

116TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H.R. 2284

To provide disaster tax relief for certain disasters occurring in 2019.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 10, 2019

Mr. Smith of Nebraska (for himself, Mr. Bacon, Mr. Fortenberry, Mrs. Axne, Mr. Loebsack, Mr. King of Iowa, and Ms. Finkenauer) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To provide disaster tax relief for certain disasters occurring in 2019.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Disaster Tax Relief
- 5 Act of 2019".
- 6 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.
- 7 For purposes of this Act—
- 8 (1) Qualified disaster area.—The term
- 9 "qualified disaster area" means any area with re-
- spect to which a major disaster was declared after

- 1 December 31, 2018, and before April 15, 2019, by
- the President under section 401 of the Robert T.
- 3 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance
- 4 Act if the incident period of the disaster with respect
- 5 to which such declaration is made begins after De-
- 6 cember 31, 2018.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

7 (2) QUALIFIED DISASTER ZONE.—The term
8 "qualified disaster zone" means that portion of any
9 qualified disaster area which was determined by the
10 President after December 31, 2018, and before April
11 15, 2019, to warrant individual or individual and
12 public assistance from the Federal Government
13 under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and

disaster with respect to such disaster area.

(3) QUALIFIED DISASTER.—The term "qualified disaster" means, with respect to any qualified disaster area, the disaster by reason of which a major disaster was declared with respect to such area.

Emergency Assistance Act by reason of the qualified

(4) Incident period" means, with respect to any qualified disaster, the period specified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as the period during which such disaster occurred (except that for purposes of this

1	Act such period shall not be treated as beginning be-
2	fore January 1, 2019, or ending after April 15,
3	2019).
4	SEC. 3. SPECIAL DISASTER-RELATED RULES FOR USE OF
5	RETIREMENT FUNDS.
6	(a) Tax-Favored Withdrawals From Retire-
7	MENT PLANS.—
8	(1) In general.—Section 72(t) of the Internal
9	Revenue Code of 1986 shall not apply to any quali-
10	fied disaster distribution.
11	(2) Aggregate dollar limitation.—
12	(A) In general.—For purposes of this
13	subsection, the aggregate amount of distribu-
14	tions received by an individual which may be
15	treated as qualified disaster distributions for
16	any taxable year shall not exceed the excess (if
17	any) of—
18	(i) \$100,000, over
19	(ii) the aggregate amounts treated as
20	qualified disaster distributions received by
21	such individual for all prior taxable years.
22	(B) Treatment of Plan distribu-
23	TIONS.—If a distribution to an individual would
24	(without regard to subparagraph (A)) be a
25	qualified disaster distribution, a plan shall not

be treated as violating any requirement of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 merely because the plan treats such distribution as a qualified disaster distribution, unless the aggregate amount of such distributions from all plans maintained by the employer (and any member of any controlled group which includes the employer) to such individual exceeds \$100,000.

- (C) CONTROLLED GROUP.—For purposes of subparagraph (B), the term "controlled group" means any group treated as a single employer under subsection (b), (c), (m), or (o) of section 414 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.
- (D) SPECIAL RULE FOR INDIVIDUALS AF-FECTED BY MORE THAN ONE DISASTER.—The limitation of subparagraph (A) shall be applied separately with respect to distributions made with respect to each qualified disaster.
- (3) Amount distributed may be repaid.—
- (A) IN GENERAL.—Any individual who receives a qualified disaster distribution may, at any time during the 3-year period beginning on the day after the date on which such distribution was received, make 1 or more contributions

2

3

4

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

in an aggregate amount not to exceed the amount of such distribution to an eligible retirement plan of which such individual is a beneficiary and to which a rollover contribution of such distribution could be made under section 402(c), 403(a)(4), 403(b)(8), 408(d)(3), or 457(e)(16), of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as the case may be.

(B) Treatment of repayments of dis-TRIBUTIONS FROM ELIGIBLE RETIREMENT PLANS OTHER THAN IRAS.—For purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, if a contribution is made pursuant to subparagraph (A) with respect to a qualified disaster distribution from an eligible retirement plan other than an individual retirement plan, then the taxpayer shall, to the extent of the amount of the contribution, be treated as having received the qualified disaster distribution in an eligible rolldistribution defined (as in section over 402(c)(4) of such Code), and as having transferred the amount to the eligible retirement plan in a direct trustee to trustee transfer within 60 days of the distribution.

1	(C) Treatment of repayments of dis-
2	TRIBUTIONS FROM IRAS.—For purposes of the
3	Internal Revenue Code of 1986, if a contribu-
4	tion is made pursuant to subparagraph (A)
5	with respect to a qualified disaster distribution
6	from an individual retirement plan (as defined
7	by section 7701(a)(37) of such Code), then, to
8	the extent of the amount of the contribution,
9	the qualified disaster distribution shall be treat-
10	ed as a distribution described in section
11	408(d)(3) of such Code and as having been
12	transferred to the eligible retirement plan in a
13	direct trustee to trustee transfer within 60 days
14	of the distribution.
15	(4) Definitions.—For purposes of this sub-
16	section—
17	(A) Qualified disaster distribu-
18	TION.—Except as provided in paragraph (2),
19	the term "qualified disaster distribution" means
20	any distribution from an eligible retirement
21	plan made—
22	(i) on or after the first day of the in-
23	cident period of a qualified disaster and
24	before the date which is 180 days after the
25	date of the enactment of this Act, and

(ii) to an individual whose principal
place of abode at any time during the inci-
dent period of such qualified disaster is lo-
cated in the qualified disaster area with re-
spect to such qualified disaster and who
has sustained an economic loss by reason
of such qualified disaster.
(B) ELIGIBLE RETIREMENT PLAN.—The
term "eligible retirement plan" shall have the
meaning given such term by section
402(c)(8)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of
1986.
(5) Income inclusion spread over 3-year
PERIOD.—
(A) In General.—In the case of any
qualified disaster distribution, unless the tax-
payer elects not to have this paragraph apply
for any taxable year, any amount required to be
included in gross income for such taxable year
shall be so included ratably over the 3-taxable-
year period beginning with such taxable year.
(B) Special rule.—For purposes of sub-
paragraph (A), rules similar to the rules of sub-
paragraph (E) of section 408A(d)(3) of the In-

ternal Revenue Code of 1986 shall apply.

1		(6) Special rules.—
2		(A) Exemption of distributions from
3		TRUSTEE TO TRUSTEE TRANSFER AND WITH-
4		HOLDING RULES.—For purposes of sections
5		401(a)(31), 402(f), and 3405 of the Internal
6		Revenue Code of 1986, qualified disaster dis-
7		tributions shall not be treated as eligible roll-
8		over distributions.
9		(B) Qualified disaster distributions
10		TREATED AS MEETING PLAN DISTRIBUTION RE-
11		QUIREMENTS.—For purposes the Internal Rev-
12		enue Code of 1986, a qualified disaster dis-
13		tribution shall be treated as meeting the re-
14		quirements of sections 401(k)(2)(B)(i)
15		403(b)(7)(A)(ii), 403(b)(11), and 457(d)(1)(A)
16		of such Code.
17	(b)	RECONTRIBUTIONS OF WITHDRAWALS FOR
18	Home P	URCHASES.—
19		(1) Recontributions.—
20		(A) IN GENERAL.—Any individual who re-
21		ceived a qualified distribution may, during the
22		applicable period, make 1 or more contributions
23		in an aggregate amount not to exceed the
24		amount of such qualified distribution to an eli-

gible retirement plan (as defined in section

1	402(c)(8)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of
2	1986) of which such individual is a beneficiary
3	and to which a rollover contribution of such dis-
4	tribution could be made under section 402(c),
5	403(a)(4), 403(b)(8), or 408(d)(3), of such
6	Code, as the case may be.
7	(B) Treatment of repayments.—Rules
8	similar to the rules of subparagraphs (B) and
9	(C) of subsection (a)(3) shall apply for purposes
10	of this subsection.
11	(2) QUALIFIED DISTRIBUTION.—For purposes
12	of this subsection, the term "qualified distribution"
13	means any distribution—
14	(A) described in section
15	$401(k)(2)(B)(i)(IV), \ 403(b)(7)(A)(ii)$ (but only
16	to the extent such distribution relates to finan-
17	cial hardship), $403(b)(11)(B)$, or $72(t)(2)(F)$,
18	of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,
19	(B) which was to be used to purchase or
20	construct a principal residence in a qualified
21	disaster area, but which was not so used on ac-
22	count of the qualified disaster with respect to
23	such area, and
24	(C) which was received during the period
25	beginning on the date which is 180 days before

the first day of the incident period of such qualified disaster and ending on the date which is 30 days after the last day of such incident period.

(3) APPLICABLE PERIOD.—For purposes of this subsection, the term "applicable period" means, in the case of a principal residence in a qualified disaster area with respect to any qualified disaster, the period beginning on the first day of the incident period of such qualified disaster and ending on the date which is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) Loans From Qualified Plans.—

- (1) Increase in limit on loans not treated as defined under from a qualified employer plan (as defined under section 72(p)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) to a qualified individual made during the 180-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act—
 - (A) clause (i) of section 72(p)(2)(A) of such Code shall be applied by substituting "\$100,000" for "\$50,000", and
- 24 (B) clause (ii) of such section shall be applied by substituting "the present value of the

- nonforfeitable accrued benefit of the employee under the plan" for "one-half of the present value of the nonforfeitable accrued benefit of the employee under the plan".
 - (2) Delay of Repayment.—In the case of a qualified individual (with respect to any qualified disaster) with an outstanding loan (on or after the first day of the incident period of such qualified disaster) from a qualified employer plan (as defined in section 72(p)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986)—
 - (A) if the due date pursuant to subparagraph (B) or (C) of section 72(p)(2) of such Code for any repayment with respect to such loan occurs during the period beginning on the first day of the incident period of such qualified disaster and ending on the date which is 180 days after the last day of such incident period, such due date shall be delayed for 1 year (or, if later, until the date which is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act),
 - (B) any subsequent repayments with respect to any such loan shall be appropriately adjusted to reflect the delay in the due date

1	under subparagraph (A) and any interest accru-
2	ing during such delay, and
3	(C) in determining the 5-year period and
4	the term of a loan under subparagraph (B) or
5	(C) of section 72(p)(2) of such Code, the period
6	described in subparagraph (A) of this para-
7	graph shall be disregarded.
8	(3) Qualified individual.—For purposes of
9	this subsection, the term "qualified individual"
10	means any individual—
11	(A) whose principal place of abode at any
12	time during the incident period of any qualified
13	disaster is located in the qualified disaster area
14	with respect to such qualified disaster, and
15	(B) who has sustained an economic loss by
16	reason of such qualified disaster.
17	(d) Provisions Relating to Plan Amend-
18	MENTS.—
19	(1) In general.—If this subsection applies to
20	any amendment to any plan or annuity contract,
21	such plan or contract shall be treated as being oper-
22	ated in accordance with the terms of the plan during
23	the period described in paragraph (2)(B)(i).
24	(2) Amendments to which subsection ap-
25	PLIES.—

1	(A) In General.—This subsection shall
2	apply to any amendment to any plan or annuity
3	contract which is made—
4	(i) pursuant to any provision of this
5	section, or pursuant to any regulation
6	issued by the Secretary or the Secretary of
7	Labor under any provision of this section,
8	and
9	(ii) on or before the last day of the
10	first plan year beginning on or after Janu-
11	ary 1, 2020, or such later date as the Sec-
12	retary may prescribe.
13	In the case of a governmental plan (as defined
14	in section 414(d) of the Internal Revenue Code
15	of 1986), clause (ii) shall be applied by sub-
16	stituting the date which is 2 years after the
17	date otherwise applied under clause (ii).
18	(B) Conditions.—This subsection shall
19	not apply to any amendment unless—
20	(i) during the period—
21	(I) beginning on the date that
22	this section or the regulation de-
23	scribed in subparagraph (A)(i) takes
24	effect (or in the case of a plan or con-
25	tract amendment not required by this

1	section or such regulation, the effec-
2	tive date specified by the plan), and
3	(II) ending on the date described
4	in subparagraph (A)(ii) (or, if earlier,
5	the date the plan or contract amend-
6	ment is adopted),
7	the plan or contract is operated as if such plan
8	or contract amendment were in effect, and
9	(ii) such plan or contract amendment
10	applies retroactively for such period.
11	SEC. 4. EMPLOYEE RETENTION CREDIT FOR EMPLOYERS
12	AFFECTED BY QUALIFIED DISASTERS.
13	(a) In General.—For purposes of section 38 of the
14	Internal Revenue Code of 1986, in the case of an eligible
15	employer, the 2019 qualified disaster employee retention
16	credit shall be treated as a credit listed at the end of sub-
17	section (b) of such section. For purposes of this section,
18	the 2019 qualified disaster employee retention credit for
19	any taxable year is an amount equal to 40 percent of the
20	qualified wages with respect to each eligible employee of
21	such employer for such taxable year. The amount of quali-
22	fied wages with respect to any employee which may be
23	taken into account under this section by the employer for
24	any taxable year shall not exceed \$6,000 (reduced by the
25	amount of qualified wages with respect to such employee

1 which may be so taken into account for any prior taxable 2 year). 3 (b) Definitions.—For purposes of this section— 4 (1) ELIGIBLE EMPLOYER.—The term "eligible 5 employer" means any employer— 6 (A) which conducted an active trade or 7 business in a qualified disaster zone at any time 8 during the incident period of the qualified dis-9 aster with respect to such qualified disaster 10 zone, and 11 (B) with respect to whom the trade or 12 business described in subparagraph (A) is inop-13 erable at any time on or after the first day of 14 the incident period of such qualified disaster, 15 and before April 15, 2019, as a result of dam-16 age sustained by reason of such qualified dis-17 aster. 18 (2) ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEE.—The term "eligible 19 employee" means with respect to an eligible em-20 ployer an employee whose principal place of employ-21 ment with such eligible employer (determined imme-22 diately before the qualified disaster referred to in

paragraph (1)) was in the qualified disaster zone re-

ferred to in such paragraph.

23

- (3) QUALIFIED WAGES.—The term "qualified 1 2 wages" means wages (as defined in section 51(c)(1)of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, but without 3 4 regard to section 3306(b)(2)(B) of such Code) paid 5 or incurred by an eligible employer with respect to 6 an eligible employee at any time on or after the date 7 on which the trade or business described in para-8 graph (1) first became inoperable at the principal 9 place of employment of the employee (determined 10 immediately before the qualified disaster referred to 11 in such paragraph) and before the earlier of—
 - (A) the date on which such trade or business has resumed significant operations at such principal place of employment, or
 - (B) the date which is 150 days after the last day of the incident period of the qualified disaster referred to in paragraph (1).

Such term shall include wages paid without regard to whether the employee performs no services, performs services at a different place of employment than such principal place of employment, or performs services at such principal place of employment before significant operations have resumed.

24 (c) CERTAIN RULES TO APPLY.—For purposes of 25 this section, rules similar to the rules of sections 51(i)(1),

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

1	52, and 280C(a), of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,
2	shall apply.
3	(d) Employee Not Taken Into Account More
4	THAN ONCE.—An employee shall not be treated as an eli-
5	gible employee for purposes of this section for any period
6	with respect to any employer if such employer is allowed
7	a credit under section 51 of the Internal Revenue Code
8	of 1986 with respect to such employee for such period.
9	SEC. 5. OTHER DISASTER-RELATED TAX RELIEF PROVI-
10	SIONS.
11	(a) Temporary Increase in Limitation on
12	QUALIFIED CONTRIBUTIONS.—
13	(1) Suspension of current limitation.—
14	Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2),
15	qualified contributions shall be disregarded in apply-
16	ing subsections (b) and (d) of section 170 of the In-
17	ternal Revenue Code of 1986.
18	(2) Application of increased limitation.—
19	For purposes of section 170 of the Internal Revenue
20	Code of 1986—
21	(A) Individuals.—In the case of an indi-
22	vidual—
23	(i) Limitation.—Any qualified con-
24	tribution shall be allowed as a deduction
25	only to the extent that the aggregate of

1	such contributions does not exceed the ex-
2	cess of the taxpayer's contribution base (as
3	defined in subparagraph (H) of section
4	170(b)(1) of such Code) over the amount
5	of all other charitable contributions allowed
6	under section 170(b)(1) of such Code.
7	(ii) Carryover.—If the aggregate
8	amount of qualified contributions made in
9	the contribution year (within the meaning
10	of section 170(d)(1) of such Code) exceeds
11	the limitation of clause (i), such excess
12	shall be added to the excess described in
13	section $170(b)(1)(G)(ii)$.
14	(B) Corporations.—In the case of a cor-
15	poration—
16	(i) Limitation.—Any qualified con-
17	tribution shall be allowed as a deduction
18	only to the extent that the aggregate of
19	such contributions does not exceed the ex-
20	cess of the taxpayer's taxable income (as
21	determined under paragraph (2) of section
22	170(b) of such Code) over the amount of
23	all other charitable contributions allowed

under such paragraph.

1	(ii) Carryover.—If the aggregate
2	amount of qualified contributions made in
3	the contribution year (within the meaning
4	of section 170(d)(2) of such Code) exceeds
5	the limitation of clause (i), such excess
6	shall be appropriately taken into account
7	under section 170(d)(2) subject to the limi-
8	tations thereof.
9	(3) Qualified contributions.—
10	(A) In general.—For purposes of this
11	subsection, the term "qualified contribution"
12	means any charitable contribution (as defined
13	in section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code
14	of 1986) if—
15	(i) such contribution—
16	(I) is paid during 2019 in cash to
17	an organization described in section
18	170(b)(1)(A) of such Code, and
19	(II) is made for relief efforts in
20	one or more qualified disaster areas,
21	(ii) the taxpayer obtains from such or-
22	ganization contemporaneous written ac-
23	knowledgment (within the meaning of sec-
24	tion 170(f)(8) of such Code) that such con-
25	tribution was used (or is to be used) for

1	relief efforts described in clause (i)(II),
2	and
3	(iii) the taxpayer has elected the ap-
4	plication of this subsection with respect to
5	such contribution.
6	(B) Exception.—Such term shall not in-
7	clude a contribution by a donor if the contribu-
8	tion is—
9	(i) to an organization described in sec-
10	tion 509(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue
11	Code of 1986, or
12	(ii) for the establishment of a new, or
13	maintenance of an existing, donor-advised
14	fund (as defined in section $4966(d)(2)$ of
15	such Code).
16	(C) Application of election to part-
17	NERSHIPS AND S CORPORATIONS.—In the case
18	of a partnership or S corporation, the election
19	under subparagraph (A)(iii) shall be made sepa-
20	rately by each partner or shareholder.
21	(b) Special Rules for Qualified Disaster-Re-
22	LATED PERSONAL CASUALTY LOSSES.—
23	(1) IN GENERAL.—If an individual has a net
24	disaster loss for any taxable year—

1	(A) the amount determined under section
2	165(h)(2)(A)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code
3	of 1986 shall be equal to the sum of—
4	(i) such net disaster loss, and
5	(ii) so much of the excess referred to
6	in the matter preceding clause (i) of sec-
7	tion $165(h)(2)(A)$ of such Code (reduced
8	by the amount in clause (i) of this sub-
9	paragraph) as exceeds 10 percent of the
10	adjusted gross income of the individual,
11	(B) section 165(h)(1) of such Code shall
12	be applied by substituting "\$500" for "\$500
13	(\$100 for taxable years beginning after Decem-
14	ber 31, 2009)",
15	(C) the standard deduction determined
16	under section 63(c) of such Code shall be in-
17	creased by the net disaster loss, and
18	(D) section 56(b)(1)(E) of such Code shall
19	not apply to so much of the standard deduction
20	as is attributable to the increase under sub-
21	paragraph (C) of this paragraph.
22	(2) Net disaster loss.—For purposes of this
23	subsection, the term "net disaster loss" means the
24	excess of qualified disaster-related personal casualty
25	losses over personal casualty gains (as defined in

- section 165(h)(3)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).
- 3 (3) Qualified disaster-related personal CASUALTY LOSSES.—For purposes of this subsection, the term "qualified disaster-related personal 5 6 casualty losses" means losses described in section 7 165(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 8 which arise in a qualified disaster area on or after 9 the first day of the incident period of the qualified 10 disaster to which such area relates, and which are 11 attributable to such qualified disaster.
- 12 (c) Special Rule for Determining Earned In-13 come.—
- 14 (1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a qualified in-15 dividual, if the earned income of the taxpayer for the 16 applicable taxable year is less than the earned in-17 come of the taxpayer for the preceding taxable year, 18 the credits allowed under sections 24(d) and 32 of 19 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 may, at the elec-20 tion of the taxpayer, be determined by sub-21 stituting—
- 22 (A) such earned income for the preceding 23 taxable year, for
- 24 (B) such earned income for the applicable 25 taxable year.

- (2) QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this subsection, the term "qualified individual" means any individual whose principal place of abode at any time during the incident period of any qualified disaster was located—
 - (A) in the qualified disaster zone with respect to such qualified disaster, or
 - (B) in the qualified disaster area with respect to such qualified disaster (but outside the qualified disaster zone with respect to such qualified disaster) and such individual was displaced from such principal place of abode by reason of such qualified disaster.
 - (3) APPLICABLE TAXABLE YEAR.—The term "applicable taxable year" means, with respect to any qualified individual, any taxable year which includes any portion of the incident period of the qualified disaster to which the qualified disaster area referred to in paragraph (2) relates.
 - (4) Earned income.—For purposes of this subsection, the term "earned income" has the meaning given such term under section 32(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.
- 24 (5) Special rules.—

1	(A) APPLICATION TO JOINT RETURNS.—
2	For purposes of paragraph (1), in the case of
3	a joint return for an applicable taxable year—
4	(i) such paragraph shall apply if ei-
5	ther spouse is a qualified individual, and
6	(ii) the earned income of the taxpayer
7	for the preceding taxable year shall be the
8	sum of the earned income of each spouse
9	for such preceding taxable year.
10	(B) Uniform application of elec-
11	TION.—Any election made under paragraph (1)
12	shall apply with respect to both sections 24(d)
13	and 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.
14	(C) Errors treated as mathematical
15	ERROR.—For purposes of section 6213 of the
16	Internal Revenue Code of 1986, an incorrect
17	use on a return of earned income pursuant to
18	paragraph (1) shall be treated as a mathe-
19	matical or clerical error.
20	(D) NO EFFECT ON DETERMINATION OF
21	GROSS INCOME, ETC.—Except as otherwise pro-
22	vided in this subsection, the Internal Revenue
23	Code of 1986 shall be applied without regard to
24	any substitution under paragraph (1).