Unofficial Copy Q3

2002 Regular Session (2lr1915)

ENROLLED BILL

-- Budget and Taxation/Ways and Means --

Introduced by Senators McFadden, Blount, Conway, Currie, Exum, Hughes, Kelley, Lawlah, and Mitchell

Read and Examine	d by Proofreaders:
	Proofreader.
Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for day of at o'clock,	
	President.
СНАРТЕ	R
1 AN ACT concerning	
2 Pilot Program for Long-Term Employ	ment of Qualified Ex-Felons
 FOR the purpose of creating a Pilot Program for Long-Term Er Ex-Felons; requiring the Department of Public Safety and Labor, Licensing, and Regulation to establish the pilot program 	Correctional Services

- 6 with the Governor's Workforce Investment Board; requiring the Department to 7
- purchase certain bonds for a certain number of qualified ex-felons each year
- 8 and to provide certain bonds to certain one-stop career centers; requiring that
- 9 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 10
- participates in the pilot program to work with certain entities to encourage 11
- 12 referral and participation of qualified ex-felons, to provide certain outreach and
- 13 education, and to develop a certain evaluation process; requiring a one-stop
- 14 center to apply to the Department for designation as a pilot program location;
- 15 requiring the Department in consultation with the Governor's Workforce
- 16 Investment Board to designate certain one-stop centers as pilot program

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Section 10-704.10

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	locations and to consider certain information; allowing a credit against the State 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; defining certain terms; requiring a certain addition modification if a certain 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 Labor, Licensing, and Regulation to adopt certain regulations; requiring the Comptroller to adopt certain regulations; providing for the application of this Act; providing for the termination of this Act; providing for the effective date of certain provisions of this Act; providing for the termination of certain provisions of this Act; and generally relating to the Pilot Program for Long-Term Employment of Qualified Ex-Felons.
15	BY adding to
16	Article - Labor and Employment Section 11-701 through 11-705 to be under
17	the new subtitle "Subtitle 7. Pilot Program for the Long-Term
18	Employment of Qualified Ex-Felons"
19	Annotated Code of Maryland
20	(1999 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)
21	BY adding to
22	Article Correctional Services
23	Section 2 401 through 2 405 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 4. Pilot
24	Program for Long-Term Employment of Qualified Ex-Felons"
25	Annotated Code of Maryland
26	(1999 Volume and 2001 Supplement)
27	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
28	Article - Tax - General
29	
30	Annotated Code of Maryland
31	(1997 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)
32	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
33	Article - Tax - General
34	Section 10-205(b) and 10-306(b)
35	Annotated Code of Maryland
36	(1997 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)
37	(As enacted by Chapter 492 of the Acts of 1995)
	BY adding to
39	Article - Tax - General

1 Annotated	Code of	Maryland
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- 2 (1997 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)
- 3 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
- 4 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
- 5 Article Correctional Services Labor and Employment
- 6 SUBTITLE 4. <u>7. PILOT PROGRAM FOR LONG-TERM EMPLOYMENT OF QUALIFIED EX-FELONS.</u>
- 8 2 401. 11-701.
- 9 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS 10 INDICATED.
- 11 (B) "BOARD" MEANS THE GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
- 12 ESTABLISHED BY THE GOVERNOR UNDER TITLE 11, SUBTITLE 5 OF THE LABOR AND
- 13 EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE SUBTITLE 5 OF THIS TITLE.
- 14 (C) "BUSINESS ENTITY" MEANS:
- 15 (1) A PERSON CONDUCTING OR OPERATING A TRADE OR BUSINESS IN 16 MARYLAND; OR
- 17 (2) AN ORGANIZATION OPERATING IN MARYLAND THAT IS EXEMPT
- 18 FROM TAXATION UNDER § 501(C)(3) OR (4) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.
- 19 (D) "FIDELITY BOND" MEANS A BOND PROVIDED TO AN EMPLOYER FOR THE
- 20 BONDING OF EX-OFFENDERS PROVIDED THROUGH THE FEDERAL BONDING
- 21 PROGRAM OR OTHER SIMILAR PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE UNITED STATES
- 22 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.
- 23 (E) "ONE-STOP CENTER" MEANS AN ENTITY DESIGNATED WITHIN A
- 24 WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA THAT PROVIDES EMPLOYMENT TRAINING AND
- 25 SERVICES UNDER TITLE 11, SUBTITLE 5 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE
- 26 SUBTITLE 5 OF THIS TITLE.
- 27 (F) "PILOT PROGRAM" MEANS THE PILOT PROGRAM FOR LONG-TERM
- 28 EMPLOYMENT OF QUALIFIED EX-FELONS ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.
- 29 (G) (1) "QUALIFIED EX-FELON EMPLOYEE" MEANS A QUALIFIED EX-FELON,
- 30 WITHIN THE MEANING OF § 51(D)(4) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, WHO IS
- 31 EMPLOYED BY A BUSINESS ENTITY THROUGH THE PILOT PROGRAM UNDER THIS
- 32 SUBTITLE.
- 33 (2) "QUALIFIED EX-FELON EMPLOYEE" DOES NOT INCLUDE AN
- 34 INDIVIDUAL WHO IS THE SPOUSE OF, OR HAS ANY OF THE RELATIONSHIPS
- 35 SPECIFIED IN § 152(A)(1) THROUGH (8) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE TO, A

- 1 PERSON WHO CONTROLS, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, MORE THAN 50% OF THE
- 2 OWNERSHIP OF THE BUSINESS ENTITY.
- 3 (H) "WAGES" MEANS WAGES WITHIN THE MEANING OF § 51(C)(1), (2), AND (3) OF
- 4 THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE WITHOUT REGARD TO § 51(C)(4) OF THE INTERNAL
- 5 REVENUE CODE THAT ARE PAID BY A BUSINESS ENTITY TO AN EMPLOYEE FOR
- 6 SERVICES PERFORMED IN A TRADE OR BUSINESS OF THE EMPLOYER.
- 7 (I) "WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA" MEANS A WORKFORCE INVESTMENT
- 8 AREA DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNOR UNDER TITLE 11, SUBTITLE 5 OF THE LABOR
- 9 AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE SUBTITLE 5 OF THIS TITLE.
- 10 2 402. 11-702.
- 11 (A) THERE IS A PILOT PROGRAM FOR LONG-TERM EMPLOYMENT OF
- 12 EX-FELONS TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES TO BUSINESS ENTITIES TO ENCOURAGE THE
- 13 LONG-TERM EMPLOYMENT OF QUALIFIED EX-FELON EMPLOYEES.
- 14 (B) (1) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2003, THE DEPARTMENT, IN
- 15 CONSULTATION WITH THE BOARD, SHALL ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE
- 16 EMPLOYMENT OF EX-FELONS PROVIDED IN § 2 403 § 11-703 OF THIS SUBTITLE.
- 17 (2) THE PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE SHALL
- 18 REMAIN IN PLACE FOR A PERIOD OF 3 2 YEARS AND SHALL TERMINATE AT THE END
- 19 OF DECEMBER 31, 2005 2004.
- 20 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM IS TO IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM IN
- 21 AT LEAST TWO AREAS OF THE STATE TO PROVIDE FIDELITY BONDS AND TO QUALIFY
- 22 BUSINESS ENTITIES FOR TAX CREDITS TO ENCOURAGE THE LONG-TERM
- 23 EMPLOYMENT OF QUALIFIED EX-FELON EMPLOYEES UNDER THE PILOT PROGRAM.
- 24 (D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:
- 25 (1) PURCHASE THE NECESSARY AMOUNT OF FIDELITY BONDS TO
- 26 PROVIDE BONDS TO BUSINESS ENTITIES FOR A FULL YEAR OF EMPLOYMENT FOR UP
- 27 TO 600 200 150 QUALIFIED EX-FELONS EACH YEAR; AND
- 28 (2) PROVIDE THE FIDELITY BONDS PURCHASED EACH YEAR TO THE
- 29 ONE-STOP CENTERS IN THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREAS DESIGNATED UNDER
- 30 § 2-403 § 11-703 OF THIS SUBTITLE.
- 31 (E) THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL:
- 32 (1) BE IMPLEMENTED IN ONE-STOP CENTERS IN AT LEAST TWO
- 33 WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREAS OF THE STATE AS DESIGNATED BY THE
- 34 DEPARTMENT IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BOARD UNDER § 2-403 § 11-703 OF THIS
- 35 SUBTITLE; AND
- 36 (2) PROVIDE FIDELITY BONDS TO BUSINESS ENTITIES THROUGH THE
- 37 ONE-STOP CENTERS IN TWO OR MORE AREAS OF THE STATE AS DESIGNATED UNDER

- 1 <u>§ 2-403</u> § <u>11-703</u> FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF UP TO <u>600 200</u> <u>150</u> QUALIFIED EX-FELONS 2 EACH YEAR.
- 3 (F) THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL REQUIRE A ONE-STOP CENTER THAT IS 4 DESIGNATED FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PILOT PROGRAM TO:
- 5 (1) WORK WITH APPROPRIATE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND STATE
- 6 AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES THAT PROVIDE SERVICES TO QUALIFIED
- 7 EX-FELONS TO ENCOURAGE THE REFERRAL AND PARTICIPATION OF QUALIFIED
- 8 EX-FELONS IN THE PROGRAM:
- 9 (2) PROVIDE OUTREACH AND EDUCATION EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE
- 10 BUSINESS ENTITIES TO HIRE QUALIFIED EX-FELONS FOR LONG-TERM
- 11 EMPLOYMENT UNDER THE PILOT PROGRAM;
- 12 (3) PROVIDE A BUSINESS ENTITY THAT HIRES A QUALIFIED EX-FELON
- 13 UNDER THE PROGRAM WITH:
- 14 (I) A FIDELITY BOND FOR THE QUALIFIED EX-FELON THAT
- 15 COVERS AT LEAST 12 MONTHS OF EMPLOYMENT; AND
- 16 (II) INFORMATION ON THE TAX CREDITS AVAILABLE TO A
- 17 BUSINESS ENTITY THAT HIRES A QUALIFIED EX-FELON THROUGH THE PILOT
- 18 PROGRAM; AND
- 19 (4) DEVELOP AN EVALUATION PROCESS FOR THE PILOT PROGRAM THAT
- 20 INCLUDES A MECHANISM TO EVALUATE WHETHER THE PILOT PROGRAM HAS
- 21 OPERATED TO SECURE STABLE EMPLOYMENT OF QUALIFIED EX-FELONS THAT
- 22 HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM.
- 23 2-403. 11-703.
- 24 (A) A ONE-STOP CENTER SHALL APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR
- 25 DESIGNATION AS A LOCATION FOR THE PILOT PROGRAM.
- 26 (B) THE APPLICATION SHALL DESCRIBE THE PLAN TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY
- 27 THE ONE-STOP CENTER TO ADMINISTER THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PILOT
- 28 PROGRAM AS PROVIDED IN § 2-402 § 11-702 OF THIS SUBTITLE.
- 29 (C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BOARD, SHALL
- 30 EVALUATE THE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY ONE-STOP CENTERS AND SHALL
- 31 DESIGNATE ONE-STOP CENTERS IN AT LEAST TWO WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREAS
- 32 AS PILOT PROGRAM LOCATIONS.
- 33 (2) THE DESIGNATION OF ONE-STOP CENTERS UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)
- 34 OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE A CONSIDERATION OF THE NUMBER OF
- 35 QUALIFIED EX-FELONS RESIDING IN THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA IN WHICH
- 36 THE ONE-STOP CENTER IS LOCATED.

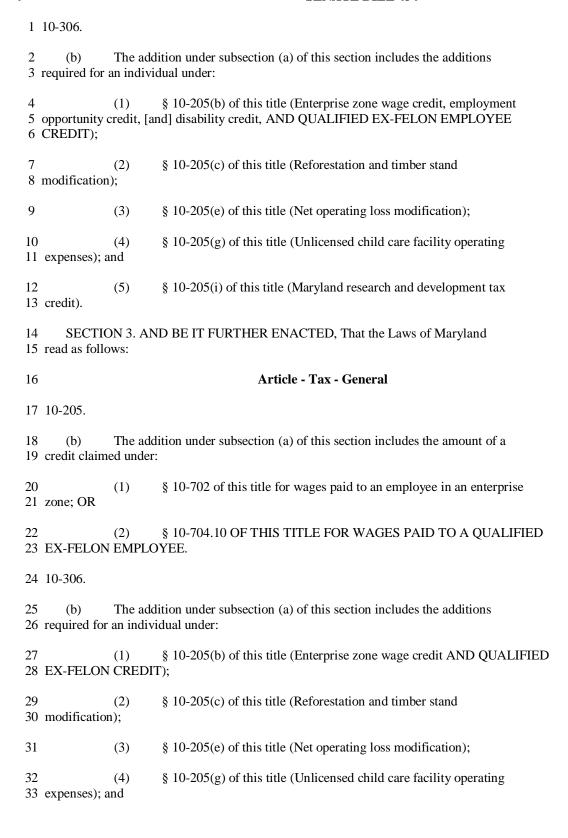
1 2 404. 11-704.

- 2 (A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, A BUSINESS
- 3 ENTITY THAT HIRES A QUALIFIED EX-FELON EMPLOYEE THROUGH THE PILOT
- 4 PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE MAY CLAIM A TAX CREDIT IN THE
- 5 AMOUNTS DETERMINED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION FOR WAGES PAID
- 6 TO A QUALIFIED EX-FELON EMPLOYEE.
- 7 (B) FOR EACH TAXABLE YEAR, FOR THE WAGES PAID TO EACH QUALIFIED 8 EX-FELON EMPLOYEE, A CREDIT IS ALLOWED IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO:
- 9 (1) 30% OF UP TO THE FIRST \$6,000 OF THE WAGES PAID TO THE 10 QUALIFIED EX-FELON EMPLOYEE DURING THE FIRST YEAR OF EMPLOYMENT; AND
- 11 (2) 20% OF UP TO THE FIRST \$6,000 OF THE WAGES PAID TO THE
- 12 QUALIFIED EX-FELON EMPLOYEE DURING THE SECOND YEAR OF EMPLOYMENT.
- 13 (C) (1) A BUSINESS ENTITY MAY NOT CLAIM THE CREDIT UNDER THIS 14 SECTION FOR AN EMPLOYEE:
- 15 (I) WHO IS HIRED TO REPLACE A LAID OFF EMPLOYEE OR TO 16 REPLACE AN EMPLOYEE WHO IS ON STRIKE; OR
- 17 (II) FOR WHOM THE BUSINESS ENTITY SIMULTANEOUSLY
- 18 RECEIVES FEDERAL OR STATE EMPLOYMENT TRAINING BENEFITS.
- 19 (2) A BUSINESS ENTITY MAY NOT CLAIM THE CREDIT UNDER THIS
- 20 SECTION UNTIL IT HAS NOTIFIED THE DEPARTMENT THAT A QUALIFIED EX-FELON
- 21 EMPLOYEE HAS BEEN HIRED.
- 22 (3) A BUSINESS ENTITY MAY CLAIM A CREDIT IN THE AMOUNT
- 23 PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (5) OF THIS SUBSECTION FOR AN EMPLOYEE WHOSE
- 24 EMPLOYMENT LASTS LESS THAN 1 YEAR IF THE EMPLOYEE:
- 25 (I) VOLUNTARILY TERMINATES EMPLOYMENT WITH THE
- 26 EMPLOYER;
- 27 (II) IS UNABLE TO CONTINUE EMPLOYMENT DUE TO A DISABILITY
- 28 OR DEATH; OR
- 29 (III) IS TERMINATED FOR CAUSE.
- 30 (4) A BUSINESS ENTITY MAY NOT CLAIM THE CREDIT UNDER THIS
- 31 SECTION IF THE BUSINESS ENTITY IS CLAIMING A TAX CREDIT FOR THE SAME
- 32 EMPLOYEE UNDER ARTICLE 88A, § 54 OF THE CODE OR § 21-309 OF THE EDUCATION
- 33 ARTICLE.
- 34 (5) (I) IF A BUSINESS ENTITY IS ENTITLED TO A TAX CREDIT FOR AN
- 35 EMPLOYEE WHO IS EMPLOYED FOR LESS THAN 1 YEAR BECAUSE THE EMPLOYEE
- 36 VOLUNTARILY TERMINATES EMPLOYMENT WITH THE EMPLOYER TO TAKE ANOTHER

- 1 JOB, THE BUSINESS ENTITY MAY CLAIM A TAX CREDIT OF 30% OF UP TO THE FIRST
- 2 \$6,000 OF THE WAGES PAID TO THE EMPLOYEE DURING THE COURSE OF
- 3 EMPLOYMENT.
- 4 (II) IF A BUSINESS ENTITY IS ENTITLED TO A TAX CREDIT FOR AN
- 5 EMPLOYEE WHO IS EMPLOYED FOR LESS THAN 1 YEAR FOR A REASON OTHER THAN
- 6 THAT DESCRIBED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE AMOUNT OF THE
- 7 CREDIT SHALL BE REDUCED BY THE PROPORTION OF A YEAR THAT THE EMPLOYEE
- 8 DID NOT WORK.
- 9 (D) IF THE CREDIT ALLOWED UNDER THIS SECTION IN ANY TAXABLE YEAR
- 10 EXCEEDS THE TOTAL TAX OTHERWISE PAYABLE BY THE BUSINESS ENTITY FOR THAT
- 11 TAXABLE YEAR, A BUSINESS ENTITY MAY APPLY THE EXCESS AS A CREDIT FOR
- 12 SUCCEEDING TAXABLE YEARS UNTIL THE EARLIER OF:
- 13 (1) THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE EXCESS IS USED; OR
- 14 (2) THE EXPIRATION OF THE FIFTH TAXABLE YEAR AFTER THE
- 15 TAXABLE YEAR IN WHICH THE WAGES FOR WHICH THE CREDIT IS CLAIMED ARE
- 16 PAID.
- 17 (E) IF A CREDIT IS CLAIMED UNDER THIS SECTION, THE CLAIMANT MUST
- 18 MAKE THE ADDITION REQUIRED IN § 10-205 OR § 10-306 OF THE TAX GENERAL
- 19 ARTICLE.
- 20 2-405. 11-705.
- 21 (A) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BOARD, SHALL ADOPT
- 22 REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.
- 23 (B) THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO PROVIDE FOR THE
- 24 COMPUTATION AND CARRYOVER OF THE CREDIT UNDER § 10-704.10 OF THE TAX -
- 25 GENERAL ARTICLE.
- 26 Article Tax General
- 27 10-704.10.
- 28 (A) AN INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATION MAY CLAIM A CREDIT AGAINST THE
- 29 INCOME TAX FOR WAGES PAID TO A QUALIFIED EX-FELON EMPLOYEE AS PROVIDED
- 30 UNDER § 2 404 OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES § 11-704 OF THE LABOR AND
- 31 EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE.
- 32 (B) (1) AN ORGANIZATION THAT IS EXEMPT FROM TAXATION UNDER §
- 33 501(C)(3) OR (4) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE MAY APPLY THE CREDIT UNDER
- 34 THIS SECTION:
- 35 (I) AS A CREDIT AGAINST INCOME TAX DUE ON UNRELATED
- 36 BUSINESS TAXABLE INCOME AS PROVIDED UNDER §§ 10-304 AND 10-812 OF THIS
- 37 TITLE; OR

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1 2	(II) AS A CREDIT FOR THE PAYMENT TO THE COMPTROLLER OF TAXES THAT THE ORGANIZATION:
3	1. IS REQUIRED TO WITHHOLD FROM THE WAGES OF EMPLOYEES UNDER § 10-908 OF THIS TITLE; AND
5 6	2. IS REQUIRED TO PAY TO THE COMPTROLLER UNDER \S 10-906(A) OF THIS TITLE.
9 10 11 12 13 14	(2) IF THE CREDIT ALLOWED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION IN ANY TAXABLE YEAR EXCEEDS THE SUM OF THE STATE INCOME TAX OTHERWISE PAYABLE BY THE ORGANIZATION FOR THAT TAXABLE YEAR AND THE TAXES THAT THE ORGANIZATION HAS WITHHELD FROM THE WAGES OF EMPLOYEES AND IS REQUIRED TO PAY TO THE COMPTROLLER UNDER § 10-906(A) OF THIS TITLE FOR THE TAXABLE YEAR, THE ORGANIZATION MAY APPLY THE EXCESS AS A CREDIT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(I) OR (II) OF THIS SUBSECTION IN SUCCEEDING TAXABLE YEARS FOR THE CARRY FORWARD PERIOD PROVIDED IN § 2 404 OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES § 11-704 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE.
	(3) THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO PROVIDE PROCEDURES FOR CLAIMING AND APPLYING CREDITS AUTHORIZED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION.
19 20	SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
21	Article - Tax - General
22	10-205.
23 24	(b) The addition under subsection (a) of this section includes the amount of a credit claimed under:
25 26	(1) § 10-702 of this title for wages paid to an employee in an enterprise zone;
	(2) § 10-704.3 of this title or § 8-213 of this article for wages paid and qualified child care or transportation expenses incurred with respect to qualified employment opportunity employees; [or]
	(3) § 10-704.7 of this title or § 8-216 of this article for wages paid and qualified child care or transportation expenses incurred with respect to a qualified employee with a disability; OR
33 34	(4) § 10-704.10 OF THIS TITLE FOR WAGES PAID TO A QUALIFIED EX-FELON EMPLOYEE.



- 1 (5) § 10-205(i) of this title (Maryland research and development tax 2 credit).
- 3 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 3 of this Act shall
- 4 take effect on the taking effect of the termination provision specified in Section 3 of
- 5 Chapter 492 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1995, as amended. If that
- 6 termination provision takes effect, Section 2 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no
- 7 further force and effect. This Act may not be interpreted to have any effect on that
- 8 termination provision.
- 9 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in
- 10 Section 4 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2002, and shall be applicable to
- 11 all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2001, but before January 1, 2007
- 12 2006; provided, however, that the tax credit under § 2-404 § 11-704 of the
- 13 Correctional Services Labor and Employment Article, as enacted under Section 1 of
- 14 this Act, shall be allowed for employees hired on or after July 1, 2002 but before
- 15 December 31, 2005 2004; and provided further that any excess credits under § 2 404
- 16 § 11-704 of the Correctional Services Labor and Employment Article may be carried
- 17 forward and, subject to the limitations under § 2-404 § 11-704, may be applied as a
- 18 credit for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2007 2006. This Act shall
- 19 remain in effect for a period of 2 years 6 months and at the end of December 31, 2004,
- 20 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated
- 21 and of no further force and effect.