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25 26 2001 Regular Session 1lr2827 CF 1lr0968

By: Senators McFadden, Conway, Currie, Exum, Hughes, Kelley, Lawlah, and Mitchell Introduced and read first time: February 14, 2001 Assigned to: Rules Re-referred to: Budget and Taxation, February 21, 2001 Committee Report: Favorable with amendments Senate action: Adopted Read second time: March 28, 2001 CHAPTER 1 AN ACT concerning 2 **Income Tax - Credit for Employment of Ex-Felons** 3 Pilot Program for Long-Term Employment of Qualified Ex-Felons FOR the purpose of creating a Pilot Program for Long-Term Employment of Qualified 4 Ex-Felons within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; 5 requiring the Department to establish the pilot program in consultation with 6 7 the Governor's Workforce Investment Board; requiring the Department to purchase certain bonds for a certain number of qualified ex-felons each year 8 9 and to provide certain bonds to certain one stop career centers; requiring that 10 the pilot program be implemented by certain one stop career centers in a certain number of Workforce Investment Areas; requiring a one stop center that 11 12 participates in the pilot program to work with certain entities to encourage 13 referral and participation of qualified ex-felons, to provide certain outreach and 14 education, and to develop a certain evaluation process; requiring a one stop 15 center to apply to the Department for designation as a pilot program location; requiring the Department in consultation with the Governor's Workforce 16 Investment Board to designate certain one stop centers as pilot program 17 locations and to consider certain information; allowing a credit against the State 18 19 income tax for certain wages paid by certain business entities with respect to certain ex-felon employees; providing for the calculation and use of the credit; 20 21 defining certain terms; requiring a certain addition modification if a certain 22 credit is claimed; requiring a certain certification prior to claiming the credit;

prohibiting an employer from claiming the credit under certain circumstances; providing for the administration of the tax credits; requiring the Department of

Public Safety and Correctional Services to adopt certain regulations; requiring

the Comptroller to adopt certain regulations; requiring that a certain study be

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1 2 3 4	conducted; providing for the application of this Act; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to tax credits for wages paid by a business entity with respect to the employment of exfelons the Pilot Program for Long-Term Employment of Qualified Ex-Felons.
5 6 7 8 9 10 11	BY adding to Article - Correctional Services Section 2-301 through 2-305 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 3. Miscellaneous Pilot Program for Long-Term Employment of Qualified Ex-Felons" Annotated Code of Maryland (1999 Volume and 2000 Supplement)
12 13 14 15 16	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, Article - Tax - General Section 10-205(b) and 10-306(b) Annotated Code of Maryland (1997 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)
17 18 19 20 21	Section 10-704.10
22 23	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
24	Article - Correctional Services
25 26	SUBTITLE 3. MISCELLANEOUS PILOT PROGRAM FOR LONG-TERM EMPLOYMENT OF QUALIFIED EX-FELONS.
27	2-301.
28 29	(A) $\overline{\text{(1)}}$ IN THIS <u>SECTION SUBTITLE</u> THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.
	(B) "BOARD" MEANS THE GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD ESTABLISHED BY THE GOVERNOR UNDER TITLE 11, SUBTITLE 5 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE.
33	(2) (C) "BUSINESS ENTITY" MEANS:
34 35	(1) A PERSON CONDUCTING OR OPERATING A TRADE OR BUSINESS IN MARYLAND; OR

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(2) AN ORGANIZATION OPERATING IN MARYLAND THAT IS 1 $\left(\mathbf{H} \right)$ 2 EXEMPT FROM TAXATION UNDER § 501(C)(3) OR (4) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE. "FIDELITY BOND" MEANS A BOND PROVIDED TO AN EMPLOYER FOR THE 4 BONDING OF EX-OFFENDERS PROVIDED THROUGH THE FEDERAL BONDING 5 PROGRAM OR OTHER SIMILAR PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE UNITED STATES 6 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR. "ONE STOP CENTER" MEANS AN ENTITY DESIGNATED WITHIN A 7 8 WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA THAT PROVIDES EMPLOYMENT TRAINING AND 9 SERVICES UNDER TITLE 11, SUBTITLE 5 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE. "PILOT PROGRAM" MEANS THE PILOT PROGRAM FOR LONG-TERM 11 EMPLOYMENT OF QUALIFIED EX-FELONS ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE. (I) (G) <u>(1)</u> "QUALIFIED EX-FELON EMPLOYEE" MEANS A 13 QUALIFIED EX-FELON, WITHIN THE MEANING OF § 51(D)(4) OF THE INTERNAL 14 REVENUE CODE WHO IS EMPLOYED BY A BUSINESS ENTITY THROUGH THE PILOT 15 PROGRAM UNDER THIS SUBTITLE. "OUALIFIED EX-FELON EMPLOYEE" DOES NOT INCLUDE 16 (2) 17 AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS THE SPOUSE OF, OR HAS ANY OF THE RELATIONSHIPS 18 SPECIFIED IN § 152(A)(1) THROUGH (8) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE TO, A 19 PERSON WHO CONTROLS, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, MORE THAN 50% OF THE 20 OWNERSHIP OF THE BUSINESS ENTITY. "WAGES" MEANS WAGES WITHIN THE MEANING OF § 51(C)(1), (2), (H) 22 AND (3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE WITHOUT REGARD TO § 51(C)(4) OF THE 23 INTERNAL REVENUE CODE THAT ARE PAID BY A BUSINESS ENTITY TO AN EMPLOYEE 24 FOR SERVICES PERFORMED IN A TRADE OR BUSINESS OF THE EMPLOYER. 25 "WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA" MEANS A GEOGRAPHIC AREA 26 DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNOR AS A SERVICE DELIVERY AREA UNDER TITLE 11, 27 SUBTITLE 5 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE. 28 2-302. THERE IS A PILOT PROGRAM FOR LONG-TERM EMPLOYMENT OF 30 EX-FELONS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES TO BUSINESS 31 ENTITIES TO ENCOURAGE THE LONG-TERM EMPLOYMENT OF QUALIFIED EX-FELON 32 EMPLOYEES. 33 ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2002, THE DEPARTMENT, IN 34 CONSULTATION WITH THE BOARD, SHALL ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE 35 EMPLOYMENT OF EX-FELONS PROVIDED IN § 2-303 OF THIS SUBTITLE. (2) THE PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE SHALL 36 37 REMAIN IN PLACE FOR A PERIOD OF 2 YEARS AND SHALL TERMINATE AT THE END OF 38 DECEMBER 31, 2003.

- **SENATE BILL 809** (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM IS TO IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM IN 2 AT LEAST TWO AREAS OF THE STATE TO PROVIDE FIDELITY BONDS AND TO QUALIFY 3 BUSINESS ENTITIES FOR TAX CREDITS TO ENCOURAGE THE LONG-TERM 4 EMPLOYMENT OF QUALIFIED EX-FELON EMPLOYEES UNDER THE PILOT PROGRAM. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL: 5 (D) PURCHASE THE NECESSARY AMOUNT OF FIDELITY BONDS TO 6 <u>(1)</u> 7 PROVIDE BONDS TO BUSINESS ENTITIES FOR A FULL YEAR OF EMPLOYMENT FOR UP 8 TO 200 QUALIFIED EX-FELONS EACH YEAR; AND PROVIDE THE FIDELITY BONDS PURCHASED EACH YEAR TO THE ONE 9 10 STOP CENTERS IN THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREAS DESIGNATED UNDER § 11 2-303 OF THIS SUBTITLE. 12 (E) THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL: BE IMPLEMENTED IN ONE STOP CENTERS IN AT LEAST TWO 13 14 WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREAS OF THE STATE AS DESIGNATED BY THE 15 DEPARTMENT IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BOARD UNDER § 2-303 OF THIS 16 SUBTITLE; AND PROVIDE FIDELITY BONDS TO BUSINESS ENTITIES THROUGH THE 17 18 ONE STOP CENTERS IN TWO OR MORE AREAS OF THE STATE AS DESIGNATED UNDER 19 § 2-303 FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF UP TO 200 QUALIFIED EX-FELONS EACH YEAR. THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL REQUIRE A ONE STOP CENTER THAT IS 21 DESIGNATED FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PILOT PROGRAM TO: 22 WORK WITH APPROPRIATE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND STATE (1) 23 AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES THAT PROVIDE SERVICES TO QUALIFIED 24 EX-FELONS TO ENCOURAGE THE REFERRAL AND PARTICIPATION OF QUALIFIED 25 EX-FELONS IN THE PROGRAM; PROVIDE OUTREACH AND EDUCATION EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE 26 27 BUSINESS ENTITIES TO HIRE QUALIFIED EX-FELONS FOR LONG-TERM 28 EMPLOYMENT UNDER THE PILOT PROGRAM; PROVIDE A BUSINESS ENTITY THAT HIRES A QUALIFIED EX-FELON <u>(3)</u> 30 UNDER THE PROGRAM WITH: A FIDELITY BOND FOR THE QUALIFIED EX-FELON THAT 31 32 COVERS AT LEAST 12 MONTHS OF EMPLOYMENT; AND 33 INFORMATION ON THE TAX CREDITS AVAILABLE TO A
- 34 BUSINESS ENTITY THAT HIRES A QUALIFIED EX-FELON THROUGH THE PILOT
- 35 PROGRAM; AND

(II)

- DEVELOP AN EVALUATION PROCESS FOR THE PILOT PROGRAM THAT
- 37 INCLUDES A MECHANISM TO EVALUATE WHETHER THE PILOT PROGRAM HAS

- 1 OPERATED TO SECURE STABLE EMPLOYMENT OF QUALIFIED EX-FELONS THAT
- 2 HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM.
- 3 2-303.
- 4 (A) A ONE STOP CENTER SHALL APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR
- 5 <u>DESIGNATION AS A LOCATION FOR THE PILOT PROGRAM.</u>
- 6 (B) THE APPLICATION SHALL DESCRIBE THE PLAN TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY
- 7 THE ONE STOP CENTER TO ADMINISTER THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PILOT
- 8 PROGRAM AS PROVIDED IN § 2-302 OF THIS SUBTITLE.
- 9 (C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BOARD, SHALL
- 10 EVALUATE THE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY ONE STOP CENTERS AND SHALL
- 11 DESIGNATE ONE STOP CENTERS IN AT LEAST TWO WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREAS
- 12 AS PILOT PROGRAM LOCATIONS.
- 13 (2) THE DESIGNATION OF ONE STOP CENTERS UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF
- 14 THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE A CONSIDERATION OF THE NUMBER OF
- 15 QUALIFIED EX-FELONS RESIDING IN THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA IN WHICH
- 16 THE ONE STOP CENTER IS LOCATED.
- 17 <u>2-304.</u>
- 18 (B) (A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (D)(C) OF THIS SECTION, A
- 19 BUSINESS ENTITY THAT HIRES A QUALIFIED EX-FELON EMPLOYEE THROUGH THE
- 20 PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE MAY CLAIM A TAX CREDIT IN
- 21 THE AMOUNTS DETERMINED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) (B) OF THIS SECTION FOR
- 22 WAGES PAID TO A QUALIFIED EX-FELON EMPLOYEE.
- 23 (C) (B) FOR EACH TAXABLE YEAR, FOR THE WAGES PAID TO EACH
- 24 QUALIFIED EX-FELON EMPLOYEE, A CREDIT IS ALLOWED IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO:
- 25 (1) 30% OF UP TO THE FIRST \$6,000 OF THE WAGES PAID TO THE
- 26 OUALIFIED EX-FELON EMPLOYEE DURING THE 1ST YEAR OF EMPLOYMENT; AND
- 27 (2) 20% OF UP TO THE FIRST \$6,000 OF THE WAGES PAID TO THE
- 28 OUALIFIED EX-FELON EMPLOYEE DURING THE 2ND YEAR OF EMPLOYMENT.
- 29 (D) (C) (1) A BUSINESS ENTITY MAY NOT CLAIM THE CREDIT UNDER THIS
- 30 SECTION FOR AN EMPLOYEE:
- 31 (I) WHO IS HIRED TO REPLACE A LAIDOFF EMPLOYEE OR TO
- 32 REPLACE AN EMPLOYEE WHO IS ON STRIKE: OR
- 33 (II) FOR WHOM THE BUSINESS ENTITY SIMULTANEOUSLY
- 34 RECEIVES FEDERAL OR STATE EMPLOYMENT TRAINING BENEFITS.
- 35 (2) A BUSINESS ENTITY MAY NOT CLAIM THE CREDIT UNDER THIS
- 36 SECTION UNTIL IT HAS NOTIFIED THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND

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- 1 CORRECTIONAL SERVICES THAT A QUALIFIED EX-FELON EMPLOYEE HAS BEEN 2 HIRED.
- 3 (3) A BUSINESS ENTITY MAY CLAIM A CREDIT IN THE AMOUNT 4 PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (5) OF THIS SUBSECTION FOR AN EMPLOYEE WHOSE
- 5 EMPLOYMENT LASTS LESS THAN ONE YEAR IF THE EMPLOYEE:
- 6 (I) VOLUNTARILY TERMINATES EMPLOYMENT WITH THE
- 7 EMPLOYER;
- 8 (II) IS UNABLE TO CONTINUE EMPLOYMENT DUE TO A DISABILITY 9 OR DEATH; OR
- 10 (III) IS TERMINATED FOR CAUSE.
- 11 (4) A BUSINESS ENTITY MAY NOT CLAIM THE CREDIT UNDER THIS
- 12 SECTION IF THE BUSINESS ENTITY IS CLAIMING A TAX CREDIT FOR THE SAME
- 13 EMPLOYEE UNDER ARTICLE 88A, § 54 OF THE CODE OR § 21-309 OF THE EDUCATION
- 14 ARTICLE.
- 15 (5) (I) IF A BUSINESS ENTITY IS ENTITLED TO A TAX CREDIT FOR AN
- 16 EMPLOYEE WHO IS EMPLOYED FOR LESS THAN ONE YEAR BECAUSE THE EMPLOYEE
- 17 VOLUNTARILY TERMINATES EMPLOYMENT WITH THE EMPLOYER TO TAKE ANOTHER
- 18 JOB, THE BUSINESS ENTITY MAY CLAIM A TAX CREDIT OF 30% OF UP TO THE FIRST
- 19 \$6,000 OF THE WAGES PAID TO THE EMPLOYEE DURING THE COURSE OF
- 20 EMPLOYMENT.
- 21 (II) IF A BUSINESS ENTITY IS ENTITLED TO A TAX CREDIT FOR AN
- 22 EMPLOYEE WHO IS EMPLOYED FOR LESS THAN ONE YEAR FOR A REASON OTHER
- 23 THAN THAT DESCRIBED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE AMOUNT OF
- 24 THE CREDIT SHALL BE REDUCED BY THE PROPORTION OF A YEAR THAT THE
- 25 EMPLOYEE DID NOT WORK.
- 26 (E) (D) IF THE CREDIT ALLOWED UNDER THIS SECTION IN ANY TAXABLE
- 27 YEAR EXCEEDS THE TOTAL TAX OTHERWISE PAYABLE BY THE BUSINESS ENTITY FOR
- 28 THAT TAXABLE YEAR, A BUSINESS ENTITY MAY APPLY THE EXCESS AS A CREDIT FOR
- 29 SUCCEEDING TAXABLE YEARS UNTIL THE EARLIER OF:
- 30 (1) THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE EXCESS IS USED; OR
- 31 (2) THE EXPIRATION OF THE 5TH TAXABLE YEAR AFTER THE TAXABLE
- 32 YEAR IN WHICH THE WAGES FOR WHICH THE CREDIT IS CLAIMED ARE PAID.
- 33 (F) (E) IF A CREDIT IS CLAIMED UNDER THIS SECTION. THE CLAIMANT
- 34 MUST MAKE THE ADDITION REQUIRED IN § 10-205 OR § 10-306 OF THE TAX GENERAL
- 35 ARTICLE.

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9				<u>Art</u>	icle - Tax -	General				
10	10-205.									
11 12	(b) credit claime			er subsection	(a) of this se	ection inclu	udes the a	mount of a	ı	
13 14	zone;	(1)	§ 10-702	2 of this title f	for wages pa	id to an en	nployee in	an enterp	rise	
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23	10-306.									
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31		(3)	§ 10-205	5(e) of this tit	le (Net opera	ating loss 1	modification	on); and		
32 33	expenses).	(4)	§ 10-205	5(g) of this tit	le (Unlicens	ed child ca	are facility	operating		

1 Article - Tax - General

- 2 10-704.10.
- 3 (A) AN INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATION MAY CLAIM A CREDIT AGAINST THE
- 4 INCOME TAX FOR WAGES PAID TO A QUALIFIED EX-FELON EMPLOYEE AS PROVIDED
- 5 UNDER <u>§ 2-301</u> § 2-304 OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ARTICLE.
- 6 (B) (1) AN ORGANIZATION THAT IS EXEMPT FROM TAXATION UNDER § 7 501(C)(3) OR (4) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE MAY APPLY THE CREDIT UNDER
- 8 THIS SECTION:
- 9 (I) AS A CREDIT AGAINST INCOME TAX DUE ON UNRELATED
- 10 BUSINESS TAXABLE INCOME AS PROVIDED UNDER §§ 10-304 AND 10-812 OF THIS
- 11 TITLE; OR
- 12 (II) AS A CREDIT FOR THE PAYMENT TO THE COMPTROLLER OF
- 13 TAXES THAT THE ORGANIZATION:
- 14 1. IS REQUIRED TO WITHHOLD FROM THE WAGES OF
- 15 EMPLOYEES UNDER § 10-908 OF THIS TITLE; AND
- 16 2. IS REQUIRED TO PAY TO THE COMPTROLLER UNDER §
- 17 10-906(A) OF THIS TITLE.
- 18 (2) IF THE CREDIT ALLOWED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION IN ANY TAXABLE
- 19 YEAR EXCEEDS THE SUM OF THE STATE INCOME TAX OTHERWISE PAYABLE BY THE
- 20 ORGANIZATION FOR THAT TAXABLE YEAR AND THE TAXES THAT THE ORGANIZATION
- 21 HAS WITHHELD FROM THE WAGES OF EMPLOYEES AND IS REQUIRED TO PAY TO THE
- 22 COMPTROLLER UNDER § 10-906(A) OF THIS TITLE FOR THE TAXABLE YEAR, THE
- 23 ORGANIZATION MAY APPLY THE EXCESS AS A CREDIT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(I) OR (II)
- 24 OF THIS SUBSECTION IN SUCCEEDING TAXABLE YEARS FOR THE CARRY FORWARD
- 25 PERIOD PROVIDED IN § 2-304 § 2-304 OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ARTICLE.
- 26 (3) THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO PROVIDE
- 27 PROCEDURES FOR CLAIMING AND APPLYING CREDITS AUTHORIZED UNDER
- 28 PARAGRAPH (1)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION.
- 29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of
- 30 Legislative Services, based on information provided by and in consultation with the
- 31 Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and the Comptroller, shall
- 32 conduct a study of the efficacy and effectiveness of the tax credit program established
- 33 under Section 1 of this Act in increasing the employment and self sufficiency of the
- 34 target population, including an analysis of the profile of employers having taken
- 35 advantage of this tax credit in hiring new employees, the cost effectiveness of the
- 36 subsidy in reaching State goals, and the appropriateness of the level of the tax credit.
- 37 The study shall also include an analysis of the potential effectiveness of the program
- 38 based on varying the size, duration, and structure of the subsidy. The Department
- 39 shall complete and present the results of the study to the Senate Budget and Taxation
- 40 Committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means by December 1, 2002.

- 1 SECTION 3-2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
- 2 effect July 1, 2001, and shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning after
- 3 December 31, 2000 2001, but before January 1, 2006; provided, however, that the tax
- 4 credit under § 2-304 of the Correctional Services Article, as enacted under
- 5 Section 1 of this Act, shall be allowed for employees hired on or after June 1, 2001
- 6 January 1, 2002 but before July 1, 2003 December 31, 2003; and provided further that
- 7 any excess credits under § 2-301 2-304 of the Correctional Services Article may be
- 8 carried forward and, subject to the limitations under § 2-304, may be applied
- 9 as a credit for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2006. This Act shall
- 10 remain in effect for a period of 2 years <u>6 months</u> and at the end of June 30 <u>December</u>
- 11 <u>31</u>, 2003, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
- 12 abrogated and of no further force and effect.