Q3 6lr1581 CF 6lr3453

By: Senator Madaleno (By Request - Tax Credit Evaluation Committee) and Senator Peters

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2016

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

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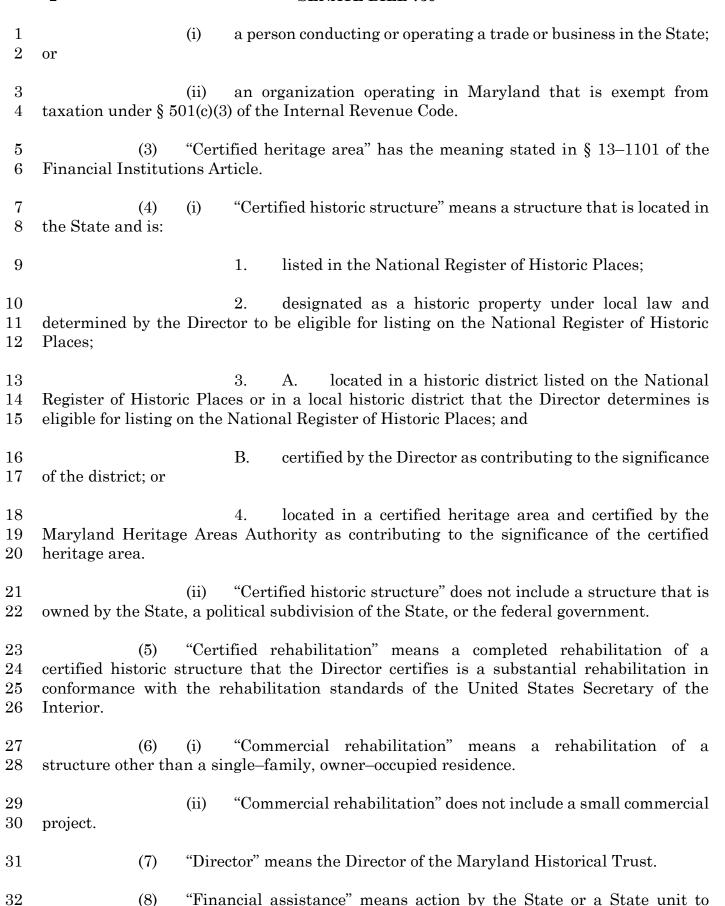
Sustainable Communities Tax Credit - Alteration and Extension

- 3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of "qualified rehabilitation expenditure", for 4 purposes of the sustainable communities tax credit, to exclude certain amounts 5 funded, financed, or reimbursed by federal grants; repealing a requirement that the competitive process for the award of initial credit certificates favor certain 6 7 jurisdictions; requiring the Director of the Maryland Historical Trust to issue certain 8 tax credit certificates within a certain time period; extending the termination date 9 of the tax credit; making nonsubstantive changes to a certain definition; making 10 conforming changes; and generally relating to the sustainable communities tax 11 credit.
- 12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 13 Article State Finance and Procurement
- 14 Section 5A–303
- 15 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 16 (2015 Replacement Volume)
- 17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
- 18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 Article – State Finance and Procurement

- 20 5A-303.
- 21 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.
- 22 (2) "Business entity" means:





award grants, loans, loan guarantees, or insurance to a public or private entity to finance,

1 wholly or partly, a project that involves or may result in building construction, building 2alteration, or land disturbance. 3 (9)"High performance building" means a building that: 4 meets or exceeds the current version of the U.S. Green Building 5 Council's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building rating system gold rating; or 6 7 achieves at least a comparable numeric rating according to a (ii) 8 nationally recognized, accepted, and appropriate numeric sustainable development rating system, guideline, or standard approved by the Secretaries of Budget and Management and 9 10 General Services under § 3–602.1 of this article. "Historic property" means a district, site, building, structure, 11 (10)12 monument, or object significant to: 13 1. the prehistory or history of the State; or the upland or underwater archeology, architecture, 2. 14 15 engineering, or culture of the State. 16 "Historic property" includes related artifacts, records, and (ii) 17 remains. "Local historic district" means a district that the governing body of a 18 19 county or municipal corporation, or the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, has designated under local law as historic. 20 21 "National register structure" means a structure that is: (12)22(i) listed on the National Register of Historic Places; or 23located in a historic district listed on the National Register of (ii) 24Historic Places and certified by the Director as contributing to the significance of the 25district. 26 "Political subdivision" means a county or municipal corporation of the (13)27 State. 28 "Qualified rehabilitation expenditure" means any amount that: (14)29 (i) is properly chargeable to a capital account; 30 (ii) is expended in the rehabilitation of a structure that by the end of the calendar year in which the certified rehabilitation is completed is a certified historic 31

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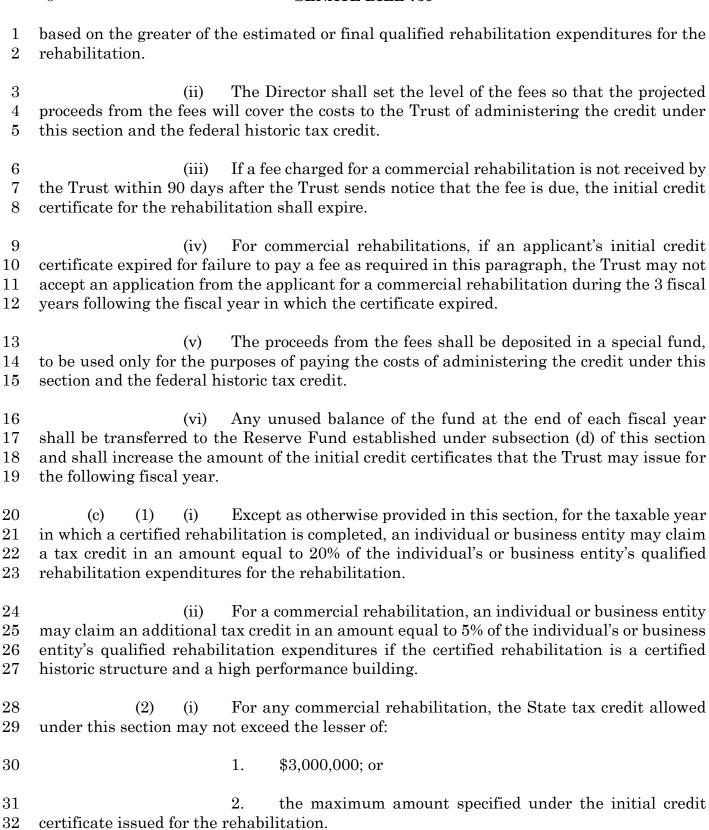
structure;

1 2	(iii) that has been approved b	_	pended in compliance with a plan of proposed rehabilitation Director; and
3	(iv)	is not	funded, financed, or otherwise reimbursed by any:
4		1.	FEDERAL, State, or local grant;
5 6 7	by the State, a political spolitical subdivision of the		grant made from the proceeds of tax—exempt bonds issued sion of the State, or an instrumentality of the State or of a e;
8 9	section; or	3.	State tax credit other than the tax credit under this
10 11 12 13		rate o	other financial assistance from the State or a political than a loan that must be repaid at an interest rate that is on general obligation bonds issued by the State at the most ne the loan is made.
14 15	(15) (i) a portion of a structure[:		le–family, owner–occupied residence" means a structure or
16 17	as their primary or secon	1.] ndary r	occupied by the owner and the owner's immediate family esidence[; or
18		2.	a small commercial project].
19	(ii)	"Sing	le–family, owner–occupied residence" includes:
20 21 22 23	and Associations Article,	and le	a residential unit in a cooperative project owned by or g corporation, as defined in § 5–6B–01 of the Corporations ased for exclusive occupancy to, and occupied by, a member ber's immediate family under a proprietary lease; OR
24		2.	A SMALL COMMERCIAL PROJECT.
25 26	(16) (i) primarily used for comm		ll commercial project" means a rehabilitation of a structure income—producing purposes if:
27 28	\$500,000; and	1.	the qualified rehabilitation expenditures do not exceed
29		2.	the structure is located in a sustainable community.

- 1 "Small commercial project" includes a structure that is used for (ii) 2 both commercial and residential rental purposes. 3 (iii) "Small commercial project" does not include a structure that is 4 used solely for residential purposes. "Smart Growth Subcabinet" means the Smart Growth Subcabinet 5 6 established under Title 9. Subtitle 14 of the State Government Article. 7 "State unit" has the meaning stated in § 11-101 of the State (18)8 Government Article. 9 (19)"Substantial rehabilitation" means rehabilitation of a structure for 10 which the qualified rehabilitation expenditures, during the 24-month period selected by 11 the individual or business entity ending with or within the taxable year, exceed: 12 (i) for single-family, owner-occupied residential property, \$5,000; 13 or14 (ii) for all other property, the greater of: 15 1. the adjusted basis of the structure; or 2. 16 \$25,000. "Sustainable community" has the meaning stated in § 6-201 of the 17 (20)Housing and Community Development Article. 18 19 The Director, in consultation with the Smart Growth Subcabinet, shall (b) 20 adopt regulations to: 21establish procedures and standards for certifying historic 22structures and rehabilitations under this section; 23 for commercial rehabilitations, establish an application process 24for the award of initial credit certificates for Maryland sustainable communities tax credits 25 consistent with the requirements of this subsection; 26 for commercial rehabilitations, establish criteria, consistent with 27 the requirements of this subsection, for evaluating, comparing, and rating plans of proposed 28rehabilitation that have been determined by the Director to conform with the rehabilitation 29standards of the United States Secretary of the Interior;
- 30 (iv) for commercial rehabilitations, establish a competitive award 31 process for the award of initial credit certificates for Maryland sustainable communities 32 tax credits that favors the award of tax credits for rehabilitation projects that:

- 6 1 1. fare located in jurisdictions that have been historically 2 underrepresented in the award of tax credits for commercial rehabilitations, based on the number of national register structures in each jurisdiction; 3 4 are consistent with and promote current growth and 5 development policies and programs of the State; 6 [3.] **2.** are located in areas targeted by the State for additional 7 revitalization and economic development opportunities due to the focusing of State 8 resources and incentives: 9 [4.] **3.** are located in areas where the political subdivision has 10 implemented regulatory streamlining or other development incentives that foster 11 redevelopment and revitalization in priority funding areas, as defined in Title 5, Subtitle 12 7B of this article, and the appropriate local governing body or the planning board or 13 commission, if designated by the local governing body, has certified to the Smart Growth 14 Subcabinet those regulatory streamlining or other development incentives; and **[5.] 4.** 15 include affordable and workforce housing options; 16 for commercial rehabilitations, determine whether the certified (v) rehabilitation is a high performance building; 17 18 (vi) for commercial rehabilitations, establish a required external marker or, at a minimum, an internal marker for the rehabilitation project that identifies 19 20 that the rehabilitation was funded by Maryland sustainable communities tax credits; 21 as provided in paragraph (7) of this subsection, charge 22 reasonable fees to certify historic structures and rehabilitations under this subtitle; 23 (viii) for commercial rehabilitations, require documentation that the 24applicant has ownership or site control of the structure in order to demonstrate the ability 25 to meet the requirement to begin work as required under subsection (c)(3)(i)1 of this section; 26 for commercial rehabilitations, provide a time limit for approval (ix) 27 of the additional tax credit for high performance buildings provided for in subsection 28 (c)(1)(ii) of this section; and 29(x) for small commercial projects: 30 1. establish conditions regarding the percentage of the 31 structure that may be used for residential rental purposes if the structure is used for both 32 commercial and residential rental purposes; and
- 33 specify criteria and procedures for the issuance of initial credit certificates under subsection (e) of this section. 34

- **SENATE BILL 759** 7 1 The Director may not certify that a rehabilitation is a certified (2)2 rehabilitation eligible for a tax credit provided under this section unless the individual or 3 business entity seeking certification states under oath the amount of the individual's or 4 business entity's qualified rehabilitation expenditures. 5 Each year, the Director may accept applications for approval of plans of (3)proposed commercial rehabilitations and for the award of initial credit certificates for the 6 fiscal year that begins July 1 of that year. 7 8 Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, a small commercial project shall be treated as a single-family, owner-occupied residential 9 10 property, including the limitation on the amount of the tax credit provided in subsection (c)(2)(ii) of this section. 11 12 (ii) A small commercial project is subject to the credit recapture 13 provision in subsection (f) of this section.
- 14 (5) (i) For commercial rehabilitations, the Director may not accept an application for approval of plans of proposed rehabilitation if:
- 16 any substantial part of the proposed rehabilitation work 17 has begun; or
- 18 2. the applicant for a commercial rehabilitation has previously submitted three or more applications for commercial rehabilitations with total proposed rehabilitations exceeding \$500,000 in that year.
- 21 (ii) For commercial rehabilitations, the Director may accept an 22 application for approval of plans of a proposed rehabilitation for which a substantial part 23 of the proposed rehabilitation work has begun if the rehabilitation work has been approved 24 under the federal historic tax credit.
- 25 (6) Except as provided in subsection (d)(3)(iii) of this section, not more than 60% of the total credit amounts under initial credit certificates issued for any fiscal year may be issued for projects in a single county or Baltimore City.
- 28 (7) (i) The Director shall adopt regulations to charge reasonable fees to certify historic structures and rehabilitations under this section which shall include:
- 30 1. a minimum fee for the second phase of the application 31 process;
- 32 2. for a commercial rehabilitation project, a final fee that 33 may not exceed 3% of the amount of the issued initial credit certificate; and
- 34 3. for any other rehabilitation project, a final fee that may not exceed 3% of the amount of the credit for which the rehabilitation would be eligible



33 (ii) For a rehabilitation other than a commercial rehabilitation, the 34 State tax credit allowed under this section may not exceed \$50,000.

1 For the purposes of the limitation under subparagraph (i) of this 2 paragraph, the following shall be treated as a single commercial rehabilitation: 3 1. the phased rehabilitation of the same structure or 4 property; 5 the separate rehabilitation of different components of the 6 same structure or property; or 7 3. the rehabilitation of multiple structures that are 8 functionally related to serve an overall purpose. 9 Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the initial credit 10 certificate for a proposed commercial rehabilitation shall expire and the credit under this section may not be claimed if: 11 12 1. within 18 months after the initial credit certificate was 13 issued, the applicant has not notified the Trust, in writing, that the commercial 14 rehabilitation has begun; 15 2.the commercial rehabilitation is not completed within 30 months after the initial credit certificate was issued; or 16 17 3. the applicant does not submit to the Trust a request for 18 final certification of the commercial rehabilitation within 12 months after: 19 the 30-month expiration date under subparagraph (i)2 of Α. 20 this paragraph; or 21В. the date to which the Director postponed the expiration 22date under subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph. 23(ii) For reasonable cause, the Director may postpone: 24 the 30-month expiration date under subparagraph (i)2 of 1. this paragraph for an initial credit certificate for a commercial rehabilitation; or 2526 2. if the commercial rehabilitation was completed prior to the 27 expiration of the initial credit certificate, the deadline under subparagraph (i)3 of this 28 paragraph for submission of a request for final certification. 29 If the tax credit allowed under this section in any taxable year exceeds 30 the total tax otherwise payable by the business entity or the individual for that taxable

year, the individual or business entity may claim a refund in the amount of the excess.

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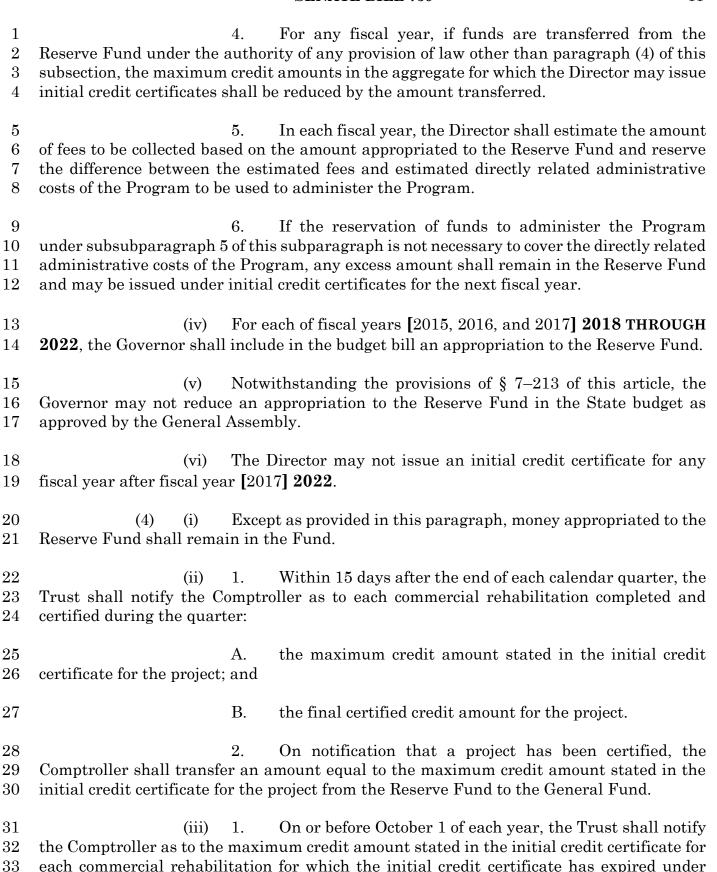
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- 1 (5) The State credit allowed under this section may be allocated among the partners, members, or shareholders of an entity in any manner agreed to by those persons in writing.
- 4 (d) (1) In this subsection, "Reserve Fund" means the Sustainable 5 Communities Tax Credit Reserve Fund established under paragraph (2) of this subsection.
- 6 (2) (i) There is a Sustainable Communities Tax Credit Reserve Fund 7 that is a continuing, nonlapsing special fund that is not subject to § 7–302 of this article.
- 8 (ii) The money in the Fund shall be invested and reinvested by the 9 Treasurer, and interest and earnings shall be credited to the General Fund.
- 10 (iii) If the fees paid in any fiscal year are less than the directly related 11 administrative costs of operating the Sustainable Communities Tax Credit Program, funds 12 in the Reserve Fund shall be used for the directly related administrative costs of the 13 Program.
- 14 (3) (i) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, the Director shall issue an initial credit certificate for each commercial rehabilitation for which a plan of proposed rehabilitation is approved NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS AFTER THE DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR AN INITIAL CREDIT CERTIFICATE.
- 18 (ii) An initial credit certificate issued under this subsection shall 19 state the maximum amount of credit under this section for which the commercial 20 rehabilitation may qualify.
 - (iii) 1. Except as otherwise provided in this subparagraph and in subsection (b)(7)(vi) of this section, for any fiscal year, the Director may not issue initial credit certificates for credit amounts in the aggregate totaling more than the amount appropriated to the Reserve Fund for that fiscal year in the State budget as approved by the General Assembly.
 - 2. If the aggregate credit amounts under initial credit certificates issued in a fiscal year total less than the amount appropriated to the Reserve Fund for that fiscal year as a result of the limitation under subsection (b)(6) of this section, any excess amount may be issued under initial credit certificates for projects in a county or Baltimore City in the same fiscal year, without regard to the limitation under subsection (b)(6) of this section.
 - 3. Subject to subsubparagraph 2 of this subparagraph, if the aggregate credit amounts under initial credit certificates issued in a fiscal year total less than the amount appropriated to the Reserve Fund for that fiscal year, any excess amount shall remain in the Reserve Fund and may be issued under initial credit certificates for the next fiscal year.



subsection (c)(3) of this section as of the end of the prior fiscal year.

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rehabilitation; or

(i)

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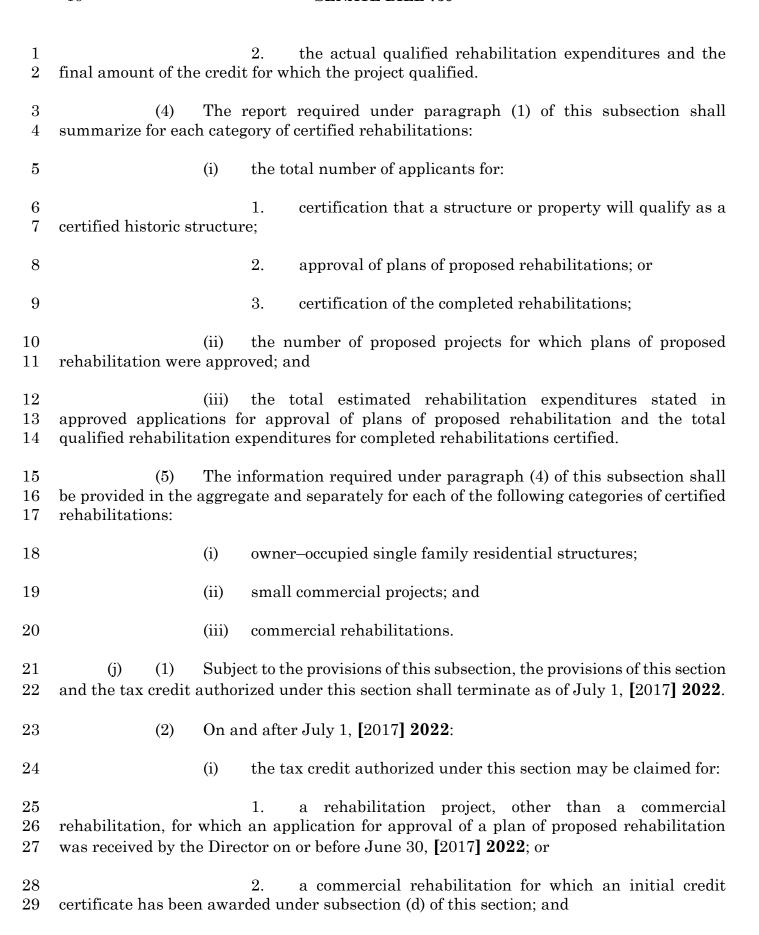
1 2.On notification that the initial credit certificate for a 2 project has expired under subsection (c)(3) of this section, the Comptroller shall transfer an 3 amount equal to the maximum credit amount stated in the initial credit certificate for the 4 project from the Reserve Fund to the General Fund. 5 Subject to the provisions of this subsection, the Director shall issue an (1) 6 initial credit certificate for each approved small commercial project on a first-come, 7 first-served basis. 8 An initial credit certificate issued under this subsection shall state the (2)9 maximum amount of tax credit for which the applicant is eligible. 10 (3)The Director may not issue an initial credit certificate under this 11 subsection: 12 (i) prior to January 1, 2015; or after the aggregate amount of initial credit certificates issued for 13 (ii) 14 small commercial projects totals \$4,000,000. In this subsection the following words have the meanings 15 (f) (1) (i) indicated. 16 17 (ii) 1. "Dispose of" means to transfer legal title or, in the case of 18 a leasehold, the leasehold interest. "Dispose of" includes to sell in a sale-and-leaseback 19 2. 20 transaction, to transfer on the foreclosure of a security interest, or to transfer by gift. 21 3. "Dispose of" does not include to transfer title or the 22leasehold interest to a creditor on creation of a security interest. 23"Disqualifying work" means work that: (iii) is performed on a certified rehabilitation; and 241. 25 if performed as part of the rehabilitation certified under 26 this section, would have made the rehabilitation ineligible for certification. 27 The credit allowed under this section shall be recaptured as provided in (2)28paragraph (3) of this subsection if, during the taxable year in which a certified 29rehabilitation is completed or any of the 4 taxable years succeeding the taxable year in which the certified rehabilitation is completed: 30

disqualifying work is performed on the certified

- 1 for a commercial rehabilitation, the certified rehabilitation is (ii) 2 complete and has been disposed of. 3 If the disqualifying work is performed or the certified 4 rehabilitation is disposed of during the taxable year in which the certified rehabilitation 5 was completed, 100% of the credit shall be recaptured. 6 2.If the disqualifying work is performed or the certified 7 rehabilitation is disposed of during the first full year succeeding the taxable year in which 8 the certified rehabilitation was completed, 80% of the credit shall be recaptured. If the disqualifying work is performed or the certified 9 3. rehabilitation is disposed of during the second full year succeeding the taxable year in 10 11 which the certified rehabilitation was completed, 60% of the credit shall be recaptured. 12 If the disqualifying work is performed or the certified 13 rehabilitation is disposed of during the third full year succeeding the taxable year in which 14 the certified rehabilitation was completed, 40% of the credit shall be recaptured. 15 If the disqualifying work is performed or the certified rehabilitation is disposed of during the fourth full year succeeding the taxable year in which 16 17 the certified rehabilitation was completed, 20% of the credit shall be recaptured. 18 (ii) The individual or business entity that claimed the tax credit shall 19 pay the amount to be recaptured as determined under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph 20as taxes payable to the State for the taxable year in which the disqualifying work is 21performed or the certified rehabilitation is disposed of. 22 The Comptroller may determine, under the process for return 23examination and audit under §§ 13–301 and 13–302 of the Tax – General Article: 24(i) the amount of rehabilitation expenditures used in calculating the 25credit; 26 are qualified rehabilitation (ii) whether such expenditures expenditures under this section; and 27whether the credit is allowable as claimed. 28 (iii) 29 (2)The authority of the Comptroller to examine and audit a tax return does 30 not limit the authority of the Director to determine whether a rehabilitation qualifies as a certified rehabilitation or whether a certificate of certified rehabilitation has been properly 3132 issued.
- 33 (3) The Comptroller may adopt regulations to require that an entity other than a corporation claim the tax credit on the tax return filed by that entity.

- 1 (4) (i) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, the credit under 2 this section may be claimed for the year a certified rehabilitation is completed, only if the 3 Director has, by the time the return is filed, issued a certificate of completion for the 4 certified rehabilitation.
- 5 (ii) A taxpayer claiming the credit may amend a return for the year 6 the certified rehabilitation was completed to account for a certificate issued subsequent to 7 the filing of the original return.
- 8 (iii) An amended return shall be filed within the period allowed under 9 the Tax General Article for filing refund claims.
- 10 (iv) The provisions of this paragraph do not extend the period in which a certified rehabilitation must be completed to be eligible for a tax credit under this section.
- 13 (v) An amended return may account for an amended certification 14 issued by the Director for a certified rehabilitation.
- 15 (h) A refund payable under subsection (c) of this section:
- 16 (1) operates to reduce the income tax revenue from corporations if the 17 person entitled to the refund is a corporation subject to the income tax under Title 10 of the 18 Tax – General Article;
- 19 (2) operates to reduce insurance premium tax revenues if the person 20 entitled to the refund is subject to taxation under Title 6 of the Insurance Article; and
- 21 (3) operates to reduce the income tax revenue from individuals if the 22 person entitled to the refund is:
- 23 (i) an individual subject to the income tax under Title 10 of the Tax 24 General Article; or
- 25 (ii) an organization exempt from taxation under § 501(c)(3) of the 26 Internal Revenue Code.
- 27 (i) (1) On or before December 15 of each fiscal year, the Director shall report 28 to the Governor and, subject to § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, to the General 29 Assembly, on:
- 30 (i) the initial credit certificates awarded for commercial 31 rehabilitations and small commercial projects under this section for that fiscal year;
- 32 (ii) the tax credits awarded for certified rehabilitations completed in 33 the preceding fiscal year;

$\frac{1}{2}$	(iii) whether the tax credits awarded for certified rehabilitations completed in the preceding fiscal year were located in:
3	1. a local historic district; or
4	2. a national register district; and
5 6 7	(iv) the estimated amount of directly related administrative costs reserved in the Reserve Fund, the estimated amount of fees to be collected, the actual directly related administrative costs, and the actual amount of fees collected.
8 9	(2) The report required under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall include for each initial credit certificate awarded for the fiscal year for a commercial rehabilitation:
10 11	(i) the name of the owner or developer of the commercial rehabilitation;
12 13	(ii) the name and address of the proposed or certified rehabilitation and the county where the project is located;
14 15	(iii) the dates of receipt and approval by the Director of all applications regarding the project, including applications:
16 17	1. for certification that a structure or property will qualify as a certified historic structure; and
18	2. for approval of the proposed rehabilitation; and
19 20 21	(iv) the maximum amount of the credit stated in the initial credit certificate for the project and the estimated rehabilitation expenditures stated in the application for approval of the plan of proposed rehabilitation.
22 23	(3) The report required under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall include for each certified commercial rehabilitation completed during the preceding fiscal year:
24 25	(i) the name of the owner or developer of the commercial rehabilitation;
26 27	(ii) the name and address of the certified rehabilitation and the county where the project is located;
28 29	(iii) the dates of receipt and approval by the Director of all applications regarding the project; and
30 31 32	(iv) 1. the maximum amount of the credit stated in the initial credit certificate for the project and the estimated rehabilitation expenditures stated in the application for approval of the plan of proposed rehabilitation; and



- 1 (ii) the Director shall continue to report to the Governor and the 2 General Assembly as required under subsection (i) of this section for as long as any 3 rehabilitation project for which the tax credit may be claimed remains incomplete.
- $_{\rm 4}$ SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 5 $\,$ 1, 2016.