

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1634

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a shorter recovery period for the depreciation of certain leasehold improvements.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 3, 2003

Mr. SHAW (for himself, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. WELLER, Mr. STARK, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. HERGER, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. TERRY, Mr. FROST, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. KELLER, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. SMITH of Michigan, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. WICKER, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. UPTON, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. GOODE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CASE, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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## A BILL

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a shorter recovery period for the depreciation of certain leasehold improvements.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. RECOVERY PERIOD FOR DEPRECIATION OF**  
 2 **CERTAIN LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS.**

3 (a) 10-YEAR RECOVERY PERIOD.—Subparagraph  
 4 (D) of section 168(e)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of  
 5 1986 (relating to 10-year property) is amended by striking  
 6 “and” at the end of clause (i), by striking the period at  
 7 the end of clause (ii) and inserting “, and”, and by adding  
 8 at the end the following new clause:

9 “(iii) any qualified leasehold improve-  
 10 ment property.”.

11 (b) QUALIFIED LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENT PROP-  
 12 erty.—Subsection (e) of section 168 of such Code is  
 13 amended by adding at the end the following new para-  
 14 graph:

15 “(6) QUALIFIED LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENT  
 16 PROPERTY.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified  
 18 leasehold improvement property’ means any im-  
 19 provement to an interior portion of a building  
 20 which is nonresidential real property if—

21 “(i) such improvement is made under  
 22 or pursuant to a lease (as defined in sub-  
 23 section (h)(7))—

24 “(I) by the lessee (or any subles-  
 25 see) of such portion, or

1 “(II) by the lessor of such por-  
2 tion,

3 “(ii) such portion is to be occupied ex-  
4 clusively by the lessee (or any sublessee) of  
5 such portion, and

6 “(iii) such improvement is placed in  
7 service more than 3 years after the date  
8 the building was first placed in service.

9 “(B) CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS NOT IN-  
10 CLUDED.—Such term shall not include any im-  
11 provement for which the expenditure is attrib-  
12 utable to—

13 “(i) the enlargement of the building,

14 “(ii) any elevator or escalator,

15 “(iii) any structural component bene-  
16 fitting a common area, and

17 “(iv) the internal structural frame-  
18 work of the building.

19 “(C) DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.—  
20 For purposes of this paragraph—

21 “(i) COMMITMENT TO LEASE TREAT-  
22 ED AS LEASE.—A commitment to enter  
23 into a lease shall be treated as a lease, and  
24 the parties to such commitment shall be  
25 treated as lessor and lessee, respectively.

1           “(ii) RELATED PERSONS.—A lease be-  
2           tween related persons shall not be consid-  
3           ered a lease. For purposes of the preceding  
4           sentence, the term ‘related persons’  
5           means—

6                       “(I) members of an affiliated  
7                       group (as defined in section 1504),  
8                       and

9                       “(II) persons having a relation-  
10                      ship described in subsection (b) of  
11                      section 267; except that, for purposes  
12                      of this clause, the phrase ‘80 percent  
13                      or more’ shall be substituted for the  
14                      phrase ‘more than 50 percent’ each  
15                      place it appears in such subsection.

16           “(D) IMPROVEMENTS MADE BY LESSOR.—

17                       “(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an  
18                      improvement made by the person who was  
19                      the lessor of such improvement when such  
20                      improvement was placed in service, such  
21                      improvement shall be qualified leasehold  
22                      improvement property (if at all) only so  
23                      long as such improvement is held by such  
24                      person.

1           “(ii) EXCEPTION FOR CHANGES IN  
2 FORM OF BUSINESS.—Property shall not  
3 cease to be qualified leasehold improve-  
4 ment property under clause (i) by reason  
5 of—

6                   “(I) death,

7                   “(II) a transaction to which sec-  
8 tion 381(a) applies,

9                   “(III) a mere change in the form  
10 of conducting the trade or business so  
11 long as the property is retained in  
12 such trade or business as qualified  
13 leasehold improvement property and  
14 the taxpayer retains a substantial in-  
15 terest in such trade or business,

16                   “(IV) the acquisition of such  
17 property in an exchange described in  
18 section 1031, 1033, 1038, or 1039 to  
19 the extent that the basis of such prop-  
20 erty includes an amount representing  
21 the adjusted basis of other property  
22 owned by the taxpayer or a related  
23 person, or

24                   “(V) the acquisition of such  
25 property by the taxpayer in a trans-

1 action described in section 332, 351,  
2 361, 721, or 731 (or the acquisition  
3 of such property by the taxpayer from  
4 the transferee or acquiring corpora-  
5 tion in a transaction described in such  
6 section), to the extent that the basis  
7 of the property in the hands of the  
8 taxpayer is determined by reference to  
9 its basis in the hands of the trans-  
10 feror or distributor.

11 “(iii) RELATED PERSON.—For pur-  
12 poses of this subparagraph, a person (here-  
13 after in this clause referred to as the ‘re-  
14 lated person’) is related to any person if  
15 the related person bears a relationship to  
16 such person specified in section 267(b) or  
17 707(b)(1), or the related person and such  
18 person are engaged in trades or businesses  
19 under common control (within the meaning  
20 of subsections (a) and (b) of section 52).”.

21 (c) REQUIREMENT TO USE STRAIGHT LINE METH-  
22 OD.—Paragraph (3) of section 168(b) of such Code is  
23 amended by adding at the end the following new subpara-  
24 graph:

1                   “(G) Qualified leasehold improvement  
 2                   property described in subsection (e)(6).”.

3           (d) ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM.—The table contained in  
 4 section 168(g)(3)(B) of such Code is amended by inserting  
 5 after the item relating to subparagraph (D)(ii) the fol-  
 6 lowing new item:

          “(D)(iii) ..... 10”.

7           (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
 8 this section shall apply to qualified leasehold improvement  
 9 property placed in service after September 11, 2004.

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