Q3, F1	5lr0125
HB 1262/14 – W&M	CF 5lr0124

By: The Speaker (By Request – Administration) and Delegates Adams, Afzali, Anderton, Arentz, Aumann, D. Barnes, Beidle, Bromwell, Buckel, Carozza, Cassilly, Chang, Cluster, Fennell, Fisher, Flanagan, Folden, Ghrist, Grammer, Hettleman, Holmes, Hornberger, Impallaria, Jacobs, Jameson, Kipke, Kittleman, Krebs, Long, Mautz, McComas, McConkey, McDonough, McKay, McMillan, Metzgar, Miele, O'Donnell, Oaks, Otto, Parrott, Patterson, Proctor, Reilly, B. Robinson, Rosenberg, Saab, Shoemaker, Simonaire, Sophocleus, Szeliga, Valentino–Smith, Vallario, Vaughn, Vitale, Vogt, West, B. Wilson, and Ciliberti

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2015 Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

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 Business $\mathbf{5}$ and Economic Development 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 13certain tax credit certificates if certain notice is not provided within a certain time 14period; providing limits on the amount of certain tax credits and the aggregate amount of tax credits that may be approved by the Department in a calendar year; 1516establishing 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 the intent of the General Assembly that the appropriation may not exceed 19a certain amount each year; requiring the Comptroller to transfer certain amounts 20from the Fund to the General Fund under certain circumstances; providing that 21certain unused tax credits may not be carried forward; requiring the Department to 22publish and update a certain list in a certain manner each year and report certain 23information on the credit each year; requiring a certain addition modification under

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



$1 \\ 2 \\ 3$	the Maryland income tax if a certain tax credit is claimed; defining certain terms; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to a State income tax credit for contributions made to certain student assistance organizations.				
4 5 6 7 8	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, Article – Economic Development Section 2–123(a)(2) Annotated Code of Maryland (2008 Volume and 2014 Supplement)				
9 10 11 12 13	BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments, Article – Tax – General Section 10–205(a) and 10–306(a) Annotated Code of Maryland (2010 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)				
14 15 16 17 18	BY adding to Article – Tax – General Section 10–205(l), 10–306(g), and 10–737 Annotated Code of Maryland (2010 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)				
$19 \\ 20$,				
21				Article – Economic Development	
22	2–123.				
23	(a) In this section, "economic development program" means:				
$\begin{array}{c} 24 \\ 25 \end{array}$	including:	(2)	each	of the tax credit programs administered by the Department,	
26			(i)	the Film Production Activity Tax Credit;	
27			(ii)	the Job Creation Tax Credit;	
28			(iii)	the One Maryland Economic Development Tax Credit;	
29			(iv)	the Invest Maryland Program;	
30			(v)	the Biotechnology Investment Incentive Tax Credit; [and]	
31			(vi)	the Research and Development Tax Credit; AND	
32			(VII)	THE MARYLAND EDUCATION TAX CREDIT.	

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Article – Tax – General

 $2 \quad 10-205.$

3 (a) In addition to the modification under § 10–204 of this subtitle, the amounts 4 under this section are added to the federal adjusted gross income of a resident to determine 5 Maryland adjusted gross income.

6 (L) THE ADDITION UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION INCLUDES THE 7 AMOUNT OF A CONTRIBUTION MADE TO A STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION FOR 8 WHICH A CREDIT IS CLAIMED UNDER § 10–737 OF THIS TITLE.

9 10-306.

10 (a) In addition to the modification under § 10–305 of this subtitle, the amounts 11 under this section are added to the federal taxable income of a corporation to determine 12 Maryland modified income.

(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.

16 **10–737.**

17 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS 18 INDICATED.

- 19 (2) "BUSINESS ENTITY" MEANS:
- 20 (I) A PERSON CONDUCTING OR OPERATING A TRADE OR 21 BUSINESS IN MARYLAND; OR
- 22 (II) AN ORGANIZATION OPERATING IN MARYLAND THAT IS 23 EXEMPT FROM TAXATION UNDER § 501(C)(3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.
- 24 (3) "CONTRIBUTION" MEANS A MONETARY DONATION.
- 25 (4) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND 26 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
- 27 **(5)** "ELIGIBLE SCHOOL" MEANS:
- 28(I)A PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM, AN ELEMENTARY29PUBLIC SCHOOL, OR A SECONDARY PUBLIC SCHOOL; OR

1 (II) A NONPUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM. AN $\mathbf{2}$ ELEMENTARY NONPUBLIC SCHOOL, OR A SECONDARY NONPUBLIC SCHOOL THAT: 3 1. HOLDS A CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL FROM OR IS **REGISTERED WITH THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION;** 4 2. DOES NOT CHARGE TUITION THAT IS GREATER THAN $\mathbf{5}$ 6 THE STATEWIDE AVERAGE PER PUPIL EXPENDITURE BY THE LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES CALCULATED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WITH 7 EXCEPTIONS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS DETERMINED BY THE STATE 8 **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO BE APPROPRIATE;** 9 10 3. ADMINISTERS Α NATIONALLY ACKNOWLEDGED ACHIEVEMENT TEST TO THE STUDENTS; AND 11 COMPLIES WITH TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT 12**4**. 13 OF 1964, AS AMENDED. 14"PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM" MEANS A PREKINDERGARTEN (6) 15EDUCATION PROGRAM THAT HAS OBTAINED A LICENSE, LETTER OF COMPLIANCE, OR CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL FROM THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION. 16 "QUALIFIED EDUCATION EXPENSES" MEANS QUALIFIED 17(7) **(I)** ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION EXPENSES AS DEFINED IN § 18 530(B)(3)(A) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE. 19 20**(II)** "QUALIFIED EDUCATION EXPENSES" INCLUDE EXPENSES FOR: 21221. ACADEMIC TUTORING; 232. BOOKS, SUPPLIES, AND OTHER EQUIPMENT; COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY, EQUIPMENT, OR INTERNET 243. 25ACCESS; 264. **SPECIAL NEEDS SERVICES;** 275. **TRANSPORTATION;** 28**6**. **TUITION AND FEES; OR**

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7. 1 UNIFORMS THAT ARE REQUIRED BY AN ELIGIBLE $\mathbf{2}$ SCHOOL. "STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION" MEANS AN ENTITY THAT: (8) 3 IS EXEMPT FROM TAXATION UNDER § 501(C)(3) OF THE 4 **(I)** $\mathbf{5}$ **INTERNAL REVENUE CODE:** 6 (II) PROVIDES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR **QUALIFIED** EDUCATION EXPENSES TO STUDENTS ATTENDING ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS IN THE STATE; 78 AND 9 (III) MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (C)(1) OF THIS 10 SECTION. 11 **(B)** (1) SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION, A BUSINESS ENTITY MAY CLAIM A CREDIT AGAINST THE STATE INCOME TAX IN AN AMOUNT 1213 EQUAL TO 60% OF A CONTRIBUTION MADE TO A STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION. 14 15(2) A CREDIT CLAIMED BY A BUSINESS ENTITY UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT EXCEED \$200,000 IN EACH TAXABLE YEAR. 1617TO QUALIFY AS A STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION, AN **(C)** (1) 18 **ENTITY SHALL:** 19 **(I) APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1** 20OF EACH YEAR; 21**(II)** PROVIDE **QUALIFIED** FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR 22EDUCATION EXPENSES TO STUDENTS ATTENDING ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS; 23(III) PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO AT LEAST FOUR 24DIFFERENT ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS IN EACH CALENDAR YEAR; 25(IV) CONTRIBUTE OR IRREVOCABLY ENCUMBER AT LEAST 90% OF ANNUAL CASH RECEIPTS RECEIVED AS THE RESULT OF CONTRIBUTIONS 2627APPROVED FOR TAX CREDITS UNDER THIS SECTION TOWARD FINANCIAL 28ASSISTANCE FOR QUALIFIED EDUCATION EXPENSES TO STUDENTS AT ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS AS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION; 29**(**V**)** 30 FINANCIAL PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR QUALIFIED

EDUCATION EXPENSES ON A PRIORITY BASIS FIRST TO STUDENT APPLICANTS WHO

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1 ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS BASED ON ELIGIBILITY 2 REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF 3 AGRICULTURE AND THEN TO OTHER STUDENT APPLICANTS BASED ON FINANCIAL 4 NEED;

5 (VI) SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT THE APPLICATION AND 6 REVIEW PROCESS FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR QUALIFIED 7 EDUCATION EXPENSES BASED ON DEMONSTRATED FINANCIAL NEED; AND

8 (VII) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1 OF EACH YEAR, SUBMIT 9 VERIFICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT ALL REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY 10 UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH HAVE BEEN MET IN THE PRIOR CALENDAR YEAR.

11(2) IN THE APPLICATION REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS12SUBSECTION, A STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION SHALL STATE IF THE13ORGANIZATION WILL PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR QUALIFIED EDUCATION14EXPENSES TO:

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(I) STUDENTS AT ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS THAT ARE PUBLIC; OR

16 (II) STUDENTS AT ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS THAT ARE NONPUBLIC.

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

20 (2) THE APPLICATION FOR AN INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE 21 SHALL IDENTIFY IF THE STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION PROVIDES 22 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR QUALIFIED EDUCATION EXPENSES TO:

23 (I) STUDENTS AT ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS THAT ARE PUBLIC; OR

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STUDENTS AT ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS THAT ARE NONPUBLIC.

25 (E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

(II)

26 (1) ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION, INCLUDING 27 THE METHOD FOR REPORTING BY STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS TO 28 ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SECTION;

29 (2) APPROVE ALL APPLICATIONS FOR TAX CREDITS UNDER THIS 30 SECTION ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS; 1 (3) WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER RECEIPT, APPROVE OR REJECT AN 2 ENTITY'S APPLICATION TO BECOME A STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION;

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

8 (5) WITHIN 45 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING NOTICE OF A CONTRIBUTION 9 MADE TO A STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION, ISSUE A FINAL TAX CREDIT 10 CERTIFICATE AS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION; AND

11(6) PUBLISH AN ANNUAL LIST OF ALL STUDENT ASSISTANCE12ORGANIZATIONS APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

13 (F) (1) AFTER THE DEPARTMENT HAS ISSUED AN INITIAL TAX CREDIT 14 CERTIFICATE UNDER THIS SECTION, THE BUSINESS ENTITY SHALL HAVE **90** DAYS TO 15 MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO A STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION UNDER THIS 16 SECTION.

17 (2) WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO A STUDENT 18 ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION, A BUSINESS ENTITY SHALL PROVIDE NOTICE TO THE 19 DEPARTMENT OF THE AMOUNT OF THE CONTRIBUTION.

20 (3) IF A BUSINESS ENTITY FAILS TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO A 21 STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING AN 22 INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL RESCIND THE INITIAL 23 TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE.

(G) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, "RESERVE FUND" MEANS THE MARYLAND
 EDUCATION TAX CREDIT RESERVE FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF
 THIS SUBSECTION.

(2) (1) THERE IS A MARYLAND EDUCATION TAX CREDIT RESERVE
 FUND THAT IS A SPECIAL CONTINUING, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT SUBJECT
 TO § 7–302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

30 (II) THE MONEY IN THE RESERVE FUND SHALL BE INVESTED
 31 AND REINVESTED BY THE STATE TREASURER, AND INTEREST AND EARNINGS SHALL
 32 BE CREDITED TO THE GENERAL FUND.

1 (3) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (7) OF THIS 2 SUBSECTION, THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT ISSUE INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATES 3 FOR CREDIT AMOUNTS IN THE AGGREGATE TOTALING MORE THAN THE AMOUNT 4 APPROPRIATED TO THE RESERVE FUND FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR IN THE STATE 5 BUDGET AS APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

6 (II) IF THE AGGREGATE CREDIT AMOUNTS UNDER INITIAL TAX 7 CREDIT CERTIFICATES ISSUED IN A FISCAL YEAR TOTAL LESS THAN THE AMOUNT 8 APPROPRIATED TO THE RESERVE FUND FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR, ANY EXCESS 9 AMOUNT SHALL REMAIN IN THE RESERVE FUND AND MAY BE ISSUED UNDER INITIAL 10 TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATES FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

11 (III) IF THE AGGREGATE CREDIT AMOUNTS UNDER INITIAL TAX 12 CREDIT CERTIFICATES APPROVED FOR ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS THAT ARE PUBLIC 13 SCHOOLS IN A CALENDAR YEAR TOTAL LESS THAN 40% OF THE AMOUNT 14 APPROPRIATED TO THE RESERVE FUND FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR, THE EXCESS MAY 15 BE USED TO APPROVE INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATES FOR ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS 16 THAT ARE NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS DURING THE NEXT CALENDAR YEAR.

17 (IV) FOR ANY FISCAL YEAR, IF FUNDS ARE TRANSFERRED FROM 18 THE RESERVE FUND UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF ANY PROVISION OF LAW OTHER 19 THAN UNDER PARAGRAPH (6) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE MAXIMUM CREDIT 20 AMOUNTS IN THE AGGREGATE FOR WHICH THE DEPARTMENT MAY ISSUE INITIAL 21 TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATES SHALL BE REDUCED BY THE AMOUNT TRANSFERRED.

22 (4) (1) FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE GOVERNOR MAY INCLUDE IN 23 THE BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION TO THE RESERVE FUND.

24 (II) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE 25 APPROPRIATION UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH MAY NOT EXCEED:

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 1. \$5,000,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016;

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 2. \$10,000,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017; AND

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 3. \$15,000,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018 AND EACH

29 FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER.

30 (5) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF § 7–213 OF THE STATE
 31 FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE, THE GOVERNOR MAY NOT REDUCE AN
 32 APPROPRIATION TO THE RESERVE FUND IN THE STATE BUDGET AS APPROVED BY
 33 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN THIS PARAGRAPH, MONEY 1 (6) **(I)** $\mathbf{2}$ APPROPRIATED IN THE RESERVE FUND SHALL REMAIN IN THE RESERVE FUND. 3 WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER THE END OF EACH CALENDAR (II) 1. 4 QUARTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOTIFY THE COMPTROLLER AS TO EACH FINAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE ISSUED DURING THE PREVIOUS QUARTER OF: $\mathbf{5}$ 6 A. THE MAXIMUM CREDIT AMOUNT STATED IN THE 7 INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE; AND В. 8 THE FINAL CERTIFIED TAX CREDIT AMOUNT. 9 2. ON NOTIFICATION THAT A FINAL TAX CREDIT HAS BEEN ISSUED, THE COMPTROLLER SHALL TRANSFER AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE 10 11 CREDIT AMOUNT STATED IN THE INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE FROM THE **RESERVE FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND.** 12(7) IF AN INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE HAS BEEN RESCINDED BY 13THE DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT MAY APPROVE ADDITIONAL INITIAL TAX 14 CREDIT CERTIFICATES FOR OTHER BUSINESS ENTITIES THAT MAY NOT EXCEED THE 1516 AMOUNT OF TAX CREDITS APPROVED IN THE INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATES 17THAT WERE RESCINDED. 18 IN EACH CALENDAR YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT APPROVE (8) 19 INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATES THAT: 20**(I)** EXCEED 60% OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED TO 21THE RESERVE FUND FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR IN THE STATE BUDGET AS APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO STUDENT ASSISTANCE 2223ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR QUALIFIED 24EDUCATION EXPENSES TO STUDENTS AT ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS THAT ARE NONPUBLIC; 25OR 26EXCEED 40% OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED TO **(II)** THE RESERVE FUND FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR IN THE STATE BUDGET AS APPROVED 27BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO STUDENT ASSISTANCE 2829ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR QUALIFIED 30 EDUCATION EXPENSES TO STUDENTS AT ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS THAT ARE PUBLIC.

31(H)ANY UNUSED AMOUNT OF THE CREDIT MAY NOT BE CARRIED OVER TO32ANY OTHER TAXABLE YEAR.

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1 (I) (1) IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2–123 OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 2 ARTICLE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT ON THE TAX CREDITS APPROVED 3 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.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
 1, 2015, and shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014.