

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules for tax-exempt enterprise zone facility bonds and to extend the tax incentives for empowerment zones.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. BLUNT) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules for tax-exempt enterprise zone facility bonds and to extend the tax incentives for empowerment zones.

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 “Empowering Jobs Act
5 of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF RULES FOR TAX-EXEMPT ENTER-**
2 **PRISE ZONE FACILITY BONDS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Clause (i) of section
4 1394(b)(3)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is
5 amended—

6 (1) by striking “References” and inserting the
7 following:

8 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as
9 provided in subclause (II), ref-
10 erences”, and

11 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
12 clause:

13 “(II) SPECIAL RULE FOR EM-
14 PLOYEE RESIDENCE TEST.—For pur-
15 poses of subsection (b)(6) and (c)(5)
16 of section 1397C, an employee shall
17 be treated as a resident of an em-
18 powerment zone if such employee is a
19 resident of an empowerment zone, an
20 enterprise community, or a qualified
21 low-income community within an ap-
22 plicable nominating jurisdiction.”.

23 (b) DEFINITIONS.—

24 (1) QUALIFIED LOW-INCOME COMMUNITY.—
25 Paragraph (3) of section 1394(b) of the Internal
26 Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating

1 subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (D)
2 and (E), respectively, and by inserting after sub-
3 paragraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

4 “(C) QUALIFIED LOW-INCOME COMMU-
5 NITY.—For purposes of subparagraph (B)—

6 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘quali-
7 fied low-income community’ means any
8 population census tract if—

9 “(I) the poverty rate for such
10 tract is at least 20 percent, or

11 “(II) the median family income
12 for such tract does not exceed 80 per-
13 cent of statewide median family in-
14 come (or, in the case of a tract lo-
15 cated within a metropolitan area, met-
16 ropolitan area median family income
17 if greater).

18 Subclause (II) shall be applied using
19 possessionwide median family income in
20 the case of census tracts located within a
21 possession of the United States.

22 “(ii) TARGETED POPULATIONS.—The
23 Secretary shall prescribe regulations under
24 which 1 or more targeted populations
25 (within the meaning of section 103(20) of

1 the Riegle Community Development and
2 Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994) may
3 be treated as a qualified low-income com-
4 munities.

5 “(iii) AREAS NOT WITHIN CENSUS
6 TRACTS.—In the case of an area which is
7 not tracted for population census tracts,
8 the equivalent county divisions (as defined
9 by the Bureau of the Census for purposes
10 of defining poverty areas) shall be used for
11 purposes of determining poverty rates and
12 median family income.

13 “(iv) MODIFICATION OF INCOME RE-
14 QUIREMENT FOR CENSUS TRACTS WITHIN
15 HIGH MIGRATION RURAL COUNTIES.—

16 “(I) IN GENERAL.—In the case
17 of a population census tract located
18 within a high migration rural county,
19 clause (i)(II) shall be applied to areas
20 not located within a metropolitan area
21 by substituting ‘85 percent’ for ‘80
22 percent’.

23 “(II) HIGH MIGRATION RURAL
24 COUNTY.—For purposes of this
25 clause, the term ‘high migration rural

1 county’ means any county which, dur-
2 ing the 20-year period ending with the
3 year in which the most recent census
4 was conducted, has a net out-migra-
5 tion of inhabitants from the county of
6 at least 10 percent of the population
7 of the county at the beginning of such
8 period.”.

9 (2) APPLICABLE NOMINATING JURISDICTION.—
10 Subparagraph (D) of section 1394(b)(3) of such
11 Code, as redesignated by paragraph (1), is amended
12 by adding at the end the following new clause:

13 “(iii) APPLICABLE NOMINATING JU-
14 RISDICTION.—The term ‘applicable nomi-
15 nating jurisdiction’ means, with respect to
16 any empowerment zone or enterprise com-
17 munity, any local government that nomi-
18 nated such community for designation
19 under section 1391.”.

20 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

21 (1) Clause (iii) of section 1394(b)(3)(B) of such
22 Code is amended by striking “or an enterprise com-
23 munity” and inserting “, an enterprise community,
24 or a qualified low-income community within an ap-
25 plicable nominating jurisdiction”.

1 ner as the Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary's
2 designee) may provide.

3 (c) EFFECTIVE DATES.—The amendment made by
4 subsection (a) shall apply to periods after December 31,
5 2014.