

MACRO

Tax Bill: Hurry Up and Wait

It was a long and frustrating Friday afternoon as we waited for the text of the tax title from the One Big Beautiful bill to emerge from the Senate Finance Committee.

Now we begin that watch again, watching for a text, a partial text, or a partial text with placeholder provisions for key points to come out again, this afternoon.

The text, or full text when we get it, is expected to cover health and tax provisions.

According to a report from Politico at 9:06 am, the Finance Committee was to begin briefing "large tax coalitions" late this morning in preparation for release of whatever text they are going to release later today.

Senate Finance Chair Mike Crapo will reportedly be briefing the Senate Republican Conference today at 5:30 pm, so we think it is reasonable to expect a text in the early afternoon or at worst shortly after Crapo's briefing.

We would expect to see the text on the Senate Finance Committee website but we would expect news organizations to post it on X or their websites almost immediately as well.

The Senate has a short schedule this week because of the Juneteenth holiday, but we still see an outside chance that if complete text is available this week, the Senate could pass the bill next week after spending a few days to vote on unlimited amendments (the vote-a-rama).

The vehicle the Senate likely takes up next week will be subject to a manager's amendment that could modify the Finance Committee language that presumably comes out this week.

Then, theoretically, the House could stay in session through the week of July 1 and vote through the bill by midweek before adjourning in time for July 4.

The other possibility is that the House will ask for a conference, and Congress will

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then take most of the month of July – with ensuing uncertainty on the details of some provisions – to reach agreement on a final version by August.

Our expectations are:

- The Senate bill will have roughly the same fiscal parameters with respect to debt and deficit impact as the House. They won't be identical, but they should be close.
- We expect to see permanent extensions of the major corporation provisions: bonus depreciation, expensing of R&D (for domestic research only), and the interest expense deduction at 30% of EBITDA.
- We wouldn't be surprised to see placeholders for SALT in particular.
- We expect Section 899 to remain but with changes.
- Currently, the proposed retaliatory tax under a Section 899 would apply to portfolio investments, active businesses, and wholly owned subsidiaries. The retaliatory tax phases in over a period of four years, but it begins immediately and automatically.
- We think it could be deferred for a brief period of time (perhaps one year) or perhaps made subject to a waiver. There has also been talk of dropping the coverage of passive or portfolio investments.
- With respect to the IRA tax credits, the House bill abruptly terminates the ITC and PTC. We expect the Senate to mitigate House language, making the cutoff less abrupt. However, we are worried that the Senate changes could be mostly cosmetic, and fall short of restoring the comparatively generous phaseout that was offered by the House bill as reported from Ways and Means.
- We think the outlook for nuclear and geothermal power is better. We don't know how the hydrogen production tax credit (Section 45V) will turn out, but we have been impressed by the lobbying campaign on its behalf.



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