

Tax Reform Proposal Tax Expenditures Reference Sheet

1.001 Exemption of Premiums on Accident and Accidental Death Insurance

Employer contributions for premiums on accident and accidental death insurance are not included in the income of the employee and are deductible by the employer.

Origin: IRC § 106

Estimate: \$23.7

1.002 Exemption of Premiums on Group-Term Life Insurance

Employer payments of employee group-term life insurance premiums for coverage up to \$50,000 per employee are not included in income by the employee and are deductible by the employer.

Origin: IRC § 79

Estimate: \$11.5

1.010 Exemption of Workers' Compensation Benefits

Workers' compensation benefits are not taxed. These are benefits paid to disabled employees or their survivors for employment-related injuries or diseases.

Origin: IRC § 104 (a)(1)

Estimate: \$8.5

1.011 Exemption for Dependent Care Expenses

Day care paid for or provided by an employer to an employee, the value of which does not exceed the employee's or employee's spouse's "earned" income, and does not exceed the amount of \$5,000, is not included in the income of the employee and is deductible by the employer.

Origin: IRC § 129

Estimate: \$9.0

1.012 Exemption of Certain Foster Care Payments

Qualified foster care payments are not includible in the income of a foster parent.

Origin: IRC § 131

Estimate: \$3.1

1.013 Exemption of Payments Made to Coal Miners

Coal miners or their survivors may exclude from income payments for disability or death from black lung disease.

Origin: IRC § 104(a)(1)

Estimate: Negligible

1.014 Exemption of Rental Value of Parsonages

A minister may exclude from gross income a rental allowance or the rental value of a parsonage furnished to him or her.

Origin: IRC § 107

Estimate: \$2.1

1.015 Exemption of Scholarships and Fellowships

Degree candidates can exclude scholarships and fellowship income if the amounts are not compensation for services or for the payment of room, board or travel expenses.

Origin: IRC § 117

Estimate: \$19.1

1.016 Exemption of Certain Prizes and Awards

Prizes and awards are generally required to be included in income. The exemption of certain prizes and awards is generally limited to taxpayers who donate the proceeds to a charitable organization. Certain employee achievement awards are also excluded from gross income.

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<i>Origin: IRC § 74</i>	<i>Estimate: N.A.</i>
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1.017 Exemption of Cost-Sharing Payments

Portions of government cost-sharing payments to assist in water and soil conservation projects are not includible in the recipient's income.

Origin: IRC § 126

Estimate: Negligible

1.018 Exemption of Meals and Lodging Provided at Work

The value of meals and lodging furnished to the employee by the employer on the business premises for the employer's convenience is not included in the income of the employee. The employer's expenses are deductible.

Origin: IRC § 119

Estimate: \$7.7

1.019 Treatment of Business-Related Entertainment Expenses

With certain limitations, a business may take a deduction of up to 50% of the cost of business-related entertainment expenses. Generally, the value of the entertainment is not taxed as income to the persons who benefit from the expenditures. The effect is to provide the hosts and their guests with a nontaxable fringe benefit.

Origin: IRC § 162

Estimate: N.A.

1.020 Exemption of Income from the Sale, Lease, or Transfer of Certain Patents

Income from the sale, lease or other transfer of approved patents for energy conservation, and income from property subject to such patents, are excluded from gross income for a period of five years.

Origin: M.G.L. c. 62, § 2(a)(2)(G)

Estimate: N.A.

1.021 Exemption of Capital Gains on Home Sales

Taxpayers may exclude up to \$250,000 of capital gain (or \$500,000 if filing jointly) on the sale of a principle residence. This exclusion from gross income may be taken any number of times, provided the home was the filer's primary residence for an aggregate of at least 2 of the previous 5 years.

Comment: This expenditure and 1.105 (Deferral of Capital Gains on Home Sales) were changed by the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997; item 1.105 (based on IRC 1034, the rollover of capital gains on the sale of a home) was repealed. In effect, both 1.105 and 1.021 were replaced with a modified IRC 121. The new IRC 121, which is the basis for Massachusetts tax expenditure 1.021, removed the age requirement and the "one-time-only" limitation.

Origin: IRC § 121

Estimate: \$239.6

1.030 Parking, T-Pass and Vanpool Fringe Benefits

A federal and Massachusetts exclusion is allowed for employer-provided parking, transit passes and vanpool benefits (i.e. "qualified transportation benefits"), subject to monthly maximums. As a result of the Code Update, for tax years starting on or after January 1, 2005, Massachusetts adopts the federal exclusion without any differences in exclusion amounts or allowed benefits. Although the Tax Relief Act of 2010 temporarily increased this amount at the federal level,

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Massachusetts does not conform, and allows only a maximum exclusion of \$120 per month (see Appendix A).

Origin: IRC § 132(f)

Estimate: \$38.8

1.031 Health Savings Accounts

For federal income tax purposes, the earnings in a Health Savings Account (HSA) account accrue on a tax-free basis, and qualified distributions from a HSA are excluded from gross income. Prior to the most recent Code update, Massachusetts taxed earnings in a HSA and also taxed distributions to the extent such amounts were not previously taxed by Massachusetts. As a result of the Code update, Massachusetts adopts the federal exclusion for earnings in, and qualified distributions from, a HSA.

Origin: IRC § 223

Estimate: Included in 1.422

1.032 Employer-Provided Adoption Assistance

Massachusetts adopts the federal exclusion for employer-provided adoption expenses paid (or treated as paid under IRC sec. 137) on or after January 1, 2005. The federal government extended this credit temporarily for 2011. However, as Massachusetts follows the 2005 Code, and so the credits sunset after 2010.

Origin: IRC § 137

Estimate: \$0.0

1.033 Employer-Provided Educational Assistance

Under the January 1, 1998 Code, Massachusetts had adopted the federal exclusion for qualified educational expenses reimbursed to an employee under an employer-provided education assistance program. As a result of the 2005 Code Update, Massachusetts adopts the federal exclusion for qualified educational expenses for undergraduate and graduate education expenses up to the federal annual maximum of \$5,250 per calendar year.

Origin: IRC § 127, 132

Estimate: \$8.4

1.034 Qualified Retirement Planning Services

Massachusetts adopts the federal exclusion for the employee fringe benefit of retirement planning advice or information provided to an employee and spouse by an employer maintaining a qualified employer plan. Qualified employer plans include IRC sec. 401(a) plans, annuity plans, government plans, IRC sec. 403(b) annuity contracts, SEPs and SIMPLE accounts. This exclusion is due to expire for tax or plan years beginning after December 31, 2010.

Origin: IRC § 132(m)

Estimate: N.A.

1.035 Department of Defense Homeowners Assistance Plan

Massachusetts adopts the federal exclusion for the employee fringe benefit of payments received under the Homeowners Assistance Plan. Such payments are intended to compensate military personnel and certain civilian employees for a reduction in the fair market value of their homes resulting from military or Coast Guard base closure or realignment.

Origin: IRC § 132(m)

Estimate: N.A.

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1.039 Discharge of Indebtedness for Health Care Professionals

Massachusetts adopts the federal exclusion for National Health Service Corps Loan Program repayments made to health care professionals. Loan repayments received under similar state programs eligible for funds under the Public Health Service Act are also excluded from income.

Origin: IRC § 108(f)(4)

Estimate: Negligible

1.040 Archer Medical Savings Accounts

For federal income tax purposes, the earnings in an Archer Medical Savings Account (MSA) account accrue on a tax-free basis, and qualified distributions from an Archer MSA are excluded from gross income. Prior to the 2005 Code update, Massachusetts taxed earnings in an Archer MSA for individuals who became active participants on or after January 1, 2001 and also taxed distributions for such individuals to the extent such amounts were not previously taxed by Massachusetts. As a result of the Code update, Massachusetts adopts the federal exclusion for earnings in, and qualified distributions from, an Archer MSA for all federally qualified individuals.

Origin: IRC § 220

Estimate: Included in item 1.420

1.201 Capital Gains Deduction

Long-term capital gains realized from the sale of collectibles (as defined by sec. 408 (m) of the IRC) are eligible for a 50% deduction from the 12% capital gains tax.

Origin: M.G.L. c. 62, § 2(c)(3)

Estimate: N.A.

1.202 Deduction of Capital Losses Against Interest and Dividend Income

Taxpayers may deduct up to \$2,000 of net capital loss against interest and dividend income. This limit was reestablished in 2002.

Origin: M.G.L. c. 62, § 2(c)(2)

Estimate: N.A.

1.312 Expensing Certain Capital Outlays of Farmers

Farmers may use certain favorable accounting rules. For instance, they may use the cash basis method of accounting and may deduct up to 50% of non-paid farming expenses as current expenses even though these expenditures are for inventories on hand at the end of the year. They also may deduct certain capital outlays, such as expenses for fertilizers and soil and water conservation if they are consistent with a federal- or state-approved plan. Generally, these special rules are not available to farming corporations and syndicates.

Origin: IRC §§ 175, 180 and 182 and Reg. §§ 1.61-4, 1.162-12 and 1.471-6 *Estimate: \$0.3*

1.401 Deduction for Employee Social Security and Railroad Retirement Payments

Taxes paid by employees to fund the Social Security and Railroad Retirement systems are deductible against "earned" income up to a maximum of \$2,000 per individual.

Comment: The estimate also covers item 1.402 below.

Origin: M.G.L. c. 62, § 3B(a)(3)

Estimate: \$299.6

1.402 Deduction for Employee Contributions to Public Pension Plans

Employee contributions to federal and state contributory pension plans are deductible against "earned" income up to a maximum of \$2,000 per individual.

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Origin: M.G.L. c. 62, § 3B(a)(4)

Estimate: Included in item 1.401

1.405 Dependents Exemption Where the Child Earns Income

Taxpayers are allowed an additional exemption of \$1,000 for a dependent child even when the child earns income against which a personal exemption can be taken.

Comment: The estimate cannot be separated from the figure for the Dependents Exemption. See endnote 3 at end of Income section.

Origin: IRC § 151(c) in effect January 1, 1988 and M.G.L. c. 62 § 3B(b)(3) Estimate: N.A.

1.406 Deduction for Dependents Under 12

Individual taxpayers and married taxpayers filing jointly with one or more dependents under age 12, who do not claim the deduction for child care described in item 1.409 below, may claim this deduction. Filers with one dependent under 12 may deduct \$3,600, while filers with two or more dependents under 12 may deduct \$7,200.

Origin: M.G.L. c. 62, § 3B(a)(8)

Estimate: \$135.8

1.407 Personal Exemption for Students Age 19 or Over

A taxpayer may claim a dependent exemption of \$1,000 for a child who is a full-time student even if he or she is 19 or over.

Origin: IRC § 151(c) in effect January 1, 1988 and M.G.L. c. 62 § 3B(b)(3) Estimate: \$8.4

1.408 Deduction for Adoption Fees

Adoption fees paid to a registered adoption agency are deductible against Part B income.

Origin: M.G.L. c. 62, § 3B(b)(5)

Estimate: \$0.5

1.409 Deduction for Business-Related Child Care Expenses

Taxpayers qualifying for the credit for employment-related childcare expenses in the Internal Revenue Code are allowed a deduction against "earned" income for the amount of the expenses that qualify for the credit. Beginning in tax year 2001, the cap on this deduction was increased, and the coverage expanded to include elderly and disabled dependents. The cap increased from \$2,400 to \$3,600 for filers with one dependent, and from \$2,400 to \$4,800 for filers with two or more dependents. Beginning in tax year 2002, the cap was further increased to \$4,800 for qualifying filers with one dependent and to \$9,600 for filers with two or more dependents.

Comment: For federal tax purposes, the requirement that employment-related child care expenses relate only to children under age 15 was further restricted to children under age 13. In addition, a federal change now requires a taxpayer to include employer-provided dependent care expenses when calculating the limitation amount of qualifying expenses.

Origin: IRC § 21 and M.G.L. c. 62, § 3B(a)(7)

Estimate: \$15.4

1.412 Nontaxation of Charitable Purpose Income of Trustees, Executors or Administrators

The adjusted gross income of trustees, executors or administrators, which is currently payable to or irrevocably set aside for public charitable purposes is tax-exempt.

Origin: M.G.L. c. 62, §§ 3A(a)(2) and B(a)(2)

Estimate: N.A.

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1.413 Exemption of Interest on Savings in Massachusetts Banks

Up to \$100 (\$200 on a joint return) of interest from savings deposits or savings accounts in Massachusetts banks is excluded from "earned" income.

Origin: M.G.L. c. 62, § 3B(a)(6)

Estimate: \$5.1

1.414 Tuition Deduction (Over 25% of Income)

A deduction is allowed for tuition payments paid, on behalf of a filer or their dependent, to a two-or four-year college leading to a degree or certificate. The deduction is equal to the amount by which the net tuition payments exceed 25% of the filer's Massachusetts AGI. See TIR 97-13 for more information.

Origin: M.G.L. c. 62, § 3B(a)(11),(12)

Estimate: \$35.9

1.415 Charitable Contributions Tax Deduction

For tax year 2001, a deduction was allowed for charitable contributions in determining Part B taxable income. The deduction amount was equal to the taxpayer's charitable contributions for the year, as defined under the Federal Internal Revenue Code and without regard to whether the taxpayer elected to itemize deductions on his or her federal income tax return. Chapter 186 of the Acts of 2002 suspended this deduction, so no tax expenditure is recorded for the current fiscal year.

Origin: M.G.L. c. 62 §6I

Estimate: N.A.

1.418 Deduction for Costs Involved in Unlawful Discrimination Suits

Massachusetts adopts the federal deduction for attorney fees and court costs paid to recover a judgment or settlement for a claim of unlawful discrimination, up to the amount included in gross income for the tax year from such claim.

Origin: IRC §§ 62(a)(19) and 62(e)

Estimate: N.A.

1.420 Archer Medical Savings Accounts

Under the January 1, 1998 Code, Massachusetts allowed a deduction for an Archer Medical Savings Account (MSA) contribution only for individuals who were active MSA participants before January 1, 2001. As a result of recently enacted legislation that aligned the Massachusetts tax code with the Internal Revenue Code as of January 1, 2005, Massachusetts adopts the federal deduction for Archer MSA contributions made on or after January 1, 2005 for all federally qualified individuals.

Origin: IRC § 220

Estimate: Negligible

1.421 Deduction for Clean-Fuel Vehicles and Certain Refueling Property

A federal and Massachusetts deduction is allowed for a portion of the cost of qualifying motor vehicles that use clean-burning fuel. Under the January 1, 1998 Code, this deduction was due to expire for vehicles placed in service after December 31, 2004. As a result of recently enacted legislation that aligned the Massachusetts tax code with the Internal Revenue Code as of January 1, 2005, Massachusetts adopted the new federal provision allowing the deduction for vehicles placed in service on or before December 31, 2006.

Origin: IRC §§ 62(a)(14) and 179A

Estimate: Negligible

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1.422 Health Savings Accounts

Massachusetts adopted the federal deduction allowed to individuals for contributions to a Health Savings Account, subject to federal limitations, which are adjusted annually for inflation. For calendar year 2012, the maximum deduction limit is \$3,100 for an individual plan and \$6,250 for a family plan. Filers age 55 or older may increase the maximum deduction by \$1,000.

Origin: IRC §§ 62(a)(19) and 223

Estimate: \$12.3

1.423 Commuter Deduction

(Note: item 1.423 was formerly the temporary Tuition and Fees Deduction)

For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2006, individuals may deduct certain commuting costs paid in excess of \$150 for: Tolls paid through the Massachusetts FastLane account; and The cost of weekly or monthly passes for MBTA transit, bus, commuter rail, or commuter boat. The total amount deducted may not exceed \$750 per individual. Amounts paid must be reduced by any amounts reimbursed or otherwise deductible.

Origin: M.G.L. Chapter 62, § 3 (B) (a) (15)

Estimate: \$6.7

1.601 Renewable Energy Source Credit

Owners and tenants of residential property located within Massachusetts who are not dependents and who occupy the property as a principal residence are allowed a credit up to \$1,000, or an amount equal to 15% of the cost of a renewable energy source. Unused credits may be carried forward for 3 years. Credit is neither transferable nor refundable.

Origin: M.G.L. c. 62, § 6(d)

Estimate: \$1.3

1.602 Credit for Removal of Lead Paint

A tax credit is provided in the amount of the cost of removing or covering lead paint on each residential unit up to \$1,500. A seven-year carryover of any unused credit is permitted. Credit is neither transferable nor refundable.

Origin: M.G.L. c. 62, § 6(e)

Estimate: \$2.5

1.606 Septic System Repair Credit

Taxpayers required to repair or replace a failed cesspool or septic system pursuant to the provisions of Title V, as promulgated by the Department of Environmental Protection in 1995, are allowed a credit equal to 40% of the design and construction costs incurred (less any subsidy or grant from the Commonwealth), up to a maximum of \$1,500 per tax year and \$6,000 in total. Unused credits may be carried forward for up to 5 years. Credit is neither transferable nor refundable

Origin: M.G.L. c. 62, § 6(i)

Estimate: \$12.5

2.614 Film (or Motion Picture) Credit

For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2006 and before January 1, 2023, Massachusetts allows two credits for motion picture production companies who meet certain qualification requirements. Production companies who incur at least \$50,000 of production costs in Massachusetts are eligible for income and corporate excise tax credits equal to 20% of the total Massachusetts payroll for the production, excluding salaries of \$1 million and higher. In addition, production companies whose Massachusetts production expenses exceed 50% of the

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total production cost receive an income and corporate excise tax credit of 25% of the total Massachusetts production expense. Supporting documentation is available to the Department of Revenue upon request.

This tax credit is refundable at 90% of the approved credit amounts. Also the credit may be carried-forward for up to 5 years. In addition, all or any portion of tax credits issued may be transferred, sold or assigned to other taxpayers with tax liabilities under chapter 62 (the individual income tax) or chapter 63 (the corporate or other business excise taxes). For applications submitted prior to January 1, 2007, film tax credits were capped at \$7,000,000 for any one motion picture production has; for applications submitted on or after January 1, 2007, there is no cap. Also, the sunset date for the film incentives statute has been extended from January 1, 2013 to January 1, 2023. See TIR 07-15 for more information (See also item 1.611.) The credit is applicable to insurance companies as well.

Origin: M.G.L. c. 63, § 38X;

Estimate: \$82.6

FAS 109

In 2009, Massachusetts changed to a combined reporting state in determining corporate tax liability as a way to prevent multistate businesses in the Commonwealth from shifting income to their out-of-state affiliates. This special tax deduction enabled certain large public companies to spread out the impact of the higher combined reporting tax rate over a seven year period. However, because the deduction benefited only a few large public companies and would have cost the Commonwealth more than \$500 million dollars in tax revenue, the effective date of the deduction has been postponed every year since 2009.