

# Tax Provisions for COVID-19 Relief: Subtitle G—Budget Reconciliation Legislative Recommendations Relating to Promoting Economic Security

February 11, 2021

**Congressional Research Service** https://crsreports.congress.gov R46680

# Contents

# Tables

| Table 1. COVID-19 Tax Relief—"Budget Reconciliation Legislative Recommendations       |    |
|---|----|
| Relating to Promoting Economic Security"  | 3  |
| Table 2. Estimated Cost of Subtitle G Revenue Provisions of the Budget Reconciliation |    |
| Legislative Recommendations   | 12 |

# Contacts

| thor Information |
|------------------|
|------------------|

The 117<sup>th</sup> Congress is considering Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)-related relief and economic stimulus legislation. On February 8, 2021, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard E. Neal released nine legislative proposals to be considered under the budget reconciliation instructions.<sup>1</sup> This report summarizes the tax provisions in Subtitle G, "Budget Reconciliation Legislative Recommendations Relating to Promoting Economic Security."

The current proposed COVID-19 tax relief would

- provide a one-time direct payment of \$1,400 per person to eligible households;
- temporarily expand the child tax credit for low- and moderate-income families, with a portion of the credit issued in 2021 before income taxes are filed;
- temporarily expand the earned income tax credit (EITC) for workers without qualifying children;
- temporarily expand the child and dependent care credit for most taxpayers and temporarily expand the exclusion for child and dependent care expenses;
- modify and extend the payroll tax credits for employer-provided paid sick and paid family leave;
- further extend the employee retention tax credit;
- temporarily enhance benefits and/or expand eligibility for the health insurance premium tax credit (PTC);
- repeal a provision that allows worldwide allocation of interest for the foreign tax credit limit, decreasing foreign tax credits in some cases; and
- provide that advances against Economic Injury Disaster Loans that are not repaid and grants under the Restaurant Revitalization Fund will be excluded from income and deductions for associated expenses will be allowed.

Current consideration of COVID-19-related tax relief follows the enactment of other laws addressing the COVID-19 crisis: (1) the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020 (P.L. 116-123); (2) the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA; P.L. 116-127); (3) the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (P.L. 116-136);<sup>2</sup> (4) the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (P.L. 116-139); and (5) the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260).<sup>3</sup>

Other pandemic-related tax policy proposals were considered in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, but not enacted. In the House, tax relief was also considered in the Heroes Act (H.R. 8406, adopted as H.R. 925; H.R. 6800).<sup>4</sup> Legislation introduced in the Senate (the American Workers, Families, and Employers Assistance Act [S. 4318]; the Supporting America's Restaurant Workers Act [S.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For information on budget reconciliation, see CRS Report R44058, *The Budget Reconciliation Process: Stages of Consideration*, by Megan S. Lynch and James V. Saturno. For information on the budget resolution for 2021, which contains reconciliation directives, see CRS Report R46675, *S. Con.Res. 5: The Budget Resolution for FY2021*, by Megan S. Lynch and James V. Saturno.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For more on tax provisions in the CARES Act, see CRS Report R46279, *The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act—Tax Relief for Individuals and Businesses*, coordinated by Molly F. Sherlock.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> For more information on the tax provisions in this legislation, see CRS Report R46649, *The COVID-Related Tax Relief Act of 2020 and Other COVID-Related Tax Provisions in P.L. 116-260*, by Molly F. Sherlock et al.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> For more information on tax provisions in the Heroes Act, see CRS Report R46358, *Heroes Act: Revenue Provisions*, coordinated by Molly F. Sherlock.

4319]; and the Restoring Critical Supply Chains and Intellectual Property Act [S. 4324]) would have provided tax relief intended to alleviate the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>5</sup>

**Table 1** of this report summarizes the tax provisions in Subtitle G, "Budget ReconciliationLegislative Recommendations Relating to Promoting Economic Security," and provides links toCRS resources containing additional information. Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) revenueestimates for these provisions are included in Table 2.

#### Additional Resources

- Joint Committee on Taxation, "Estimated Budgetary Effects Of The Revenue Provisions Of The Chairman's Amendment In The Nature Of A Substitute To The Budget Reconciliation Legislative Recommendations, Scheduled For Markup By The House Committee On Ways And Means On February 10, 2021," JCX-9-21, February 9, 2021, at https://www.jct.gov/publications/2021/jcx-9-21/.
- Joint Committee on Taxation, "Description Of The Budget Reconciliation Legislative Recommendations Relating To Prompting Economic Security," JCX-3-21, February 8, 2021, at https://www.jct.gov/publications/2021/jcx-3-21/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> For more information on the Senate proposals, see CRS Report R46470, *The American Workers, Families, and Employers Assistance Act (S. 4318): Title II—Revenue Provisions and Other "HEALS Act" Tax Provisions*, coordinated by Molly F. Sherlock.

| Table 1. COVID-19 Tax Relief—"Budget Reconciliation Legislative |
|---|
| Recommendations Relating to Promoting Economic Security"        |

| Section Title                      | Description  | <b>CRS</b> Resources   |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Subtitle G—Promoting               | g Economic Security  |  |
| Part I—2021 Recove                 | ery Rebates to Individuals   |  |
| Recovery Rebates to<br>Individuals | <ul> <li>Would enact a third round of direct payments for individuals and households ("stimulus checks"). These payments would be structured as refundable tax credits against 2021 income taxes, but would be issued (and hence received) in 2021, as opposed to 2022 (when 2021 income tax returns will be filed). Amount and eligibility for the advanced credit would generally be based on information from 2020 income tax returns (or 2019 returns, if 2020 returns have not been filed when the advanced credit is initially issued). For households whose payment was based on 2019 income data, and who would be eligible to receive a larger payment based on 2020 data, the IRS would be directed to issue a supplementary payment (a "top up") within 90 days of the tax filing deadline or September 1, 2021, whichever date is earlier.</li> <li>Payments would generally be issued per household and equal the sum of \$1,400 per eligible individual (\$2,800 for married joint filers) and \$1,400 for each eligible dependent (including older children and adult dependents). For each individual who died before January 1, 2021, the payment amount would be reduced from \$1,400 to \$0.</li> <li>The payment would phase out ratably (i.e., proportionally) between \$75,000 and \$100,000 for single filers, \$112,500 and \$150,000 for head of household filers, and \$150,000 and \$200,000 for married joint filers. The larger the total credit amount, the faster the payment would phase out using this method.</li> <li>Eligible individuals and dependents would generally need to have a social security number (SSN) to receive the payment. (Adoption taxpayer ID numbers would also be valid for dependents.) The maximum payment amount (\$1,400) would be reduced to \$0 for each otherwise eligible individual taxpayer identification number, or ITIN, instead). This provision would not apply to married members of the Armed Forces if at least one spouse had an SSN. In such cases, they would be leigible for up to \$2,800. If no eligible individual had an SSN (i.e., an unmarried taxpay</li></ul> | <ul> <li>For background, see</li> <li>CRS Report R46415,<br/>CARES Act (P.L. 116-136)<br/>Direct Payments:<br/>Resources and Experts,<br/>coordinated by Margot<br/>L. Crandall-Hollick.</li> <li>CRS Insight IN11576,<br/>COVID-19 and Direct<br/>Payments to Individuals:<br/>Comparison of the Second<br/>Round of "Stimulus<br/>Checks" in P.L. 116-260 t<br/>the First Round in the<br/>CARES Act (P.L. 116-136)<br/>by Margot L. Crandall-<br/>Hollick.</li> <li>CRS Insight IN11575,<br/>COVID-19 and Direct<br/>Payments to Individuals:<br/>Frequently Asked<br/>Questions (FAQs) About<br/>the Second Round of<br/>"Stimulus Checks" in P.L.<br/>116-260, by Margot L.<br/>Crandall-Hollick.</li> <li>CRS Insight IN11580,<br/>COVID-19 and Direct<br/>Payments: Summary of the<br/>CASH Act (H.R. 9051,<br/>116th Congress)<br/>Modifications to "Stimulus<br/>Checks", by Margot L.<br/>Crandall-Hollick.</li> </ul> |

| Section Title                                | Description  | <b>CRS R</b> esources  |
|--|--|--|
|  | credit on their 2021 tax returns would generally be subject to offset.   |  |
|  | For eligible individuals who did not file a 2020 or 2019<br>income tax return, the IRS would be given broad<br>authority to make payments based on information<br>available to the Treasury.   |  |
|  | If a direct payment was made to an individual or<br>organization serving as the taxpayer's representative<br>payee ("payee") or fiduciary for a federal benefit<br>program, the proposal explicitly states that it shall be<br>used only for the benefit of the entitled beneficiary.  |  |
|  | Would direct Treasury to make payments to the U.S. territories (mirror code and non-mirror code) equal to the aggregate amount issued to their residents as a result of this provision. (Many territorial residents will receive this benefit under a version of the provision administered via the territorial government, rather than the IRS.)  |  |
|  | These payments would not be taxable. In addition, like<br>other tax credits, these payments would not count as<br>income or resources for a 12-month period in<br>determining eligibility for, or the amount of assistance<br>provided by, any federally funded public benefit<br>program.   |  |
|  | If a taxpayer received a larger advanced credit in 2021<br>than they were eligible for on their 2021 income tax<br>return, they generally would not be required to pay it<br>back. If an individual received an advanced payment less<br>than what they were eligible for on their 2021 income<br>tax return, they could claim the difference on that<br>return (filed in 2021).   |  |
| Part 2—Child Tax                             | Credit   |  |
| Child Tax Credit<br>Improvements for<br>2021 | For 2021, would temporarily increase the amount of<br>the child tax credit for low- and moderate-income<br>taxpayers to up to \$3,600 per child for a young child<br>and up to \$3,000 for older children by modifying<br>several provisions of the existing credit. First, the bill<br>would eliminate the earned-income-based phase-in of<br>the refundable portion of the child credit (often<br>referred to as the "additional child credit" or ACTC)<br>and eliminate the maximum amount of the ACTC<br>(\$1,400). Hence, the child credit would be "fully<br>refundable" and available to otherwise eligible<br>taxpayers with no earned income. Second, the bill<br>would increase the maximum age for an eligible child to<br>17. Third, the bill would increase the maximum amount<br>of the credit from \$2,000 per child to \$3,600 per child<br>for a young child (0-5 years old) and \$3,000 per child<br>for an older child (6-17 years old). This increase in the<br>maximum child credit of \$1,600 per child for young<br>children and \$1,000 per child for older children would<br>gradually phase out at a rate of 5% as income exceeded<br>specified thresholds until the credit amount equaled the<br>current-law maximum of \$2,000 for single filers, \$112,500<br>for head of household filers, and \$150,000 for married | <ul> <li>For background, see</li> <li>CRS Report R41873, The<br/>Child Tax Credit: How It<br/>Works and Who Receives<br/>It, by Margot L. Crandall-<br/>Hollick.</li> <li>CRS Report R46502, The<br/>Child Tax Credit: Selected<br/>Legislative Proposals in the<br/>I 16th Congress, by<br/>Margot L. Crandall-<br/>Hollick.</li> </ul> |

| ection Title | Description   | <b>CRS</b> Resources |
|--------------|---|----------------------|
|              | joint filers. (The actual income level at which the credit  |                      |
|              | phased down to \$2,000 per child would depend on the  |                      |
|              | number and age of qualifying children.) The credit  |                      |
|              | would then remain at its current-law level and phase<br>out when income exceeded the current-law thresholds         |                      |
|              | of \$200,000 (\$400,000 for married joint filers). <sup>a</sup>   |                      |
|              | Would direct the Treasury to issue half of the expected   |                      |
|              | 2021 credit in monthly payments beginning July 1, 2021  |                      |
|              | (the Treasury could issue the payments less frequently  |                      |
|              | for the last six months of 2021 if they deemed monthly  |                      |
|              | payments were not feasible). The remaining half of the total 2021 credit would be claimed on a 2021 income          |                      |
|              | tax return filed in early 2022. The amount of the   |                      |
|              | payments advanced in 2021 would be estimated based  |                      |
|              | on 2020 income tax data, or if unavailable, 2019 income   |                      |
|              | tax data. The advanced child credit payments would  |                      |
|              | reduce the child credit received with a 2021 return. In   |                      |
|              | cases where a taxpayer receives more in advanced  |                      |
|              | payments than they are eligible for (whether due to   |                      |
|              | changes in income, or changes in the number of eligible children who live with the taxpayer between 2021 and        |                      |
|              | the year that provides data on which the advanced   |                      |
|              | credit is based [2020 or 2019]), taxpayers would  |                      |
|              | generally need to repay total aggregate advanced  |                      |
|              | payments, although repayment obligations would be   |                      |
|              | reduced for taxpayers depending on their 2021 income.   |                      |
|              | Specifically, taxpayers with income below \$40,000 for  |                      |
|              | single filers, \$50,000 for head of household filers, and   |                      |
|              | \$60,000 for joint filers would not need to repay up to<br>\$2,000 per qualifying child in advanced credit          |                      |
|              | overpayments (the \$2,000 amount is referred to as the  |                      |
|              | "safe harbor amount"). Since the maximum amount of  |                      |
|              | the credit that can be advanced would be less than  |                      |
|              | \$2,000 per child, these taxpayers would effectively be   |                      |
|              | exempt from repaying any overpayments of the  |                      |
|              | advanced credit. <sup>b</sup> Taxpayers with income above these   |                      |
|              | thresholds but below \$80,000 for single filers, \$100,000  |                      |
|              | for head of household filers, and \$120,000 for married<br>joint filers would gradually have the safe harbor amount |                      |
|              | reduced to \$0 per qualifying child. Hence, taxpayers   |                      |
|              | with income over \$80,000 for single filers, \$100,000 for  |                      |
|              | head of household filers, and \$120,000 for married joint   |                      |
|              | filers in 2021 would need to repay the entire amount of   |                      |
|              | the overpayment.  |                      |
|              | The bill would create an online portal to allow   |                      |
|              | taxpayers the options to opt out of receiving advanced  |                      |
|              | payments and to provide information regarding changes   |                      |
|              | in income, marital status, and number of qualifying   |                      |
|              | children in order to modify the advanced credit amounts.  |                      |
|              |   |                      |
|              | Advanced payments would not be subject to offset<br>prior to when the payment is issued for certain past-           |                      |
|              | due debts owed by the recipient. However, the amount  |                      |
|              | the taxpayer claims as a credit on their 2021 tax   |                      |
|              | returns would generally be subject to offset.   |                      |
|              | Advanced payments would generally not be available to   |                      |
|              | eligible residents of U.S. territories.   |                      |

| Section Title  | Description   | <b>CRS</b> Resources  |
|--|---|---|
| Application of the<br>Child Tax Credit in<br>Possessions   | Would effectively expand child credit eligibility to<br>residents of U.S. territories permanently. For "mirror<br>code" territories, the Treasury would make payments<br>equal to the territory's costs of the child tax credit. For<br>American Samoa (a non-mirror code territory), the<br>Treasury would make payments equal to the territory's<br>costs of the child tax credit as if it were a mirror code<br>territory. In contrast, eligible residents of Puerto Rico<br>(also a non-mirror code territory) would file for the<br>credit directly with the IRS.  | <ul> <li>For background, see</li> <li>CRS Report R44651, Tax<br/>Policy and U.S. Territories:<br/>Overview and Issues for<br/>Congress, by Sean Lowry.</li> </ul> |
| Part 3—Earned Inco   | ome Tax Credit  |   |
| Strengthening the<br>Earned Income Tax<br>Credit for Individuals<br>with no Qualifying<br>Children   | For 2021, would temporarily expand both eligibility for<br>and the amount of the earned income tax credit (EITC)<br>for taxpayers without qualifying children by modifying<br>the eligibility age and credit formula.   | <ul> <li>For background, see</li> <li>CRS Report R43805, The<br/>Earned Income Tax Credit<br/>(EITC): How It Works and</li> </ul>                                 |
|  | Regarding eligibility age, would expand eligibility for the<br>EITC for individuals with no qualifying children—<br>sometimes referred to as the "childless EITC"—by<br>eliminating the maximum eligibility age limit (currently,<br>otherwise-eligible workers aged 65 or older are<br>ineligible for the credit) and by reducing the minimum<br>eligibility age from 25 to 19. In other words, this change<br>would allow eligible taxpayers ages 19 to 24 to claim<br>the childless EITC, except for students (whose<br>minimum eligibility age would be 24). Qualified foster<br>youth and homeless youth aged 18-24 would be<br>allowed to claim the credit even if they were students. <sup>c</sup><br>Regarding the credit amount, would temporarily<br>increase the childless EITC by increasing the earned<br>income amount (the minimum income necessary to<br>receive the maximum credit amount) and phaseout<br>threshold amount (the maximum income level at which<br>taxpayers receive the maximum credit amount before it<br>begins to phase out) to \$9,820 and \$11,610,<br>respectively, while also doubling the phase-in and<br>phaseout rates from 7.65% to 15.3%. The maximum<br>childless EITC would increase from \$543 to \$1,502 in<br>2021. | (EITC): How It Works and<br>Who Receives It, by<br>Margot L. Crandall-<br>Hollick, Gene Falk, and<br>Conor F. Boyle.  |
| Taxpayer Eligible for<br>Childless Earned<br>Income Credit in Case<br>of Qualifying Children<br>Who Fail to Meet<br>Certain Identification<br>Requirements | Would permanently allow taxpayers who currently<br>cannot claim the childless EITC because all of their<br>qualifying children do not have SSNs to be eligible to<br>claim the childless EITC.  |   |
| Credit Allowed in<br>Case of Certain<br>Separated Spouses  | Would permanently allow married taxpayers who file<br>their tax returns as married filing separately to claim<br>the EITC if they live with a child for whom they can<br>claim the EITC for more than half the year and either<br>(1) do not have the same principal place of abode as<br>their spouse for the last six months of the year, or (2)<br>have a decree, instrument, or agreement (i.e., other<br>than a divorce decree) and do not live with their<br>spouse at the end of the year.   |   |

| Section Title   | Description   | <b>CRS</b> Resources   |
|---|---|--|
| Modification of<br>Disqualified<br>Investment Income<br>Test  | Would permanently modify the disqualified investment<br>income test. Under current law, taxpayers with<br>investment income over a certain threshold—\$3,650 in<br>2020 and 2021—are ineligible for the EITC. Disqualified<br>investment income is defined as interest income<br>(including tax-exempt interest), dividends, net rent, net<br>capital gains, and net passive income. It also includes<br>royalties from sources other than the filer's ordinary<br>business activities. This provision would permanently<br>raise this amount to \$10,000 and annually adjust for<br>inflation beginning in 2022.   |  |
| Application of Earned<br>Income Tax Credit in<br>Possession of the<br>United States                       | Would permanently provide authority to make<br>payments to Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and mirror-<br>code territories for amounts they pay out in the EITC.<br>For Puerto Rico and American Samoa, such payments<br>would be contingent upon increasing the amount of<br>their EITC or enacting an EITC, respectively.  |  |
| Temporary Special<br>Rule for Determining<br>Earned Income for<br>Purposes of Earned<br>Income Tax Credit | For the purposes of calculating their EITC on their<br>2021 income tax return, would allow taxpayers to<br>substitute their 2019 earned income for their 2021<br>earned income if their earned income at the end of<br>2021 was less than their 2019 earned income.   |  |
| Part 4—Dependent  | Care Assistance   |  |
| Refundability and<br>Enhancement of Child<br>and Dependent Care<br>Tax Credit                             | For 2021, would temporarily expand the child and dependent care credit by making the credit refundable and making it larger for most workers. The CDCTC credit amount is a product of the amount of qualifying expenses (which is subject to a cap) and the credit rate. The bill would increase the cap on qualifying expenses from \$3,000 for one child and \$6,000 for two or more children to \$8,000 and \$16,000, respectively. The bill would also increase the credit rate for workers with \$185,000 or less of income (the credit would remain the same as under current law for those with income over \$185,000 up to \$400,000 [i.e., 20%], and be reduced from current law for those with over \$400,000 of income). Specifically, for those with less than \$125,000 of income, the credit rate would increase to 50% (from 35%) of expenses. This 50% credit rate would gradually phase down to 20% until taxpayers had \$185,000 of income up to \$400,000, the credit rate would then remain at 20%, gradually falling to zero when income exceeds \$440,000. As a result, | <ul> <li>For background, see</li> <li>CRS Report R44993,<br/>Child and Dependent Cara<br/>Tax Benefits: How They<br/>Work and Who Receives<br/>Them, by Margot L.<br/>Crandall-Hollick.</li> </ul> |

By making the credit refundable, the bill would effectively expand eligibility to lower-income taxpayers. Under current law, the CDCTC is a nonrefundable credit, meaning the value of the credit cannot exceed a taxpayer's income tax liability. As a result, those with little or no income tax liability, including many lowincome taxpayers, receive little or no benefit from the current credit.

those with income over \$440,000 would not be eligible

for the credit.

| Section Title   | Description   | <b>CRS</b> Resources   |
|---|---|--|
|   | In combination, these changes would increase the maximum amount of the CDCTC from \$2,100 to \$8,000, based on expenses and income.   |  |
| Increase in Exclusion<br>for Employer-<br>Provided Dependent<br>Care Assistance | For 2021, would temporarily increase the maximum<br>amount of qualifying child care expenses that eligible<br>taxpayers could exclude from their income from<br>\$5,000 to \$10,500.  |  |
| Part 5—Credits for F  | Paid Sick and Family Leave  |  |
| Extension of Credits  | Would extend the Families First Coronavirus Response<br>Act (FFCRA; P.L. 116-127) payroll tax credits for paid<br>sick and paid family leave, including sick and family leave<br>tax credits for self-employed individuals, from March<br>31, 2021, through September 30, 2021.   | <ul> <li>For more information, see</li> <li>CRS In Focus IFI 1739,<br/>Payroll Tax Credit for<br/>COVID-19 Sick and Family<br/>Leave, by Molly F.<br/>Sherlock.</li> </ul> |
| Increase in Limitations<br>on Credits for Paid<br>Family Leave                  | The tax credit for family leave wages is limited to \$200 per day, and \$10,000 total per employee (50 days for self-employed individuals). This provision would increase this limit on the tax credit for paid family leave wages, allowing the credit on up to \$12,000 in paid family leave wages (60 days for self-employed individuals). | <ul> <li>For more information, see</li> <li>CRS In Focus IFI 1739,<br/>Payroll Tax Credit for<br/>COVID-19 Sick and Family<br/>Leave, by Molly F.<br/>Sherlock.</li> </ul> |
| Expansion of Leave to<br>Which Paid Family<br>Leave Credits Applies             | Would expand the definition of qualifying paid family<br>leave to allow family leave payroll tax credits to be<br>claimed for all qualifying uses of paid sick time, including<br>for leave provided if the employee is subject to a<br>quarantine or isolation order due to COVID-19 or is<br>caring for someone in a similar situation.     | <ul> <li>For more information, see</li> <li>CRS In Focus IFI 1739,<br/>Payroll Tax Credit for<br/>COVID-19 Sick and Family<br/>Leave, by Molly F.<br/>Sherlock.</li> </ul> |
| Paid Leave Credits<br>Allowed for Leave for<br>COVID Vaccination                | Would expand the paid sick and paid family leave<br>credits to allow credits for leave taken to obtain<br>immunization related to COVID-19 or recover from<br>any injury, disability, illness, or condition related to<br>COVID-19 immunization.  | <ul> <li>For more information, see</li> <li>CRS In Focus IFI 1739,<br/>Payroll Tax Credit for<br/>COVID-19 Sick and Family<br/>Leave, by Molly F.<br/>Sherlock.</li> </ul> |
| Application of<br>Nondiscrimination<br>Rules                                    | Would add a nondiscrimination rule to the paid leave<br>payroll tax credits, providing employers could not claim<br>the credits if paid leave provided to employees<br>discriminates in favor of highly compensated employees<br>or full-time employees, or discriminates on the basis of<br>employment tenure with the employer.             | <ul> <li>For more information, see</li> <li>CRS In Focus IFI 1739,<br/>Payroll Tax Credit for<br/>COVID-19 Sick and Family<br/>Leave, by Molly F.<br/>Sherlock.</li> </ul> |
| Reset of Limitation on<br>Paid Sick Leave                                       | FFCRA paid sick leave is limited to 10 days per<br>employee. This provision would reset the 10-day limit,<br>starting April 1, 2021, for employers claiming the credit<br>for paid sick leave provided to their employees. The<br>10-day limit would also be modified to reset for self-<br>employed individuals.                             | <ul> <li>For more information, see</li> <li>CRS In Focus IFI 1739,<br/>Payroll Tax Credit for<br/>COVID-19 Sick and Family<br/>Leave, by Molly F.<br/>Sherlock.</li> </ul> |

| Section Title   | Description  | <b>CRS R</b> esources  |
|---|--|--|
| Credits Allowed<br>Against Employer<br>Hospital Insurance<br>Tax                  | The paid sick and paid family leave tax credits are<br>currently claimed against the Old-Age, Survivors and<br>Disability Insurance (OASDI) tax, or the equivalent<br>amount of the Railroad Retirement Tax Act (RRTA)<br>tax. This provision would restructure the paid sick and<br>family leave payroll tax credits to be claimed against the<br>employer's share of the hospital insurance (HI) payroll<br>tax, after March 31, 2021. The employer's share is<br>1.45% of wages paid to employees. This credit would<br>not affect amounts transferred to the Federal Hospital<br>Insurance Trust Fund. | <ul> <li>For more information, see</li> <li>CRS In Focus IF11739,<br/>Payroll Tax Credit for<br/>COVID-19 Sick and Family<br/>Leave, by Molly F.<br/>Sherlock.</li> </ul>                  |
| Application of Credits<br>to Certain<br>Government<br>Employers                   | Government employers, including state and local government employers, are not allowed to claim paid leave payroll tax credits. This provision would provide that $501(c)(1)$ organizations and $501(a)$ organizations could claim the tax credits, making certain state and local governments, as well as $501(c)(1)$ federal government instrumentalities, tax-credit eligible.   | <ul> <li>For more information, see</li> <li>CRS In Focus IFI 1739,<br/>Payroll Tax Credit for<br/>COVID-19 Sick and Family<br/>Leave, by Molly F.<br/>Sherlock.</li> </ul>                 |
| Gross Up of Credit in<br>Lieu of Exclusion from<br>Tax                            | Provision provides that paid sick and paid family leave<br>payroll tax credits can be increased by the employer's<br>share of OASDI and HI payroll taxes (and equivalent<br>RRTA tax) for the paid leave wages. Denial of double<br>benefit applies, and gross income of the employer is<br>increased by the amount of the credit provided by this<br>section.   | <ul> <li>For more information, see</li> <li>CRS In Focus IF11739,<br/>Payroll Tax Credit for<br/>COVID-19 Sick and Family<br/>Leave, by Molly F.<br/>Sherlock.</li> </ul>                  |
| Effective Date  | The provisions related to payroll tax credits for leave<br>provided by employers apply to leave taken after March<br>31, 2021. For self-employed individuals, the changes are<br>retroactive, and apply after December 31, 2020.   | <ul> <li>For more information, see</li> <li>CRS In Focus IFI 1739,<br/>Payroll Tax Credit for<br/>COVID-19 Sick and Family<br/>Leave, by Molly F.<br/>Sherlock.</li> </ul>                 |
| Part 6—Employee Re  | etention Credit  |  |
| Extension of<br>Employee Retention<br>Credit                                      | Through June 30, 2021, the employee retention and<br>rehiring tax credit is 70% of qualified wages. The<br>refundable payroll credit can be computed on up to<br>\$10,000 in qualified wages paid to an eligible employee<br>per calendar quarter. Thus, the maximum credit<br>amount for 2021 is \$14,000 (70% of up to \$20,000 in<br>qualified wages paid over the first two quarters).   | <ul> <li>For more information, see</li> <li>CRS In Focus IF11721,<br/>The Employee Retention<br/>and Employee Retention<br/>and Rehiring Tax Credits,<br/>by Molly F. Sherlock.</li> </ul> |
|   | This provision would extend the employee retention<br>credit through December 31, 2021. The credit would<br>be restructured to be claimed against the employer's<br>share of the hospital insurance (HI) payroll tax (as<br>opposed to the OSADI and equivalent amount of<br>RRTA tax).  |  |
| Part 7—Premium Ta   | x Credit   |  |
| Improving<br>Affordability by<br>Expanding Premium<br>Assistance for<br>Consumers | For 2021 and 2022, would temporarily expand eligibility<br>for and the amount of the premium tax credit (PTC) by<br>modifying the income eligibility criteria and credit<br>formula.   | <ul> <li>For background, see</li> <li>CRS Report R44425,<br/>Health Insurance Premium<br/>Tax Credits and Cost-</li> </ul>   |

Regarding income, would temporarily expand eligibility by eliminating the current-law phaseout for households

Tax Credits and Cost-Sharing Subsidies, by Bernadette Fernandez.

Consumers

| Section Title  | Description   | <b>CRS R</b> esources   |
|--|---|---|
|  | with annual incomes above 400% of the federal poverty level (FPL).  |   |
|  | Regarding the formula, would temporarily increase the credit amount by reducing the percentage of annual income that eligible households would be required to contribute toward the premium. The temporary percentages would range from 0.0% to 8.5% of household income, with higher-income groups subject to the larger percentages, as specified.  |   |
| Temporary<br>Modification of<br>Limitations on<br>Reconciliation of Tax<br>Credits for Coverage<br>Under a Qualified<br>Health Plan with<br>Advance Payments of<br>Such Credit | For 2020, would temporarily provide tax relief to<br>individuals who would be subject to the current-law<br>requirement to pay back PTC amounts that were<br>provided in excess. Would temporarily suspend the<br>recapture of excess credit amounts under the current<br>tax reconciliation process.   |   |
| Application of<br>Premium Tax Credit<br>in Case of Individuals<br>Receiving<br>Unemployment<br>Compensation During<br>2021   | For 2021, would temporarily expand eligibility for and<br>the amount of the PTC for certain individuals who<br>receive unemployment compensation (UC). Would<br>temporarily deem individuals who receive UC for any<br>week in calendar year 2021 to have met the PTC<br>income eligibility criteria. Would temporarily disregard<br>any household income above 133% FPL.   | <ul> <li>For background, see</li> <li>CRS Report R45478,<br/>Unemployment Insurance:<br/>Legislative Issues in the<br/>I 16th Congress, by Julie<br/>M. Whittaker and<br/>Katelin P. Isaacs.</li> </ul>                         |
| Part 8—Miscellaneou  | s Provisions  |   |
| Repeal of Election to<br>Allocation Interest,<br>Etc. on Worldwide<br>Basis  | U.S. firms are eligible for foreign tax credits up to the<br>amount of U.S. tax paid on foreign-source income. To<br>impose this limit, U.S. and foreign-source income must<br>be determined. Certain deductions are allocated<br>between U.S. and foreign sources, including interest.<br>Until 2021, firms allocated interest excluding that paid<br>by foreign firms (called "waters edge" allocation).<br>Under current law, beginning in 2021, firms can elect to<br>include interest paid by related foreign firms. This<br>treatment is called worldwide allocation. It is beneficial<br>for some firms because some of the interest paid for<br>foreign firms is allocated to U.S. sources, increasing<br>foreign-source income, increasing the limit on the<br>foreign tax credit and, thus, increasing foreign tax<br>credits that reduce tax liability. A provision was<br>adopted in 2004 to move to worldwide allocation, but<br>it has been delayed by other legislation and is scheduled<br>to begin in 2021. This provision would repeal the<br>election to move to worldwide allocation. | For background, see<br>CRS Report<br>RL34494, The Foreign<br>Tax Credit's Interest<br>Allocation Rules, by<br>Jane G. Gravelle and<br>Donald J. Marples.  |
| Tax Treatment of<br>Targeted Economic<br>Injury Disaster Loan<br>Advances  | Under normal tax rules, a forgiven debt is generally<br>treated as taxable income to the borrower. Prior<br>legislation has allowed forgiven loans for certain<br>programs (such as those provided by the Paycheck<br>Protection Program, or PPP, and certain other small<br>business loans) to be excluded from income. Following<br>an IRS ruling that associated expenses would not be<br>deductible, legislation specified that associated expenses<br>would be deductible. This provision would extend this  | <ul> <li>For background, see</li> <li>CRS Insight IN11378,<br/>IRS Guidance Says No<br/>Deduction Is Allowed<br/>for Business Expenses<br/>Paid with Forgiven PPP<br/>Loans, by Sean Lowry<br/>and Jane G. Gravelle.</li> </ul> |

| Section Title   | Description  | <b>CRS</b> Resources   |
|---|--|--|
|   | treatment (exclusion from income and deduction of<br>expenses) to additional Economic Injury Disaster Loan<br>(EIDL) advances on loans that are not required to be<br>repaid.  | <ul> <li>CRS Report R46284,<br/>COVID-19 Relief<br/>Assistance to Small<br/>Businesses: Issues and<br/>Policy Options, by<br/>Robert Jay Dilger,<br/>Bruce R. Lindsay, and<br/>Sean Lowry.</li> </ul>  |
|   |  | <ul> <li>CRS Insight IN11370,<br/>SBA EIDL and<br/>Emergency EIDL Grants<br/>for COVID-19, by<br/>Bruce R. Lindsay.</li> </ul>   |
| Tax Treatment of<br>Restaurant<br>Revitalization Grants | Under normal tax rules, a forgiven debt is treated as<br>taxable income to the borrower. Prior legislation has<br>allowed forgiven loans for certain programs (such as<br>those provided by the Paycheck Protection Program, or<br>PPP, and certain other small business loans) to be<br>excluded from income. Following an IRS ruling that<br>associated expenses would not be deductible,<br>legislation specified that associated expenses would be<br>deductible. This provision would extend this treatment<br>(exclusion from income and deduction of expenses) to<br>additional grants made from the new Restaurant<br>Revitalization Fund. | <ul> <li>For background, see</li> <li>CRS Insight IN I 1378, IR<br/>Guidance Says No<br/>Deduction Is Allowed for<br/>Business Expenses Paid<br/>with Forgiven PPP Loans,<br/>by Sean Lowry and Jane<br/>G. Gravelle.</li> <li>CRS Report R46284,<br/>COVID-19 Relief<br/>Assistance to Small<br/>Businesses: Issues and<br/>Policy Options, by Robert<br/>Jay Dilger, Bruce R.<br/>Lindsay, and Sean Lowry</li> </ul> |

**Source:** Legislative proposals to comply with the reconciliation directive included in Section 2001 of the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021, S.Con.Res. 5. Subtitle G. Budget Reconciliation Legislative Recommendations Relating to Promoting Economic Security.

- a. For example, if a married couple had three children under 6 years old, the maximum credit they would be eligible for would be \$10,800 (\$3,600x3) if they had income under \$150,000. For taxpayers with income over \$150,000, the additional \$4,800 of the credit (\$1,600x3) would be reduced at a rate of 5%. At \$246,000 of income, the credit would be \$6,000 (\$2,000 x 3), the current-law amount. The credit would remain at this amount until the taxpayer's income reached the current-law thresholds of \$400,000. At that point, the credit would phase out under the provisions of current law (5% phaseout rate).
- b. The legislative text indicates that taxpayers will not need to repay \$2,000 per child in advanced credit overpayments. Because the maximum amount of the child credit that can be received in advance is half the total credit amount, the maximum in aggregate payments per child is \$1,500 per older child and \$1,800 per young child. Because these amounts are less than the \$2,000 safe harbor amount, taxpayers with income below these thresholds will effectively not be required to repay any overpayments of the advanced credit.
- c. The legislation includes as part of the definition of a student someone carrying half or more of the normal full-time workload for their program of study, as defined under IRC §25A(b)(3).

| Fiscal Years; Millions of Dollars  |             |        |      |      |       |       |       |       |       |        |       |           |
|--|-------------|--------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-----------|
| Provision  | 2021        | 2022   | 2023 | 2024 | 2025  | 2026  | 2027  | 2028  | 2029  | 2030   | 203 I | 2021-2031 |
| Part I-2021 Recovery Rebates to  | Individuals | 5      |      |      |       |       |       |       |       |        |       |           |
| Recovery Rebates to Individuals  | 404,937     | 17,400 | -    | -    | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     | -      | -     | 422,337   |
| Part 2—Child Tax Credit  |             |        |      |      |       |       |       |       |       |        |       |           |
| Child Tax Credit: Improvements for<br>2021 and Application of the Child<br>Tax Credit in Possessions   | 25,826      | 79,248 | 710  | 721  | 725   | 721   | 307   | 311   | 316   | 320    | 323   | 109,528   |
| Part 3—Earned Income Tax Credi   | it          |        |      |      |       |       |       |       |       |        |       |           |
| Strengthening the Earned Income<br>Tax Credit for Individuals with no<br>Qualifying Children   | 521         | 11,361 | -    | -    | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     | -      | -     | 11,882    |
| Taxpayer Eligible for Childless<br>Earned Income Credit in Case of<br>Qualifying Children Who Fail to<br>Meet Certain Identification<br>Requirements | (i)         | 12     | 2    | Ι    | I     | I     | 2     | 2     | 2     | 2      | 2     | 26        |
| Credit Allowed in Case of Certain<br>Separated Spouses   | I           | 20     | 21   | 22   | 23    | 25    | 25    | 27    | 28    | 30     | 31    | 252       |
| Modification of Disqualified<br>Investment Income Test   | 102         | 652    | 198  | 200  | 225   | 229   | 238   | 233   | 231   | 240    | 251   | 2,798     |
| Application of Earned Income Tax<br>Credit in Possession of the United<br>States   | -           | 738    | 746  | 764  | 781   | 798   | 814   | 83 I  | 849   | 867    | 858   | 8,074     |
| Temporary Special Rule for<br>Determining Earned Income for<br>Purposes of Earned Income Tax<br>Credit   | -           | 3,185  | -    | -    | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     | -      | -     | 3,185     |
| Total of Earned Income Tax Credit  | 624         | 15,968 | 967  | 987  | 1,030 | 1,053 | 1,079 | 1,093 | 1,110 | 1,1390 | 1,169 | 26,217    |

#### Table 2. Estimated Cost of Subtitle G Revenue Provisions of the Budget Reconciliation Legislative Recommendations

| Provision  | 2021       | 2022   | 2023  | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | 203 I | 2021-2031 |
|--|------------|--------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-----------|
| Part 4—Dependent Care Assistan   | ce         |        |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |           |
| Refundability and Enhancement of<br>Child and Dependent Care Tax<br>Credit   | 2,127      | 5,837  | -     | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | 7,964     |
| Increase in Exclusion for Employer-<br>Provided Dependent Care<br>Assistance   | 78         | 39     | -     | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | 117       |
| Total of Dependent Care Assistance   | 2,205      | 5,876  | -     | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | 8,08 I    |
| Part 5—Credits for Paid Sick and   | Family Lea | ive    |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |           |
| Extension and Modification of<br>Credits for Paid Sick and Family<br>Leave   | 4,054      | 1,154  | -     | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | 5,208     |
| Part 6—Employee Retention Cred   | lit        |        |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |           |
| Extension and Modification of the<br>Employee Retention Credit   | 2,791      | 5,993  | -     | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | 8,784     |
| Part 7—Premium Tax Credit  |            |        |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |           |
| Improving Affordability by Expanding<br>Premium Assistance for Consumers   | 4,137      | 22,234 | 7,964 | 536  | -23  | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | 34,847    |
| Temporary Modification of<br>Limitations on Reconciliation of Tax<br>Credits for Coverage Under a<br>Qualified Health Plan with Advance<br>Payments of Such Credit | 4,696      | 1,565  | -     | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | 6,261     |
| Application of Premium Tax Credit<br>in Case of Individuals Receiving<br>Unemployment Compensation<br>During 2021  | 2,624      | ١,660  | 232   | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | 4,516     |
| Total of the Premium Tax Credit  | 11,457     | 25,459 | 8,196 | 536  | -23  | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    | -     | 45,624    |

| Provision   | 2021 | 2022   | 2023   | 2024   | 2025   | 2026   | 2027   | 2028   | 2029   | 2030   | 203 I  | 2021-2031                  |
|---|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------------------------|
| Part 8—Miscellaneous Provisions                                       |      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |                            |
| Repeal of Election to Allocation<br>Interest, Etc. on Worldwide Basis | -335 | -1,277 | -2,023 | -2,284 | -2,383 | -2,334 | -2,358 | -2,385 | -2,343 | -2,283 | -2,327 | -22,331                    |
| Tax Treatment of Targeted EIDL<br>Advances                            |      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | Estimate Not<br>Availableª |
| Tax Treatment of Restaurant<br>Revitalization Grants                  |      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | Estimate Not<br>Availableª |
| Total of Miscellaneous Provisions                                     | -335 | -1,277 | -2,023 | -2,284 | -2,383 | -2,334 | -2,358 | -2,385 | -2,343 | -2,283 | -2,327 | -22,331                    |

**Source:** Joint Committee on Taxation, Estimated Budgetary Effects Of The Revenue Provisions Of The Chairman's Amendment In The Nature Of A Substitute To The Budget Reconciliation Legislative Recommendations, Scheduled For Markup By The House Committee On Ways And Means On February 10, 2021, JCX-9-21, February 9, 2021, at https://www.jct.gov/publications/2021/jcx-9-21/.

Notes: A negative number indicates the provision is estimated to result in a revenue gain. An (i) indicates a cost of less than \$500,000.

a. The Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) revenue estimate indicates that the cost estimate for this provision will be provided by the Congressional Budget Office. At the time of publication, this estimate was not yet publicly available.

## Author Information

Molly F. Sherlock Specialist in Public Finance Jane G. Gravelle Senior Specialist in Economic Policy

Margot L. Crandall-Hollick Acting Section Research Manager

### Disclaimer

This document was prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS). CRS serves as nonpartisan shared staff to congressional committees and Members of Congress. It operates solely at the behest of and under the direction of Congress. Information in a CRS Report should not be relied upon for purposes other than public understanding of information that has been provided by CRS to Members of Congress in connection with CRS's institutional role. CRS Reports, as a work of the United States Government, are not subject to copyright protection in the United States. Any CRS Report may be reproduced and distributed in its entirety without permission from CRS. However, as a CRS Report may include copyrighted images or material from a third party, you may need to obtain the permission of the copyright holder if you wish to copy or otherwise use copyrighted material.