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By: Senators DeGrange, Currie, Eckardt, Edwards, Jennings, Klausmeier, McFadden, Middleton, Miller, Muse, Peters, Reilly, and Serafini

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2016 Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

Committee Report: Favorable Senate action: Adopted Read second time: March 15, 2016

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

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Maryland Education Credit

3 FOR the purpose of allowing a credit against the State income tax for contributions made 4 to certain student assistance organizations; requiring the Department of Economic $\mathbf{5}$ Competitiveness and Commerce to administer the tax credit; requiring an entity to 6 submit an application to be a student assistance organization by a certain date each 7 year; requiring a student assistance organization to meet certain qualifications; 8 requiring a business entity to submit a certain application within a certain time 9 period and to make a contribution to a student assistance organization and to provide 10 certain notice within a certain time period; requiring the Department to adopt 11 certain regulations; requiring the Department to approve certain applications within 12a certain time period and in a certain manner; requiring the Department to rescind 13 certain tax credit certificates if certain notice is not provided within a certain time 14 period; providing limits on the amount of certain tax credits and the aggregate 15amount of tax credits that may be approved by the Department in a calendar year; 16 establishing the Maryland Education Tax Credit Reserve Fund; authorizing the 17Governor to include an appropriation to the Fund in the annual budget bill and 18 providing that the appropriation may not exceed a certain amount; requiring the 19 Comptroller to transfer certain amounts from the Fund to the General Fund under 20certain circumstances; providing that certain unused tax credits may not be carried 21forward; requiring the Department to publish and update a certain list in a certain 22manner each year and report certain information on the credit each year; requiring 23a certain addition modification under the Maryland income tax if a certain tax credit 24is claimed; defining certain terms; providing that this Act does not require a school

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

Strike out indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 or institution to adopt certain rules or regulations; providing for the sole legal 2 remedy for violation of any provision of this Act; providing for the application of this 3 Act; and generally relating to a State income tax credit for contributions made to 4 certain student assistance organizations.

- 5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 6 Article Economic Development
- 7 Section 2.5-109(a)(4)
- 8 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 9 (2008 Volume and 2015 Supplement)
- 10 (As enacted by Chapter 58 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2015)
- 11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
- 12 Article Tax General
- 13 Section 10–205(a) and 10–306(a)
- 14 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 15 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
- 16 BY adding to
- 17 Article Tax General
- 18 Section 10–205(l), 10–306(g), and 10–737
- 19 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 20 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
- SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
- 23

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Article – Economic Development

- $24 \quad 2.5-109.$
- 25 (a) In this section, "economic development program" means:
- 26 (4) each of the tax credit programs administered by the Department,
 27 including:
- 28 (i) the Film Production Activity Tax Credit;
 - (ii) the Job Creation Tax Credit;
- 30 (iii) the One Maryland Economic Development Tax Credit;
- 31 (iv) the Biotechnology Investment Incentive Tax Credit;
- 32 (v) the Research and Development Tax Credit;

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$\frac{1}{2}$	(vi) the Security Clearance Administrative Expenses and Construction and Equipment Costs Tax Credit; [and]
3	(vii) the Cybersecurity Investment Tax Credit; AND
4	(VIII) THE MARYLAND EDUCATION TAX CREDIT.
5	Article – Tax – General
6	10–205.
7 8 9	(a) In addition to the modification under § 10–204 of this subtitle, the amounts under this section are added to the federal adjusted gross income of a resident to determine Maryland adjusted gross income.
$10 \\ 11 \\ 12$	(L) THE ADDITION UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION INCLUDES THE AMOUNT OF A CONTRIBUTION MADE TO A STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION FOR WHICH A CREDIT IS CLAIMED UNDER § 10–737 OF THIS TITLE.
13	10–306.
$\begin{array}{c} 14\\ 15\\ 16\end{array}$	(a) In addition to the modification under § 10–305 of this subtitle, the amounts under this section are added to the federal taxable income of a corporation to determine Maryland modified income.
17 18 19	(G) THE ADDITION UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION INCLUDES THE AMOUNT OF A CONTRIBUTION MADE TO A STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION FOR WHICH A CREDIT IS CLAIMED UNDER § 10–737 OF THIS TITLE.
20	10-737.
$\begin{array}{c} 21 \\ 22 \end{array}$	(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.
23	(2) "BUSINESS ENTITY" MEANS:
$\begin{array}{c} 24 \\ 25 \end{array}$	(I) A PERSON CONDUCTING OR OPERATING A TRADE OR BUSINESS IN MARYLAND; OR
$\frac{26}{27}$	(II) AN ORGANIZATION OPERATING IN MARYLAND THAT IS EXEMPT FROM TAXATION UNDER § 501(C)(3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.
28	(3) "CONTRIBUTION" MEANS A MONETARY DONATION.

	4 SENATE BILL 706
$\frac{1}{2}$	(4) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS AND COMMERCE.
3	(5) "ELIGIBLE SCHOOL" MEANS:
4 5	(I) A PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM, AN ELEMENTARY PUBLIC SCHOOL, OR A SECONDARY PUBLIC SCHOOL; OR
6 7	(II) A NONPUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM, AN ELEMENTARY NONPUBLIC SCHOOL, OR A SECONDARY NONPUBLIC SCHOOL THAT:
8 9	1. HOLDS A CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL FROM OR IS REGISTERED WITH THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION;
$10 \\ 11 \\ 12 \\ 13 \\ 14$	2. DOES NOT CHARGE TUITION THAT IS GREATER THAN THE STATEWIDE AVERAGE PER PUPIL EXPENDITURE BY THE LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES CALCULATED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WITH EXCEPTIONS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS DETERMINED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO BE APPROPRIATE;
$\begin{array}{c} 15\\ 16\end{array}$	3. ADMINISTERS A NATIONALLY ACKNOWLEDGED ACHIEVEMENT TEST TO THE STUDENTS;
17 18	4. COMPLIES WITH TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964, AS AMENDED;
19 20	5. COMPLIES WITH TITLE 20, SUBTITLE 6 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE; AND
$\begin{array}{c} 21 \\ 22 \end{array}$	6. DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE IN STUDENT ADMISSIONS ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION.
$\begin{array}{c} 23\\ 24\\ 25 \end{array}$	(6) "PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM" MEANS A PREKINDERGARTEN EDUCATION PROGRAM THAT HAS OBTAINED A LICENSE, LETTER OF COMPLIANCE, OR CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL FROM THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.
26	(7) "STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION" MEANS AN ENTITY THAT:
$\begin{array}{c} 27\\ 28 \end{array}$	(I) 1. IS EXEMPT FROM TAXATION UNDER § 501(C)(3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE;
29 30	2. MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (C)(1) OF THIS SECTION; AND

3. A. 1 PROVIDES INNOVATIVE **EDUCATIONAL** $\mathbf{2}$ PROGRAMS TO PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS OR GRANTS TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO SUPPORT INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS WHICH ARE NOT PART OF THE 3 4 **REGULAR ACADEMIC PROGRAM OF AN ELIGIBLE SCHOOL BUT THAT ENHANCE THE** CURRICULUM OR ACADEMIC PROGRAM OF AN ELIGIBLE SCHOOL IN ORDER TO $\mathbf{5}$ ACHIEVE THE GOALS OF THE BRIDGE TO EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACT OF 6 7 2002, AS AMENDED; OR

8 B. PROVIDES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS 9 ATTENDING ELIGIBLE NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE STATE ON A PRIORITY BASIS, 10 FIRST TO STUDENT APPLICANTS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE AND 11 REDUCED-PRICE MEALS BASED ON ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY 12 THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THEN TO OTHER 13 STUDENT APPLICANTS BASED ON FINANCIAL NEED; OR

14(II)QUALIFIES AS A STATE-AIDED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION15UNDER § 5-501 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE.

16 (B) (1) SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION, A BUSINESS 17 ENTITY MAY CLAIM A CREDIT AGAINST THE STATE INCOME TAX IN AN AMOUNT 18 EQUAL TO 60% OF A CONTRIBUTION MADE TO A STUDENT ASSISTANCE 19 ORGANIZATION.

20(2)A CREDIT CLAIMED BY A BUSINESS ENTITY UNDER THIS SECTION21MAY NOT EXCEED \$200,000 IN EACH TAXABLE YEAR.

22 (C) (1) TO QUALIFY AS A STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION, AN 23 ENTITY SHALL:

24(I)APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 125EACH YEAR;

(II) PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, INNOVATIVE
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS TO PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS, OR GRANTS TO AT LEAST
FOUR DIFFERENT ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS OR STUDENTS ATTENDING AT LEAST FOUR
DIFFERENT ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS IN EACH CALENDAR YEAR;

30 (III) CONTRIBUTE OR IRREVOCABLY ENCUMBER AT LEAST 90% 31 OF ANNUAL CASH RECEIPTS RECEIVED AS THE RESULT OF CONTRIBUTIONS 32 APPROVED FOR TAX CREDITS UNDER THIS SECTION TOWARD FINANCIAL 33 ASSISTANCE, INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS TO PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS, OR GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS OR STUDENTS AT ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS
 AS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION;

3 (IV) SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT THE APPLICATION AND 4 REVIEW PROCESS FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS 5 ATTENDING ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS, IF APPLICABLE, BASED ON DEMONSTRATED 6 FINANCIAL NEED; AND

7 (V) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1 EACH YEAR, SUBMIT 8 VERIFICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT ALL REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY 9 UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH HAVE BEEN MET IN THE PRIOR CALENDAR YEAR.

10 (2) IN THE APPLICATION REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS 11 SUBSECTION, A STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION SHALL STATE IF THE 12 ORGANIZATION WILL PROVIDE:

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(I) GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS THAT ARE PUBLIC;

14(II) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS AT ELIGIBLE15SCHOOLS THAT ARE NONPUBLIC; OR

16(III) INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS TO PUBLIC SCHOOL17STUDENTS.

18 (D) (1) AT LEAST 45 DAYS PRIOR TO MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO A 19 STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION, A BUSINESS ENTITY SHALL APPLY TO THE 20 DEPARTMENT FOR AN INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE.

21 (2) THE APPLICATION FOR AN INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE 22 SHALL IDENTIFY IF THE STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION PROVIDES:

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(I) GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS THAT ARE PUBLIC;

24 (II) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS AT ELIGIBLE 25 SCHOOLS THAT ARE NONPUBLIC; OR

26(III) INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS TO PUBLIC SCHOOL27STUDENTS.

28 (E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

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1 (1) ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION, INCLUDING 2 THE METHOD FOR REPORTING BY STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS TO 3 ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SECTION;

4 (2) APPROVE ALL APPLICATIONS FOR TAX CREDITS UNDER THIS 5 SECTION ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS;

6 (3) WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER RECEIPT, APPROVE OR REJECT AN 7 ENTITY'S APPLICATION TO BECOME A STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION;

8 (4) WITHIN 45 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING AN APPLICATION, ISSUE AN 9 INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE AS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION STATING THE 10 MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF THE TAX CREDIT FOR WHICH A BUSINESS ENTITY IS ELIGIBLE 11 OR PROVIDE NOTICE OF REJECTION OF THE APPLICATION THAT CONTAINS AN 12 EXPLANATION OF THE REASON FOR REJECTION;

13(5)WITHIN 45 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING NOTICE OF A CONTRIBUTION14MADE TO A STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION, ISSUE A FINAL TAX CREDIT15CERTIFICATE AS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION; AND

16(6)PUBLISH AN ANNUAL LIST OF ALL STUDENT ASSISTANCE17ORGANIZATIONS APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

18 **(F) (1)** AFTER THE DEPARTMENT HAS ISSUED AN INITIAL TAX CREDIT 19 CERTIFICATE UNDER THIS SECTION, THE BUSINESS ENTITY SHALL HAVE **90** DAYS TO 20 MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO A STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION UNDER THIS 21 SECTION.

(2) WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO A STUDENT
 ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION, A BUSINESS ENTITY SHALL PROVIDE NOTICE TO THE
 DEPARTMENT OF THE AMOUNT OF THE CONTRIBUTION.

(3) IF A BUSINESS ENTITY FAILS TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO A
STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING AN
INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL RESCIND THE INITIAL
TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE.

29 (G) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, "RESERVE FUND" MEANS THE MARYLAND 30 EDUCATION TAX CREDIT RESERVE FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF 31 THIS SUBSECTION. 1(2)(1)THERE IS A MARYLAND EDUCATION TAX CREDIT RESERVE2FUND THAT IS A SPECIAL CONTINUING, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT SUBJECT3TO § 7–302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

4 (II) THE MONEY IN THE RESERVE FUND SHALL BE INVESTED
5 AND REINVESTED BY THE STATE TREASURER, AND INTEREST AND EARNINGS SHALL
6 BE CREDITED TO THE GENERAL FUND.

7 (3) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (7) OF THIS 8 SUBSECTION, THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT ISSUE INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATES 9 FOR CREDIT AMOUNTS IN THE AGGREGATE TOTALING MORE THAN THE AMOUNT 10 APPROPRIATED TO THE RESERVE FUND FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR IN THE STATE 11 BUDGET AS APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

12 (II) IF THE AGGREGATE CREDIT AMOUNTS UNDER INITIAL TAX 13 CREDIT CERTIFICATES ISSUED IN A FISCAL YEAR TOTAL LESS THAN THE AMOUNT 14 APPROPRIATED TO THE RESERVE FUND FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR, ANY EXCESS 15 AMOUNT SHALL REMAIN IN THE RESERVE FUND AND MAY BE ISSUED UNDER INITIAL 16 TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATES FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

(III) IF THE AGGREGATE CREDIT AMOUNTS UNDER INITIAL TAX
CREDIT CERTIFICATES APPROVED FOR ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS THAT ARE PUBLIC
SCHOOLS IN A CALENDAR YEAR TOTAL LESS THAN 40% OF THE AMOUNT
APPROPRIATED TO THE RESERVE FUND FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR, THE EXCESS MAY
BE USED TO APPROVE INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATES FOR ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS
THAT ARE NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS DURING THE NEXT CALENDAR YEAR.

(IV) FOR ANY FISCAL YEAR, IF FUNDS ARE TRANSFERRED FROM
THE RESERVE FUND UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF ANY PROVISION OF LAW OTHER
THAN UNDER PARAGRAPH (6) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE MAXIMUM CREDIT
AMOUNTS IN THE AGGREGATE FOR WHICH THE DEPARTMENT MAY ISSUE INITIAL
TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATES SHALL BE REDUCED BY THE AMOUNT TRANSFERRED.

28(4)(I)FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE GOVERNOR MAY INCLUDE IN29THE BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION TO THE RESERVE FUND.

30(II) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE31APPROPRIATION UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH MAY NOT EXCEED \$15,000,000 IN ANY32FISCAL YEAR.

33(5)NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF § 7–213 OF THE STATE34FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE, THE GOVERNOR MAY NOT REDUCE AN

APPROPRIATION TO THE RESERVE FUND IN THE STATE BUDGET AS APPROVED BY 1 $\mathbf{2}$ THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. 3 (6) **(I)** EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN THIS PARAGRAPH, MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE RESERVE FUND SHALL REMAIN IN THE RESERVE FUND. 4 $\mathbf{5}$ (II) 1. WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER THE END OF EACH CALENDAR 6 QUARTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOTIFY THE COMPTROLLER AS TO EACH FINAL 7 TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE ISSUED DURING THE PREVIOUS QUARTER OF: 8 Α. THE MAXIMUM CREDIT AMOUNT STATED IN THE 9 **INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE; AND** 10 **B**. THE FINAL CERTIFIED TAX CREDIT AMOUNT. 11 2. ON NOTIFICATION THAT A FINAL TAX CREDIT HAS 12BEEN ISSUED, THE COMPTROLLER SHALL TRANSFER AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE 13 CREDIT AMOUNT STATED IN THE INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE FROM THE **RESERVE FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND.** 14 15(7) IF AN INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE HAS BEEN RESCINDED BY 16 THE DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT MAY APPROVE ADDITIONAL INITIAL TAX 17CREDIT CERTIFICATES FOR OTHER BUSINESS ENTITIES THAT MAY NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF TAX CREDITS APPROVED IN THE INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATES 18 19 THAT WERE RESCINDED. 20(8) IN EACH CALENDAR YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT APPROVE 21INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATES THAT: 22**(I)** EXCEED 60% OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED TO THE RESERVE FUND FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR IN THE STATE BUDGET AS APPROVED 2324BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO STUDENT ASSISTANCE 25ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS AT ELIGIBLE 26SCHOOLS THAT ARE NONPUBLIC; OR EXCEED 40% OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED TO 27**(II)** 28THE RESERVE FUND FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR IN THE STATE BUDGET AS APPROVED 29BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO STUDENT ASSISTANCE 30 ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS TO PUBLIC 31SCHOOL STUDENTS OR GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS THAT ARE PUBLIC. 32 ANY UNUSED AMOUNT OF THE CREDIT MAY NOT BE CARRIED OVER TO **(H)**

33 ANY OTHER TAXABLE YEAR.

1 (I) (1) IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2.5–109 OF THE ECONOMIC 2 DEVELOPMENT ARTICLE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT ON THE TAX CREDITS 3 APPROVED UNDER THIS SECTION.

4 (2) THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS 5 SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE FOR EACH BUSINESS ENTITY APPROVED TO RECEIVE 6 A FINAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE IN THE PRIOR CALENDAR YEAR:

7 (I) THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE STUDENT ASSISTANCE 8 ORGANIZATION RECEIVING THE CONTRIBUTION; AND

9 (II) THE AMOUNT OF THE APPROVED FINAL CREDIT 10 CERTIFICATE.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That nothing in this Act requires 12 a school or an institution to adopt a rule, regulation, or policy that conflicts with the 13 religious or moral teachings of the school or institution. The sole legal remedy for violation 14 of any provision of this Act is disqualification for the tax credit established under this Act.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
 1, 2016, and shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.