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PERSVERKLARING

deur die

ADJUNKMINISTER VAN FINANSIES
DR. T. G. ALANT

VOORGESTELDE WYSIGINGS AAN DIE
INKOMSTEBELASTINGWET

Aandag word gevestig op die onderstaande twee belangrike wysigings wat in die Inkomstebelastingwetsontwerp, 1992, wat vandag ter tafel gelê is, voorgestel word.

STUDIEBEURSE

As gevolg van wydverspreide misbruik in verband met studiebeurse, veral in gevalle waar lopende salaris of die reg op toekomstige salaris, in belastingvrye beurse omskep is, is die ruim vrystellings van studiebeurse wat voorheen in die Inkomstebelastingwet vervat is, verlede jaar geskrap. Vertoë is sedertdien ontvang onder meer van maatskappye wat in die verlede opregte beurskemas, veral met betrekking tot hul lae-besoldigde werknemers, bedryf het, vir die herinstelling van 'n mate van verligting.

Klousule 10 (1) (p) van die Wetsontwerp voeg 'n nuwe vrystelling ten opsigte van *bona fide*-studiebeurse in. Waar die studiebeurs egter aan 'n werknemer of familielid van 'n werknemer (byvoorbeeld die werknemer se kind) as gevolg van dienste gelewer toegestaan word, is die vrystelling aan sekere voorwaardes onderworpe.

Ten eerste, moet die studiebeurs nie toegestaan word in die plek van salaris waarop die werknemer andersins geregtig sou gewees het nie. Daarbenewens, waar die studiebeurs ten gunste van 'n familielid van

PRESS RELEASE

by the

DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE
DR T. G. ALANT

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE
INCOME TAX ACT

Attention is drawn to the following two important amendments proposed in terms of the Income Tax Bill, 1992, which was tabled in Parliament today.

BURSARIES

In consequence of widespread abuse in the field of bursaries, in particular cases where current salary or the right to future salary increases, was converted into a tax-free bursary, the generous exemptions of bursaries previously contained in the Income Tax Act were removed last year. Representations have since been received from, *inter alia*, companies which in the past had operated genuine bursary schemes, particularly in respect of their lower-paid employees, for the reintroduction of some relief. It has been decided to meet these requests to a limited extent.

Clause 10 (1) (p) of the Bill introduces a new exemption in respect of *bona fide* bursaries or scholarships. Where, however, the bursary or scholarship is granted to an employee, or to a relative of an employee (for example, the employee's child) in consequence of services rendered, the exemption is subject to certain conditions.

In the first place, the bursary must not have been granted in the place of salary to which the employee would otherwise have been entitled. In addition, where the bursary is granted in favour of a relative of

'n werknemer toegestaan word, is die vrystelling slegs van toepassing indien die werknemer se salaris nie R36 000 per jaar oorskry nie, en word die vrystelling ook beperk tot die eerste R1 200 per familielid.

Die beperking met betrekking tot studiebeurse wat aan familieleden van werknemers toegestaan word, is net van toepassing waar die studiebeurs as gevolg van die werknemer se dienste toegestaan word. Waar 'n maatskappy byvoorbeeld 'n beursskema bedryf wat aan lede van die algemene publiek beskikbaar is, en 'n studiebeurs word ooreenkomstig al die normale voorwaardes toegestaan aan iemand wat toevallig 'n familielid van 'n werknemer van die maatskappy is, is die beperkings nie van toepassing nie.

Daar word gehoop dat werkgewers voortaan binne die gees van hierdie vrystelling sal optree, en nie soos in die verlede sal poog om die maatreël tot so 'n mate uit te buit dat dit weer nodig word om die toegewing in te trek nie, tot nadeel van die laer-besoldigde werknemers wat opvoedkundige bystand die meeste nodig het.

GESTREMDE PERSONE

Artikel 18 van die Inkomstebelastingwet laat 'n aftrekking toe van mediese onkoste en onkoste wat as gevolg van 'n liggaamsgebrek aangegaan word. Die aftrekking is onbeperk vir persone bo die ouderdom van 65 jaar, maar diegene wat jonger is, moet tot die mate van die eerste 5 persent van hul inkomste (of minstens R1 000) self dra.

Daar word aanvaar dat liggaamlik gestremde persone noodwendig heelwat meer onkoste moet aangaan as diegene wat gelukkig genoeg is om volle gesondheid te geniet, en 5 persent van hul inkomste maak dikwels 'n groot bedrag uit wat hulle self moet dra.

'n Wysiging aan artikel 18 word nou voorgestel waarvolgens liggaamlik gestremde persone onder die ouderdom van 65 jaar slegs die eerste R500 van die som van hul mediese onkoste en onkoste wat noodsaaklikerwys as gevolg van 'n liggaamsgebrek aangegaan word, self sal moet dra. Die oorskot van die onkoste sal ten volle aftrekbaar wees. Diegene wat bo die ouderdom van 65 jaar is, sal natuurlik steeds 'n onbeperkte aftrekking van die volle onkoste geniet.

Uitgereik deur: Die Adjunkminister van Finansies
Posbus 29
Kaapstad
8000.

Navrae: Mnr. I. Meiklejohn.

Telefoon: (021) 45-2813.

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an employee, the exemption applies only if the employee's salary does not exceed R36 000 per annum, and the exemption is also limited to the first R1 200 per relative.

The limitation in regard to bursaries awarded to relatives of employees, applies only where the bursary is granted in consequence of the employee's services. Where, for example, a company operates a bursary scheme which is open to the general public, and a bursary is granted in accordance with all the normal criteria applicable, to a person who happens to be related to an employee of the company, the restrictions will not apply.

It is to be hoped that employers will in future abide by the spirit of what this exemption is intended to achieve, and not seek to exploit the measure, as happened in the past, to the extent that it is once again necessary to withdraw the concession, to the detriment particularly of the lower-paid employees who sorely need educational assistance.

DISABLED PERSONS

Section 18 of the Income Tax Act permits a deduction of medical expenses and expenditure incurred in consequence of a physical disability. For persons over the age of 65 years, the deduction is unlimited, but those under that age have to bear expenditure to the extent of the first 5 per cent of their income (or at least R1 000) themselves.

It is acknowledged that physically disabled persons necessarily have to incur considerable expenditure which is not borne by those fortunate enough to enjoy full health, and that 5 per cent of their income can in many cases amount to a substantial sum which they have to bear themselves.

An amendment to section 18 is now proposed in terms of which physically disabled persons under the age of 65 will have to bear only the first R500 of the sum of their medical expenses and expenditure necessarily incurred in consequence of their disability. The balance of such expenditure will be fully deductible. Those over the age of 65 years will, of course, continue to enjoy a deduction of the full expenditure.

Issued by: The Deputy Minister of Finance
P.O. Box 29
Cape Town
8000.

Enquiries: Mr I. Meiklejohn.

Telephone: (021) 45-2813.

Date: 10 June 1992.

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Inkomstebelastingwetsontwerp, 1992:
Voorgestelde wysigings aan die
Inkomstebelastingwet

1 14057

CONTENTS

No.

Page Gazette
No. No.**PRESS RELEASE**

Income Tax Bill, 1992: Proposed amend-
ments to the Income Tax Act

1 14057