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1999 Regular Session 9lr1872 CF HB 4

By: Senators Hafer, Stoltzfus, Blount, Colburn, and Sfikas Introduced and read first time: February 5, 1999 Assigned to: Budget and Taxation Committee Report: Favorable with amendments Senate action: Adopted Read second time: March 26, 1999						
	CHAPTER					
1 AN	ACT concerning					
2 3	One Maryland Economic Development Program for Distressed Counties - Income Tax Credits					
4 FOE 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	R the purpose of allowing certain credits against the State income tax certain taxes for certain costs of certain economic development projects undertaken by certain business entities in certain qualified economically distressed counties and certain start-up costs of certain business entities locating in certain qualified economically distressed counties; defining certain terms; requiring the Secretary of Business and Economic Development to adopt certain regulations; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to certain tax credits to encourage capital investment and job creation in certain qualified economically distressed counties.					
13 <u>BY</u> 14 15 16 17 18	Article 83A - Department of Business and Economic Development Section 5-1301 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 13. One Maryland Economic Development Tax Credits" Annotated Code of Maryland (1998 Replacement Volume)					
19 <u>BY</u> 20 21 22 23	Article - Insurance Section 6-119 Annotated Code of Maryland (1997 Volume and 1998 Supplement)					

1 2 3 4	Section 8-220 and 10-712 Annotated Code of Maryland (1997 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)
5 6	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
7	Article - Tax - General
8	10-712.
9	Article 83A - Department of Business and Economic Development
10	SUBTITLE 13. ONE MARYLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDITS.
11	<u>5-1301.</u>
12 13	(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.
16 17 18	(2) "CENTRAL FINANCIAL, REAL ESTATE, OR INSURANCE SERVICES" MEANS THE PERFORMANCE OF CENTRAL MANAGEMENT OR ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS FOR A BUSINESS ENTITY ENGAGED IN FINANCIAL, REAL ESTATE, OR INSURANCE SERVICES, SUCH AS GENERAL MANAGEMENT, ACCOUNTING, COMPUTER TABULATING, DATA PROCESSING, PURCHASING, TRANSPORTATION OR SHIPPING, ADVERTISING, LEGAL, FINANCIAL, AND RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.
	(3) (I) "COMPANY HEADQUARTERS" MEANS A FACILITY WHERE THE MAJORITY OF A BUSINESS ENTITY'S FINANCIAL, PERSONNEL, LEGAL, AND PLANNING FUNCTIONS ARE HANDLED EITHER ON A REGIONAL OR NATIONAL BASIS.
23 24	(II) "COMPANY HEADQUARTERS" DOES NOT INCLUDE THE HEADQUARTERS OF A PROFESSIONAL SPORTS ORGANIZATION.
27	(4) "ELIGIBLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT" MEANS AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT ESTABLISHING OR EXPANDING A BUSINESS FACILITY WITHIN A QUALIFIED DISTRESSED COUNTY THAT IS APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY TO RECEIVE THE TAX CREDITS UNDER THIS SECTION.
29 30	(5) "FULL-TIME POSITION" MEANS A POSITION REQUIRING AT LEAST 840 HOURS OF AN EMPLOYEE'S TIME DURING AT LEAST 24 WEEKS IN A 6-MONTH PERIOD.
33	(6) (I) "PROJECT COSTS" MEANS THE COSTS AND EXPENSES INCURRED BY A BUSINESS ENTITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION, INSTALLATION, AND EQUIPPING OF AN ELIGIBLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.
35	(II) "PROJECT COSTS" INCLUDES:

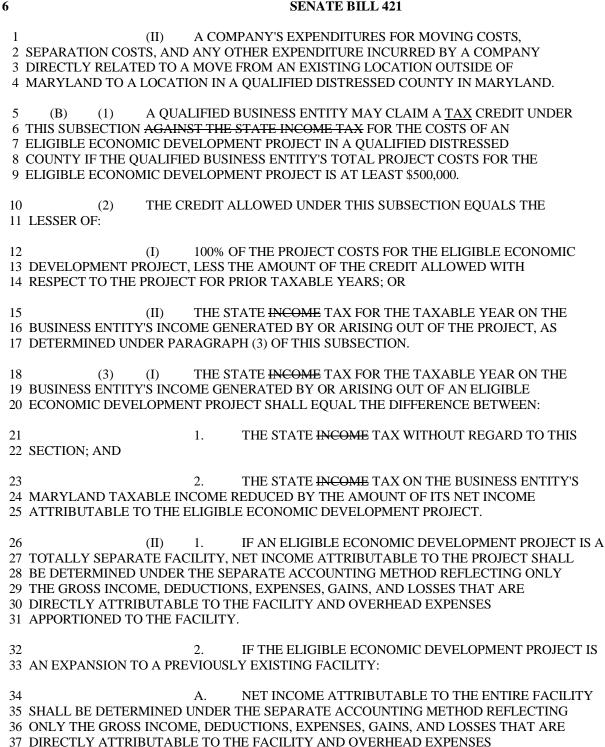
1 THE COSTS OF ACQUIRING, CONSTRUCTING, 1. 2 REHABILITATING, INSTALLING, AND EQUIPPING THE PROJECT, INCLUDING 3 OBLIGATIONS INCURRED FOR LABOR AND TO CONTRACTORS, SUBCONTRACTORS, 4 BUILDERS, AND MATERIALMEN; THE COSTS OF ACQUIRING LAND OR RIGHTS IN LAND AND 6 COSTS INCIDENTAL TO ACQUIRING LAND OR RIGHTS IN LAND; THE COSTS OF CONTRACT BONDS AND INSURANCE THAT 7 8 ARE REOUIRED OR NECESSARY DURING THE ACOUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, OR 9 INSTALLATION OF THE PROJECT: THE COSTS OF ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING 11 SERVICES, INCLUDING TEST BORINGS, SURVEYS, ESTIMATES, PLANS AND 12 SPECIFICATIONS, PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS, ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION, 13 AND SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION; 14 THE COSTS FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF ALL THE DUTIES 15 REQUIRED BY OR CONSEQUENT TO THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, AND 16 INSTALLATION OF THE PROJECT; THE COSTS REQUIRED FOR THE INSTALLATION OF 17 18 UTILITIES SUCH AS WATER, SEWER, SEWER TREATMENT, GAS, ELECTRICITY, 19 COMMUNICATIONS, RAILROADS, AND SIMILAR FACILITIES; 20 THE INTEREST COSTS PRIOR TO AND DURING THE 21 ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, AND INSTALLATION, AND EQUIPMENT OF THE 22 PROJECT AND FOR A PERIOD OF UP TO 2 YEARS AFTER COMPLETION OF THE 23 PROJECT; 24 8. THE COSTS, EXPENSES, AND FEES INCURRED IN 25 CONNECTION WITH THE FINANCING OF THE PROJECT, INCLUDING LEGAL, 26 ACCOUNTING, FINANCIAL, PRINTING, RECORDING, FILING COSTS, FEES, AND 27 EXPENSES; AND 9. THE COSTS OF OBTAINING BOND INSURANCE, LETTERS 28 29 OF CREDIT, OR OTHER FORMS OF CREDIT ENHANCEMENT OR LIQUIDITY FACILITIES. "QUALIFIED BUSINESS ENTITY" MEANS A PERSON CONDUCTING OR 30 (7)31 OPERATING A TRADE OR BUSINESS IN MARYLAND WHO: 32 (I) ESTABLISHES OR EXPANDS A BUSINESS FACILITY THAT: 33 <u>1.</u> IS LOCATED IN A OUALIFIED DISTRESSED COUNTY IN THE 34 STATE; AND IS LOCATED WITHIN A PRIORITY FUNDING AREA UNDER § 35 36 5-7B-02 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE OR IS ELIGIBLE FOR 37 FUNDING OUTSIDE OF A PRIORITY FUNDING AREA UNDER § 5-7B-05 OR § 5-7B-06 OF

38 THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE;

1 2			G ANY 24-MONTH PERIOD CREATES AT LEAST 25 W OR EXPANDED BUSINESS FACILITY;			
	(III) FACILITY IN THE QUALIFI FOLLOWING:		MARILY ENGAGED AT THE NEW OR EXPANDED BUSINESS TRESSED COUNTY IN ONE OR MORE OF THE			
6		1.	MANUFACTURING OR MINING;			
7		2.	TRANSPORTATION OR COMMUNICATIONS;			
8		3.	FILMMAKING, RESORT, AND RECREATIONAL BUSINESS;			
9		4.	AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, OR FISHING;			
10		5.	RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, OR TESTING;			
11		6.	BIOTECHNOLOGY;			
12 13	OTHER COMPUTER RELA	7. ГЕD SEF	COMPUTER PROGRAMMING, DATA PROCESSING, OR RVICES;			
14 15	SERVICES;	8.	CENTRAL FINANCIAL, REAL ESTATE, OR INSURANCE			
16 17	OR A COMPANY HEADQU	9. ARTERS	THE OPERATION OF CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES 5;			
18		10.	A PUBLIC UTILITY;			
19		11.	WAREHOUSING; OR			
20		12.	BUSINESS SERVICES; AND			
21 22	(IV) THIS SECTION AS QUALIF		TIFIED BY THE SECRETARY UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF OR THE TAX CREDITS UNDER THIS SECTION.			
23 24	(8) "QUALIFIED DISTRESSED COUNTY" MEANS A COUNTY, INCLUDING BALTIMORE CITY, FOR WHICH <u>:</u>					
27		D FOR V	VERAGE RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT FOR THE MOST WHICH DATA ARE AVAILABLE IS GREATER THAN UNEMPLOYMENT FOR THE ENTIRE STATE DURING			
29			VERAGE PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME FOR THE MOST			
			WHICH DATA ARE AVAILABLE IS EQUAL TO OR LESS			
	1 THAN 67% OF THE AVERAGE PERSONAL PER CAPITA INCOME FOR THE ENTIRE STATE 2 DURING THAT SAME PERIOD					

1 2	(9) QUALIFIED POSITION		FIED EN	MPLOYEE" MEANS AN EMPLOYEE FILLING A
3	(10)	(I)	"QUAL	IFIED POSITION" MEANS A POSITION THAT:
4 5	DURATION;		1.	IS A FULL-TIME POSITION AND IS OF INDEFINITE
6			2.	PAYS AT LEAST 150% OF THE FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE;
7 8	MARYLAND;		3.	IS LOCATED IN A QUALIFIED DISTRESSED COUNTY IN
	ESTABLISHMENT (THE QUALIFIED D	OR EXP		IS NEWLY CREATED, AS A RESULT OF THE OF A BUSINESS FACILITY IN A SINGLE LOCATION IN JNTY; AND
12			5.	IS FILLED.
13 14	IS:	(II)	"QUALI	IFIED POSITION" DOES NOT INCLUDE A POSITION THAT
17	MARYLAND TO AN	NOTHER	BUSIN	CREATED WHEN AN EMPLOYMENT FUNCTION IS SHIFTED CILITY OF THE BUSINESS ENTITY LOCATED IN ESS FACILITY OF THE SAME BUSINESS ENTITY IF ENT A NET NEW JOB IN THE STATE;
19 20	TRADE OR BUSINE		2.	CREATED THROUGH A CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF A
	RESTRUCTURING ONET NEW JOB IN T			CREATED THROUGH A CONSOLIDATION, MERGER, OR ENTITY IF THE POSITION DOES NOT REPRESENT A
26	CONTRACTUALLY	SHIFTE ER BUSI	NESS E	CREATED WHEN AN EMPLOYMENT FUNCTION IS AN EXISTING BUSINESS ENTITY LOCATED IN THE NTITY IF THE POSITION DOES NOT REPRESENT A
28			5.	FILLED FOR A PERIOD OF LESS THAN 12 MONTHS.
29 30	(11) DEVELOPMENT.	"SECRE	TARY"	MEANS THE SECRETARY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC
31	(12)	"START	-UP CO	STS" MEANS:
34		USINESS	FUNCT	PANY'S COST TO FURNISH AND EQUIP A NEW LOCATION FIONS, INCLUDING COMPUTERS, NONRECURRING CATIONS EQUIPMENT, FURNISHINGS, AND OFFICE

38 APPORTIONED TO THE FACILITY; AND



- B. THE NET INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ELIGIBLE
- 2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT SHALL BE DETERMINED BY APPORTIONING THE
- 3 SEPARATE ACCOUNTING NET INCOME OF THE ENTIRE FACILITY TO THE ELIGIBLE
- 4 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT BY A FORMULA APPROVED BY THE
- 5 COMPTROLLER OR THE DEPARTMENT.
- 6 3. IF A BUSINESS ENTITY CAN SHOW TO THE SATISFACTION
- 7 OF THE COMPTROLLER OR THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE NATURE OF THE
- 8 OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE BUSINESS ENTITY ARE SUCH THAT IT IS NOT
- 9 PRACTICAL TO USE THE SEPARATE ACCOUNTING METHOD TO DETERMINE THE NET
- 10 INCOME FROM THE FACILITY AT WHICH THE ELIGIBLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- 11 PROJECT IS LOCATED, THE BUSINESS ENTITY SHALL DETERMINE NET INCOME FROM
- 12 THE ELIGIBLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT USING AN ALTERNATIVE
- 13 METHOD APPROVED BY THE COMPTROLLER OR THE DEPARTMENT.
- 14 (4) (I) IF THE PROJECT COSTS FOR THE ELIGIBLE ECONOMIC
- 15 DEVELOPMENT PROJECT LESS THE AMOUNT OF THE CREDIT ALLOWED WITH
- 16 RESPECT TO THE PROJECT FOR PRIOR TAXABLE YEARS EXCEEDS THE STATE INCOME
- 17 TAX ON THE BUSINESS ENTITY'S INCOME GENERATED BY OR ARISING OUT OF THE
- 18 PROJECT FOR THAT TAXABLE YEAR, A QUALIFIED BUSINESS ENTITY ELIGIBLE FOR
- 19 THE CREDIT UNDER THIS SUBSECTION MAY CLAIM ANY EXCESS AS A CREDIT FOR
- 20 THE PAYMENT OF WITHHOLDING TAXES THAT THE QUALIFIED BUSINESS ENTITY IS
- 21 REQUIRED TO PAY TO THE COMPTROLLER UNDER § 10-906(A) OF THIS TITLE, IN THE
- 22 MANNER PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.
- 23 (II) ANY CREDIT UNUSED UNDER EITHER THIS SUBSECTION OR
- 24 SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION MAY BE APPLIED AS A CREDIT FOR UP TO 14
- 25 TAXABLE YEARS AFTER THE FIRST TAXABLE YEAR IN WHICH THE CREDIT IS
- 26 CLAIMED WITH RESPECT TO THE ELIGIBLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OR
- 27 UNTIL FULLY USED.
- 28 (4) IF THE PROJECT COSTS FOR THE ELIGIBLE ECONOMIC
- 29 DEVELOPMENT PROJECT EXCEEDS THE STATE TAX ON THE BUSINESS ENTITY'S
- 30 INCOME GENERATED BY OR ARISING OUT OF THE PROJECT FOR THE TAXABLE YEAR
- 31 <u>IN WHICH THE PROJECT IS PLACED IN SERVICE, THE QUALIFIED BUSINESS ENTITY</u>
- 32 MAY APPLY ANY EXCESS AS A CREDIT AGAINST THE STATE TAX FOR SUCCEEDING
- 33 TAXABLE YEARS ON THE BUSINESS ENTITY'S INCOME GENERATED BY OR ARISING
- 34 OUT OF THE PROJECT UNTIL THE EARLIER OF:
- 35 <u>(I) THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE EXCESS IS USED; OR</u>
- 36 (II) THE EXPIRATION OF THE 14TH TAXABLE YEAR FOLLOWING THE
- 37 TAXABLE YEAR IN WHICH THE PROJECT IS PLACED IN SERVICE.
- 38 (C) (1) A QUALIFIED BUSINESS ENTITY THAT LOCATES IN A QUALIFIED
- 39 DISTRESSED COUNTY MAY CLAIM A TAX CREDIT IN THE AMOUNT PROVIDED IN
- 40 PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION AS A CREDIT FOR THE PAYMENT TO THE
- 41 COMPTROLLER OF TAXES THAT THE QUALIFIED BUSINESS ENTITY:

IS REQUIRED TO WITHHOLD FROM THE WAGES OF EMPLOYEES 1 (I)2 UNDER § 10-908 OF THIS TITLE; AND (II)IS REQUIRED TO PAY TO THE COMPTROLLER UNDER § 10-906(A) 4 OF THIS TITLE. THE CREDIT ALLOWED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION FOR EACH 6 TAXABLE YEAR EQUALS THE LESSER OF: 7 100% OF THE BUSINESS ENTITY'S START-UP COSTS ASSOCIATED 8 WITH ESTABLISHING OR EXPANDING A BUSINESS FACILITY IN A QUALIFIED 9 DISTRESSED COUNTY, LESS THE AMOUNT OF THE CREDIT ALLOWED WITH RESPECT 10 TO THE PROJECT FOR PRIOR TAXABLE YEARS: OR (II)THE PRODUCT OF MULTIPLYING \$10,000 TIMES THE NUMBER 12 OF OUALIFIED EMPLOYEES EMPLOYED AT THE NEW OR EXPANDED BUSINESS 13 FACILITY. THE CREDIT ALLOWED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION MAY BE ALLOWED 14 (3)15 FOR A MAXIMUM OF 10 YEARS. 16 IF THE CREDIT ALLOWED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION FOR THE 17 TAXABLE YEAR IN WHICH A QUALIFIED BUSINESS ENTITY LOCATES IN A QUALIFIED 18 DISTRESSED COUNTY EXCEEDS THE TOTAL TAX OTHERWISE DUE FROM THE 19 QUALIFIED BUSINESS ENTITY FOR THAT TAXABLE YEAR, THE QUALIFIED BUSINESS 20 ENTITY MAY APPLY THE EXCESS AS A CREDIT FOR SUCCEEDING TAXABLE YEARS 21 UNTIL THE EARLIER OF: 22 THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE EXCESS IS USED; OR <u>(I)</u> 23 THE EXPIRATION OF THE 14TH TAXABLE YEAR FOLLOWING THE (II)24 TAXABLE YEAR IN WHICH THE QUALIFIED BUSINESS ENTITY LOCATES IN A 25 OUALIFIED DISTRESSED COUNTY. THE SECRETARY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO SPECIFY CRITERIA AND 27 PROCEDURES FOR APPLICATION AND APPROVAL OF PROJECTS FOR THE TAX CREDIT 28 UNDER THIS SECTION. (E) TO BE CERTIFIED AS A QUALIFIED BUSINESS ENTITY, A BUSINESS 29 30 ENTITY SHALL SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING TO THE SECRETARY IN ACCORDANCE WITH 31 REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE SECRETARY: THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE START-UP OR EXPANSION; 32 (I) 33 (II)THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES PRIOR TO THE 34 START-UP OR EXPANSION AND THE PAYROLL OF THE EXISTING EMPLOYEES; 35 (III)THE NUMBER OF QUALIFIED POSITIONS CREATED, QUALIFIED 36 EMPLOYEES HIRED, AND THE PAYROLL OF THOSE EMPLOYEES; AND

	SERVIL DIEL TEI
1 2	(IV) ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT THE SECRETARY REQUIRES BY REGULATION.
	(2) THE SECRETARY MAY REQUIRE ANY INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION TO BE VERIFIED BY AN INDEPENDENT AUDITOR SELECTED BY THE BUSINESS ENTITY.
8	(F) A QUALIFIED BUSINESS ENTITY MUST OBTAIN AND SUBMIT TO THE COMPTROLLER WITH THE TAX RETURN ON WHICH THE CREDIT IS CLAIMED, CERTIFICATION FROM THE SECRETARY THAT THE ENTITY HAS MET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION AND IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE CREDIT.
10	Article - Insurance
11	<u>6-119.</u>
	AN INSURER MAY CLAIM A CREDIT AGAINST THE PREMIUM TAX FOR ONE MARYLAND START-UP COSTS AS PROVIDED UNDER ARTICLE 83A, § 5-1301(C) OF THE CODE.
15	<u>Article - Tax - General</u>
16	<u>8-220.</u>
	A FINANCIAL INSTITUTION MAY CLAIM A CREDIT AGAINST THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION FRANCHISE TAX FOR ONE MARYLAND PROJECT COSTS AND START-UP COSTS AS PROVIDED UNDER ARTICLE 83A, § 5-1301(B) AND (C) OF THE CODE.
20	<u>10-712.</u>
	AN INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATION MAY CLAIM A CREDIT AGAINST THE STATE INCOME TAX FOR ONE MARYLAND PROJECT COSTS AND START-UP COSTS AS PROVIDED UNDER ARTICLE 83A, § 5-1301(B) AND (C) OF THE CODE.
	SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1999, and shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 1999.