montana military relief fund. (1) Each individual taxpayer who 10 is required to file an income tax return under Title 15, chapter 30, may contribute to the Montana military family 11 relief fund established in 10-1-1302 by marking the appropriate box on the state income tax return. 12 (2) The department shall include on each Montana state individual income tax return form a clear and 13 conspicuous provision by which the taxpayer may indicate a contribution to the Montana military family relief fund. 14 The contribution may be made from the amount to be refunded to the taxpayer or, if no refund is due, must be 15 in addition to the amount of tax required to be paid. The provision must be in substantially the following form: 16 Montana military family relief fund. Check the appropriate blank if you wish to contribute, in addition to your existing tax liability, \_\_\_\_\$5, \_\_\_\_\$10, or \_\_\_\_ (specify an amount) to support the Montana military family relief 17 18 fund. If a combined joint return, check the appropriate blank if your spouse gualifying filer wishes to contribute, in addition to your existing tax liability, \_\_\_\_ \$5, \_\_\_\_ \$10, or \_\_\_\_ (specify an amount) for the same purpose. 19 20 (3) Money received under this section must be deposited into the account established in 10-1-1303 after 21 the department has deducted the administrative charge provided for in 15-30-2386."

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**Section 14.** Section 15-30-2512, MCA, is amended to read:

"15-30-2512. Estimated tax -- payment -- exceptions -- interest. (1) (a) Each individual subject to tax under this chapter, except farmers or ranchers as defined in subsection (6), shall pay for the tax year, through employer withholding, as provided in 15-30-2502, through payment of estimated tax in four installments, as provided in subsection (2) of this section, or through a combination of employer withholding and estimated tax payments, at least:

- (i) 90% of the tax for the current tax year, less tax credits and withholding allowed the taxpayer; or
- (ii) an amount equal to 100% of the individual's tax liability for the preceding tax year, if the preceding tax



1 year was a period of 12 months and if the individual filed a return for the tax year.

- 2 (b) Payment of estimated taxes under this section is not required if:
- 3 (i) the combined tax liability of employer withholding and estimated tax for the current year is less than
- 4 \$500 after reductions for credits and withholding;

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- (ii) the individual did not have any tax liability for the preceding tax year, which was a tax year of 12
- 6 months, and if the individual was a citizen or resident of the United States throughout that tax year;
  - (iii) the underpayment was caused by reason of casualty, disaster, or other unusual circumstances that the department determines to constitute good cause; or
- 9 (iv) the individual retired in the tax year after having attained the age of 62 or if the individual became 10 disabled in the tax year. In addition, payment of estimated taxes under this section is not required in the tax year 11 following the tax year in which the individual retired or became disabled.
  - (2) Estimated taxes must be paid in four installments according to one of the following schedules:
- (a) Subject to the due date provision in 15-30-2604(1)(b), for each taxpayer whose tax year begins on
  January 1, estimated tax payments are due on the following dates:

15 Installment Date

16 First April 15

17 Second June 15

18 Third September 15

19 Fourth January 15 of the following tax year

20 (b) Subject to the due date provision in 15-30-2604(1)(b), for each taxpayer whose tax year begins on 21 a date other than January 1, estimated tax payments are due on the following dates:

22 Installment Date

23 First 15th day of the 4th month following the beginning of the tax year

24 Second 15th day of the 6th month following the beginning of the tax year

25 Third 15th day of the 9th month following the beginning of the tax year

26 Fourth 15th day of the month following the close of the tax year

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (4), each installment must be 25% of the required annual payment determined pursuant to subsection (1). If the taxpayer's tax situation changes, each succeeding installment must be proportionally changed so that the balance of the required annual payment is paid in equal installments over the remaining period of time.



(b) If the taxpayer's tax situation changes after the date for the first installment or any subsequent installment, as specified in subsection (2)(a) or (2)(b), so that the taxpayer is required to pay estimated taxes, the taxpayer shall pay 25% for each succeeding installment except for the first one in which a payment is required. For estimated taxes required to be paid beginning with the second installment provided for in subsection (2)(a) or (2)(b), the taxpayer shall pay 50% for that installment and 25% for the third and fourth installments, respectively. For estimated taxes required to be paid beginning with the third installment provided for in subsection (2)(a) or (2)(b), the taxpayer shall pay 75% for that installment and 25% for the fourth installment.

- (4) (a) If for any required installment the taxpayer determines that the installment payment is less than the amount determined under subsection (3)(a), the lower amount may be paid as an annualized income installment.
- (b) For any required installment, the annualized income installment is the applicable percentage described in subsection (4)(c) applied to the tax computed on the basis of annualized taxable income in the tax year for the months ending before the due date for the installment less the total amount of any prior required installments for the tax year.
- (c) For the purposes of this subsection (4), the applicable percentage is determined according to the following schedule:

17 Required Installment Applicable Percentage 18 First 22.5% 19 Second 45% 20 Third 67.5% 90%

- (d) A reduction in a required installment resulting from the application of an annualized income installment must be recaptured by increasing the amount of the next required installment, determined under subsection (3)(a), by the amount of the reduction. Any subsequent installment must be increased by the amount of the reduction until the amount has been recaptured.
- (5) (a) If an estimated tax, an employer withholding tax, or a combination of estimated tax and employer withholding tax is underpaid, there must be added to the amount due under this chapter interest on the amount of the underpayment as provided in 15-1-216. The interest is computed on the amount of the underpayment, as determined in subsection (5)(b), for the period from the time the payment was due to the date payment was made or to the 15th day of the 4th month of the year following the tax year in which the payment was to be made,



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- (b) For the purpose of determining the amount of interest due in subsection (5)(a), the amount of the underpayment is the required installment amount less the installment amount paid, if any, on or before the due date for the installment.
- (c) For the purpose of determining the amount of interest due in subsection (5)(a), an estimated payment must be credited against unpaid required installments in the order in which those installments are required to be paid.
- (d) For a married taxpayer filing combined filing separately on the same form, the interest provided for in subsection (5)(a) must be computed on the combined tax liability after reductions for credits and withholding, as shown on the taxpayer's return.
- (e) Interest may not be charged with respect to any underpayment of the fourth installment of estimated taxes if:
  - (i) the taxpayer pays in full the amount computed on the return as payable; and
- (ii) the taxpayer files a return on or before the last day of the month following the close of the tax year referred to in subsection (2)(a) or (2)(b).
- (6) For the purposes of this section, "farmer or rancher" means a taxpayer who derives at least 66 2/3% of the taxpayer's gross income, as defined in 15-30-2101, from farming or ranching operations, or both.
- (7) The department shall promulgate rules governing reasonable extensions of time for paying the estimated tax. An extension may not be for more than 6 months."

**Section 15.** Section 15-30-2602, MCA, is amended to read:

"15-30-2602. Returns and payment of tax -- penalty and interest -- refunds -- credits -- inflation adjustment. (1) For both resident and nonresident taxpayers, each single individual and each married individual not filing a combined joint return with a spouse and having a gross income for the tax year of more than \$3,560, as adjusted under the provisions of subsection (6), and married individuals each individual with a qualifying filer not filing separate returns combined filing separately and having a combined gross income for the tax year of more than \$7,120, as adjusted under the provisions of subsection (6), are is liable for a return to be filed on forms and according to rules that the department may prescribe. The gross income amounts referred to in this subsection (1) must be increased by \$1,900, as adjusted under the provisions of 15-30-2114(6), for each additional personal exemption allowance that the taxpayer is entitled to claim for the taxpayer and the taxpayer's

1 spouse qualifying filer under 15-30-2114(3) and (4).

(2) In accordance with instructions set forth by the department, each taxpayer who is married and living with a husband or wife qualifying filer and is required to file a return may, at the taxpayer's option, file a combined joint return with the husband or wife qualifying filer even though one of the spouses individuals has neither gross income nor deductions. If a combined joint return is made, the tax must be computed on the aggregate taxable income and, subject to 15-30-2646, the liability with respect to the tax is joint and several. If a combined joint return has been filed for a tax year, the spouses individuals may not file separate returns after the time for filing the return of either has expired unless the department consents.

- (3) If a taxpayer is unable to make the taxpayer's own return, the return must be made by an authorized agent or by a guardian or other person charged with the care of the person or property of the taxpayer.
- (4) All taxpayers, including but not limited to those subject to the provisions of 15-30-2502 and 15-30-2512, shall compute the amount of income tax payable and shall, on or before the date required by this chapter for filing a return, pay to the department any balance of income tax remaining unpaid after crediting the amount withheld, as provided by 15-30-2502, and any payment made by reason of an estimated tax return provided for in 15-30-2512. However, the tax computed must be greater by \$1 than the amount withheld and paid by estimated return as provided in this chapter. If the amount of tax withheld and the payment of estimated tax exceed by more than \$1 the amount of income tax as computed, the taxpayer is entitled to a refund of the excess.
- (5) If the department determines that the amount of tax due is greater than the amount of tax computed by the taxpayer on the return, the department shall mail a notice to the taxpayer as provided in 15-30-2642 of the additional tax proposed to be assessed, including penalty and interest as provided in 15-1-216.
- (6) By November 1 of each year, the department shall multiply the minimum amount of gross income necessitating the filing of a return by the inflation factor for the tax year. These adjusted amounts are effective for that tax year, and persons who have gross incomes less than these adjusted amounts are not required to file a return.
- (7) Individual income tax forms distributed by the department for each tax year must contain instructions and tables based on the adjusted base year structure for that tax year."

**Section 16.** Section 15-30-2618, MCA, is amended to read:

**"15-30-2618. Confidentiality of tax records.** (1) Except as provided in 5-12-303, 15-1-106, 17-7-111, and subsections (8) and (9) of this section, in accordance with a proper judicial order, or as otherwise provided



1 by law, it is unlawful to divulge or make known in any manner:

- (a) the amount of income or any particulars set forth or disclosed in any individual report or individual return required under this chapter or any other information secured in the administration of this chapter; or
- (b) any federal return or federal return information disclosed on any return or report required by rule of the department or under this chapter.
- (2) (a) The officers charged with the custody of the reports and returns may not be required to produce them or evidence of anything contained in them in an action or proceeding in a court, except in an action or proceeding:
  - (i) to which the department is a party under the provisions of this chapter or any other taxing act; or
- (ii) on behalf of a party to any action or proceedings under the provisions of this chapter or other taxes when the reports or facts shown by the reports are directly involved in the action or proceedings.
- (b) The court may require the production of and may admit in evidence only as much of the reports or of the facts shown by the reports as are pertinent to the action or proceedings.
  - (3) This section does not prohibit:
- (a) the delivery to a taxpayer or the taxpayer's authorized representative of a certified copy of any return or report filed in connection with the taxpayer's tax;
- (b) the publication of statistics classified to prevent the identification of particular reports or returns and the items of particular reports or returns; or
- (c) the inspection by the attorney general or other legal representative of the state of the report or return of any taxpayer who brings an action to set aside or review the tax based on the report or return or against whom an action or proceeding has been instituted in accordance with the provisions of 15-30-2630.
- (4) The department may deliver to a taxpayer's spouse qualifying filer the taxpayer's return or information related to the return for a tax year if the spouse qualifying filer and the taxpayer filed the return with the filing status of married combined filing separately on the same return. The information being provided to the spouse qualifying filer or reported on the return, including subsequent adjustments or amendments to the return, must be treated in the same manner as if the spouse qualifying filer and the taxpayer filed the return using a combined joint filing status for that tax year.
- (5) Reports and returns must be preserved for at least 3 years and may be preserved until the department orders them to be destroyed.
  - (6) Any offense against subsections (1) through (5) is punishable by a fine not exceeding \$500. If the



offender is an officer or employee of the state, the offender must be dismissed from office or employment and may not hold any public office or public employment in this state for a period of 1 year after dismissal or, in the case of a former officer or employee, for 1 year after conviction.

- (7) This section may not be construed to prohibit the department from providing taxpayer return information and information from employers' payroll withholding reports to:
- (a) the department of labor and industry to be used for the purpose of investigation and prevention of noncompliance, tax evasion, fraud, and abuse under the unemployment insurance laws; or
- (b) the state fund to be used for the purpose of investigation and prevention of noncompliance, fraud, and abuse under the workers' compensation program.
- (8) The department may permit the commissioner of internal revenue of the United States or the proper officer of any state imposing a tax upon the incomes of individuals or the authorized representative of either officer to inspect the return of income of any individual or may furnish to the officer or an authorized representative an abstract of the return of income of any individual or supply the officer with information concerning an item of income contained in a return or disclosed by the report of an investigation of the income or return of income of an individual, but the permission may be granted or information furnished only if the statutes of the United States or of the other state grant substantially similar privileges to the proper officer of this state charged with the administration of this chapter.
  - (9) On written request to the director or a designee of the director, the department shall furnish:
- (a) to the department of justice all information necessary to identify those persons qualifying for the additional exemption for blindness pursuant to 15-30-2114(4), for the purpose of enabling the department of justice to administer the provisions of 61-5-105;
- (b) to the department of public health and human services information acquired under 15-30-2616, pertaining to an applicant for public assistance, reasonably necessary for the prevention and detection of public assistance fraud and abuse, provided notice to the applicant has been given;
- (c) to the department of labor and industry for the purpose of prevention and detection of fraud and abuse in and eligibility for benefits under the unemployment compensation and workers' compensation programs information on whether a taxpayer who is the subject of an ongoing investigation by the department of labor and industry is an employee, an independent contractor, or self-employed;
- (d) to the department of fish, wildlife, and parks specific information that is available from income tax returns and required under 87-2-102 to establish the residency requirements of an applicant for hunting and



1 fishing licenses;

(e) to the board of regents information required under 20-26-1111;

(f) to the legislative fiscal analyst and the office of budget and program planning individual income tax information as provided in 5-12-303, 15-1-106, and 17-7-111. The information provided to the office of budget and program planning must be the same as the information provided to the legislative fiscal analyst.

- (g) to the department of transportation farm income information based on the most recent income tax return filed by an applicant applying for a refund under 15-70-223 or 15-70-362, provided that notice to the applicant has been given as provided in 15-70-223 and 15-70-362. The information obtained by the department of transportation is subject to the same restrictions on disclosure as are individual income tax returns.
- (h) to the commissioner of insurance's office all information necessary for the administration of the small business health insurance tax credit provided for in Title 33, chapter 22, part 20."

**Section 17.** Section 15-30-2632, MCA, is amended to read:

"15-30-2632. Deferment of taxes for person in military service -- filing of return. (1) The collection of the tax imposed by 15-30-2103 from a person in the military service, as defined by section 511 of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 App. U.S.C. 511, as amended, whether due prior to or during the person's period of military service, must be deferred for not more than 180 days after the termination of the person's period of military service if the person's ability to pay the tax is materially impaired by reason of military service.

- (2) Interest and penalty on any amount of tax that is deferred for any period under 15-30-2633 or this section may not accrue for the period of deferment by reason of nonpayment. The running of any statute of limitations against the payment of the tax by any lawful means must be suspended for the period of military service of any person for whom the collection of the tax is deferred under this section and for an additional period of 1 year beginning with the day following the period of military service.
- (3) In accordance with the provisions of section 7508 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 7508, the individual income tax return of a person serving in a combat zone or participating in a contingency operation and of the person's spouse qualifying filer is due on or before 180 days after the time of disregarded service plus the disregarded period of qualified hospitalization attributable to an injury suffered while serving in the combat zone or contingency operation."

Section 18. Section 15-30-2646, MCA, is amended to read:



1 "15-30-2646. Relief from joint and several liability on combined joint return -- limitations -- rules. 2 (1) A taxpayer who has obtained relief from joint and several liability under section 6015 of the Internal Revenue 3 Code, 26 U.S.C. 6015, may apply to the department for relief from joint and several liability of the tax imposed by this chapter. The taxpayer must have filed a Montana combined joint return for each of the tax years for which 4 5 relief is sought under this section. 6 (2) In applying for relief under this section, the taxpayer shall provide the department with the following: 7 (a) the tax years for which relief is sought; 8 (b) complete copies of all correspondence sent to and received from the internal revenue service; 9 (c) any court order stating that the taxpayer's spouse qualifying filer or former spouse qualifying filer is 10 responsible for paying the Montana individual income tax liability; and 11 (d) other information demonstrating that it would be unfair to hold the taxpayer responsible for the tax, 12 penalty, and interest. 13 (3) If the department determines, after consideration of the facts and circumstances presented by the 14 taxpayer, that it would be unfair to hold the taxpayer responsible for some or all of the tax, penalty, and interest, 15 the department shall grant the taxpayer relief from joint and several liability. The relief from joint and several 16 liability granted by the department: 17 (a) must be based on the same circumstances for which relief was granted the taxpayer by the internal 18 revenue service; and 19 (b) may not exceed the relief granted by the internal revenue service. 20 (4) The department shall adopt rules to implement and administer this section, including but not limited 21 to establishing procedures for applying for relief allowed under this section." 22 23 **Section 19.** Section 15-61-102, MCA, is amended to read: 24 "15-61-102. Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless it clearly appears otherwise, the following 25 definitions apply: 26 (1) "Account administrator" means: 27 (a) a state or federally chartered bank, savings and loan association, credit union, or trust company; 28 (b) a health care insurer as defined in 33-22-125;

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(d) an employer if the employer has a self-insured health plan under ERISA;

(c) a certified public accountant licensed to practice in this state pursuant to Title 37, chapter 50;

1 (e) the account holder or an employee for whose benefit the account in question is established;

- 2 (f) a broker, insurance producer, or investment adviser regulated by the commissioner of insurance;
  - (g) an attorney licensed to practice law in this state;

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- 4 (h) a licensed public accountant or a person who is an enrolled agent allowed to practice before the 5 United States internal revenue service.
  - (2) "Account holder" means an individual who is a resident of this state and who establishes a medical care savings account or for whose benefit the account is established.
  - (3) "Dependent" means the spouse qualifying filer, as defined in 15-30-2101, of the employee or account holder or a child of the employee or account holder if the child is:
- 10 (a) under 23 years of age and enrolled as a full-time student at an accredited college or university or is under 19 years of age:
  - (b) legally entitled to the provision of proper or necessary subsistence, education, medical care, or other care necessary for the health, guidance, or well-being of the child and is not otherwise emancipated, self-supporting, married, or a member of the armed forces of the United States; or
    - (c) mentally or physically incapacitated to the extent that the child is not self-sufficient.
  - (4) "Eligible medical expense" means an expense paid by the employee or account holder for medical care defined by 26 U.S.C. 213(d) for the employee or account holder or a dependent of the employee or account holder.
    - (5) "Employee" means an employed individual for whose benefit or for the benefit of whose dependents a medical care savings account is established. The term includes a self-employed individual.
      - (6) "ERISA" means the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, 29 U.S.C. 1001, et seq.
  - (7) "Medical care savings account" or "account" means an account established with an account administrator in this state pursuant to 15-61-201."

Section 20. Section 15-62-207, MCA, is amended to read:

"15-62-207. Deductions for contributions. An individual who contributes to one or more accounts in a tax year is entitled to reduce the individual's adjusted gross income, in accordance with 15-30-2110(11), by the total amount of the contributions, but not more than \$3,000. The contribution must be made to an account owned by the contributor, the contributor's spouse qualifying filer, as defined in 15-30-2101, or the contributor's child or stepchild if the contributor's child or stepchild is a Montana resident."



- **Section 21.** Section 15-63-102, MCA, is amended to read:
- **"15-63-102. Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:
  - (1) "Account administrator" means:
  - (a) a state or federally chartered bank, savings and loan association, credit union, or trust company;
- 7 (b) a certified public accountant or a licensed public accountant licensed to practice in this state pursuant 8 to Title 37, chapter 50; or
  - (c) the account holder.
  - (2) "Account holder" means an individual who is a resident of this state and who establishes, individually or jointly, a first-time home buyer savings account. The account holder must also be a first-time home buyer. A married taxpayer gualifying filer, as defined in 15-30-2101, filing combined filing separately, as defined in 15-30-2101, may be an account holder if the account is established separately from the taxpayer's spouse qualifying filer. Married taxpayers Taxpayers filing jointly combined joint with qualifying filers are considered as the account holder.
  - (3) "Eligible costs" means the downpayment and allowable closing costs for the purchase of a single-family residence in Montana by a first-time home buyer.
  - (4) "First-time home buyer" means an individual who has never owned or purchased under contract for deed, either individually or jointly, a single-family residence in Montana or out-of-state.
  - (5) "First-time home buyer savings account" or "account" means an account established with an account administrator in this state pursuant to 15-63-201.
  - (6) "Single-family residence" means an owner-occupied residence in Montana, including a manufactured home, trailer, or mobile home, that is an improvement to real property or a condominium unit that is owned by or that has been purchased under contract for deed by a person, individually or jointly."

- **Section 22.** Section 15-63-202, MCA, is amended to read:
- "15-63-202. Tax exemption -- conditions. (1) Except as provided in this section, the amount of principal provided for in subsection (2) contributed annually by an account holder to an account and all interest or other income on the principal may be excluded from the adjusted gross income of the account holder and is exempt from taxation, in accordance with 15-30-2110(2)(k), as long as the principal and interest or other income is

contained within the account or withdrawn only for eligible costs for the purchase of a single-family residence by 2 a first-time home buyer. Any part of the principal or income, or both, withdrawn from an account may not be excluded under subsection (2) and this subsection if the amount is withdrawn from the account and used for a purpose other than for eligible costs for the purchase of a single-family residence.

- (2) (a) An account holder who files singly, head of household, or married combined filing separately, as defined in 15-30-2101, may exclude as an annual contribution in 1 year up to \$3,000.
- (b) An account holder who files jointly combined joint, as defined in 15-30-2101, may exclude as annual contribution in 1 year up to \$6,000.
- (c) There is no limitation on the amount of principal and interest or other income on the principal that may be retained tax-free within an account.
- (d) An account holder may not contribute to the first-time home buyer savings account for a period exceeding 10 years.
- (3) An account holder may not deduct pursuant to 15-30-2131 or exclude pursuant to 15-30-2110 an amount representing a loss in the value of an investment contained in an account.
- (4) Each year, an account holder may deposit into an account more than the amount excluded pursuant to subsection (2) if the exemption claimed by the account holder in the year does not exceed the amount specified in subsection (2)(a) or (2)(b). An account holder who deposits more than the amount specified in subsection (2)(a) or (2)(b) into an account in a year may exclude from the account holder's adjusted gross income, in accordance with 15-30-2110(2)(k), in a subsequent year any part of the amount specified in subsection (2)(a) or (2)(b) per year not previously excluded.
- (5) The transfer of money by a person other than the account holder to the account of an account holder does not subject the account holder to tax liability under this section. Amounts contained within the account of the receiving account holder are subject to the requirements and limitations provided in this section. The person other than the account holder who transfers money to the account is not entitled to the tax exemption under this section.
- (6) The account holder who establishes the account, individually or jointly, is the owner of the account. An account holder may withdraw money in an account and deposit the money in another account with a different account administrator or with the same account administrator without incurring tax liability.
- (7) The account holder shall use the money in the account for the eligible costs related to the purchase of a single-family residence within 10 years following the year in which the account was established. Any principal



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and income in the account not expended on eligible costs at the time of purchase of a single-family residence or any principal or income remaining in the account on December 31 of the last year of the 10-year period must be taxed as ordinary income.

- (8) The amount of a disbursement of any assets of a first-time home buyer savings account pursuant to a filing for protection under the United States Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. 101 through 1330, by an account holder does not subject the account holder to tax liability.
- (9) Within 30 days of being furnished proof of the death of the account holder, the account administrator shall distribute the principal and accumulated interest or other income in the account to the estate of the account holder or to a designated pay-on-death beneficiary as provided in 72-6-223."

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<u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Section 23. Severability.** If a part of [this act] is invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of [this act] is invalid in one or more of its applications, the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

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NEW SECTION. Section 24. Effective date. [This act] is effective January 1, 2016.

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NEW SECTION. Section 25. Applicability. [This act] applies to tax years beginning after December 31, 2015.

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