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A bill to be entitled An act relating to brownfields; amending s. 212.08, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "housing project" for purposes of specifying the projects eligible for certain tax exemptions; amending s. 376.30781, F.S.; revising the conditions under which an applicant that has rehabilitated a contaminated site may submit and claim certain tax credits; specifying a timeframe within which such tax credit applications must be submitted; revising the types of projects that are eligible for a specified tax credit; revising the criteria for determining applicants who are redeveloping brownfield sites who may be eligible for certain tax credits; revising the definition of "solid waste disposal area"; revising the date by which the Department of Environmental Protection must issue annual site rehabilitation tax credit certificate awards; amending s. 376.313, F.S.; specifying defenses to specified causes of action concerning certain discharges or other types of pollution resulting from certain discharges or pollution; amending s. 376.78, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 376.80, F.S.; revising the entities that may propose brownfield designations using specified criteria;

Page 1 of 22

removing the requirement that certain persons be identified prior to negotiating a brownfield site rehabilitation agreement; amending s. 376.82, F.S.; exempting certain job creation requirements otherwise needed for eligibility for specified brownfield site rehabilitation agreements; providing an effective date.

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Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. Paragraph (o) of subsection (5) of section 212.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and storage tax; specified exemptions.—The sale at retail, the rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the storage to be used or consumed in this state of the following are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter.

- (5) EXEMPTIONS; ACCOUNT OF USE.-
- (o) Building materials in redevelopment projects.-
- 1. As used in this paragraph, the term:
- a. "Building materials" means tangible personal property that becomes a component part of a housing project or a mixed-use project.
  - b. "Housing project" means:

Page 2 of 22

(I) The conversion of an existing manufacturing or industrial building to a housing unit which is in an urban high-crime area, an enterprise zone, an empowerment zone, a Front Porch Florida Community, a designated brownfield site for which a rehabilitation agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection or a local government delegated by the Department of Environmental Protection has been executed under s. 376.80 and any abutting real property parcel within a brownfield area, or an urban infill area; and in which the developer agrees to set aside at least 20 percent of the housing units in the project for low-income and moderate-income persons: or

designated brownfield area of affordable housing in a designated brownfield area of affordable housing for persons described in s. 420.0004(9), (11), (12), or (17) or in s. 159.603(7), in designated brownfield areas for which a brownfield site rehabilitation agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection or a local government delegated by the Department of Environmental Protection has been executed under s. 376.80, and any real property parcel abutting the brownfield area, if the developer agrees to set aside at least 20 percent of the housing units in any building, project, or development for such persons regardless of whether the affordable housing is part of a larger building, project, or development that includes market-rate housing.

c. "Mixed-use project" means:

Page 3 of 22

(I) The conversion of an existing manufacturing or industrial building to mixed-use units that include artists' studios, art and entertainment services, or other compatible uses. A mixed-use conversion project must be located in an urban high-crime area, an enterprise zone, an empowerment zone, a Front Porch Florida Community, a designated brownfield site for which a rehabilitation agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection or a local government delegated by the Department of Environmental Protection has been executed under s. 376.80 and any abutting real property parcel within a brownfield area, or an urban infill area; and the developer must agree to set aside at least 20 percent of the square footage of the project for low-income and moderate-income housing; or

- the brownfield area, if the developer agrees to set aside at least 20 percent of the square housing.
- d. "Substantially completed" has the same meaning as provided in s. 192.042(1).
- 2. Building materials used in the construction of a housing project or mixed-use project are exempt from the tax

imposed by this chapter upon an affirmative showing to the satisfaction of the department that the requirements of this paragraph have been met. This exemption inures to the owner through a refund of previously paid taxes. To receive this refund, the owner must file an application under oath with the department which includes:

a. The name and address of the owner.

- b. The address and assessment roll parcel number of the project for which a refund is sought.
  - c. A copy of the building permit issued for the project.
- d. A certification by the local building code inspector that the project is substantially completed.
- e. A sworn statement, under penalty of perjury, from the general contractor licensed in this state with whom the owner contracted to construct the project, which statement lists the building materials used in the construction of the project and the actual cost thereof, and the amount of sales tax paid on these materials. If a general contractor was not used, the owner shall provide this information in a sworn statement, under penalty of perjury. Copies of invoices evidencing payment of sales tax must be attached to the sworn statement.
- 3. An application for a refund under this paragraph must be submitted to the department within 6 months after the date the project is deemed to be substantially completed by the local building code inspector. Within 30 working days after receipt of

Page 5 of 22

the application, the department shall determine if it meets the requirements of this paragraph. A refund approved pursuant to this paragraph shall be made within 30 days after formal approval of the application by the department.

- 4. The department shall establish by rule an application form and criteria for establishing eligibility for exemption under this paragraph.
- 5. The exemption shall apply to purchases of materials on or after July 1, 2000.
- Section 2. Paragraphs (c), (d), and (e) of subsection (3) and subsection (9) of section 376.30781, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

376.30781 Tax credits for rehabilitation of drycleaning-solvent-contaminated sites and brownfield sites in designated brownfield areas; application process; rulemaking authority; revocation authority.—

(3)

(c) In order to encourage completion of site rehabilitation at contaminated sites that are being voluntarily cleaned up and that are eligible for a tax credit under this section, the tax credit applicant may claim an additional 25 percent of the total site rehabilitation costs, not to exceed \$500,000, if the Department of Environmental Protection has approved the applicant's annual site rehabilitation applications and has issued in the final year of cleanup as evidenced by the

Page 6 of 22

Department of Environmental Protection issuing a "No Further Action" order for that site. The tax credit applicant must submit the claim for the additional 25 percent within 2 years of receipt of the "No Further Action" order for that site.

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In order to encourage the construction of projects that include housing that meet meets the definition of affordable provided in s. 420.0004, an applicant for the tax credit may claim an additional 25 percent of the total site rehabilitation costs that are eligible for tax credits under this section, not to exceed \$500,000. Projects with mixed uses and projects that include market-rate housing are eligible for the tax credit based on a pro-rata share of the square footage of affordable housing compared to the overall square footage of the mixed-use project or the number of affordable housing units compared to market-rate housing units in a project with only residential uses, provided that the developer agrees to set aside at least 20 percent of the housing units for persons described in s. 420.0004(9), (11), (12), or (17) or s. 159.603(7). To receive this additional tax credit, the applicant must provide a certification letter from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, the local housing authority, or other governmental agency that is a party to the use agreement indicating that the construction of the affordable housing portion of the project on the brownfield site has received a certificate of occupancy and the brownfield site has a properly

recorded instrument that limits the use of the <u>residential</u> portion of the property to housing and specifies the requisite square footage or number of units set aside for affordable housing. Notwithstanding that only one application may be submitted each year for each site, an application for the additional credit provided for in this paragraph shall be submitted after all requirements to obtain the additional tax credit have been met.

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In order to encourage the redevelopment of a brownfield site, as defined in the brownfield site rehabilitation agreement, that is hindered by the presence of solid waste, as defined in s. 403.703, costs related to solid waste removal may also be claimed under this section. A tax credit applicant, or multiple tax credit applicants working jointly to clean up a single brownfield site, may also claim costs to address the solid waste removal as defined in this paragraph in accordance with department rules. Multiple tax credit applicants shall be granted tax credits in the same proportion as each applicant's contribution to payment of solid waste removal costs. These costs are eligible for a tax credit provided the applicant meets the eligibility requirements of s. 376.82(1) and submits an affidavit stating that, after consultation with appropriate local government officials and the department, to the best of the applicant's knowledge based upon such consultation and available historical records, the

Page 8 of 22

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brownfield site was never operated as a permitted solid waste disposal area under chapter 62-701, Florida Administrative Code, or the predecessor rules or was never operated for monetary compensation, and the applicant submits all other documentation and certifications required by this section. In this section, where reference is made to "site rehabilitation," the department shall instead consider whether the costs claimed are for solid waste removal. Tax credit applications claiming costs pursuant to this paragraph shall not be subject to the calendar-year limitation and January 31 annual application deadline, and the department shall accept a one-time application filed subsequent to the completion by the tax credit applicant of the applicable requirements listed in this subsection. A tax credit applicant may claim 50 percent of the costs for solid waste removal, not to exceed \$500,000, after the applicant has determined solid waste removal is completed for the brownfield site. A solid waste removal tax credit application may be filed only once per brownfield site. For the purposes of this section, the term:

1. "Solid waste disposal area" means a property, group of properties, portion of property or localized area at, upon, or within which solid waste is or was disposed and for which no federal, state, or local permit for such disposal had been obtained at the time of waste disposal cessation of activities landfill, dump, or other area where solid waste has been disposed.

Page 9 of 22

2. "Monetary compensation" means the fees that were charged or the assessments that were levied for the disposal of solid waste at a solid waste disposal area.

- 2.3. "Solid waste removal" means removal of solid waste from the land surface or excavation of solid waste from below the land surface and removal of the solid waste from the brownfield site. The term also includes:
- a. Transportation of solid waste to a licensed or exempt solid waste management facility or to a temporary storage area.
- b. Sorting or screening of solid waste prior to removal from the site.
- c. Deposition of solid waste at a permitted or exempt solid waste management facility, whether the solid waste is disposed of or recycled.
- (9) On or before <u>June May 1</u>, the Department of Environmental Protection shall inform each tax credit applicant that is subject to the January 31 annual application deadline of the applicant's eligibility status and the amount of any tax credit due. The department shall provide each eligible tax credit applicant with a tax credit certificate that must be submitted with its tax return to the Department of Revenue to claim the tax credit or be transferred pursuant to s. 220.1845(2)(g). The <u>June May 1</u> deadline for annual site rehabilitation tax credit certificate awards shall not apply to any tax credit application for which the department has issued a

Page 10 of 22

notice of deficiency pursuant to subsection (8). The department shall respond within 90 days after receiving a response from the tax credit applicant to such a notice of deficiency. Credits may not result in the payment of refunds if total credits exceed the amount of tax owed.

Section 3. Subsection (3) of section 376.313, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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376.313 Nonexclusiveness of remedies and individual cause of action for damages under ss. 376.30-376.317.-

Except as provided in s. 376.3078(3) and (11), nothing contained in ss. 376.30-376.317 prohibits any person from bringing a cause of action in a court of competent jurisdiction for all damages resulting from a discharge or other condition of pollution covered by ss. 376.30-376.317 and which was not authorized pursuant to chapter 403. Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit or diminish a party's right to contribution from other parties jointly or severally liable for a prohibited discharge of pollutants or hazardous substances or other pollution conditions. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (4) or subsection (5), in any such suit, it is not necessary for such person to plead or prove negligence in any form or manner. Such person need only plead and prove the fact of the prohibited discharge or other pollutive condition and that it has occurred. The only defenses to such cause of action shall be those specified in s. 376.308 or s. 376.82.

Page 11 of 22

Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 376.78, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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- 376.78 Legislative intent.—The Legislature finds and declares the following:
- (1) The reduction of public health and environmental hazards on existing commercial and industrial sites is vital to their use and reuse as sources of employment, housing, recreation, and open space areas. The reuse of industrial land is an important component of sound land use policy for productive urban purposes which will help prevent the premature development of farmland, open space areas, and natural areas, and reduce public costs for installing new water, sewer, and highway infrastructure.
- Section 5. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 376.80, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
  - 376.80 Brownfield program administration process.-
- (1) The following general procedures apply to brownfield designations:
- (a) The local government with jurisdiction over a proposed brownfield area shall designate such area pursuant to this section.
  - (b) For a brownfield area designation proposed by:
- 1. The jurisdictional local government, the designation criteria under paragraph (2)(a) apply, except if the local government proposes to designate as a brownfield area a

Page 12 of 22

301 specified redevelopment area as provided in paragraph (2)(b).

- 2. Any person, other than a governmental entity, including, but not limited to, individuals, corporations, partnerships, trusts, limited liability companies, community-based organizations, or not-for-profit corporations, the designation criteria under paragraph (2)(c) apply.
- (c) Except as otherwise provided, the following provisions apply to all proposed brownfield area designations:
- 1. Notification to department following adoption.—A local government with jurisdiction over the brownfield area must notify the department, and, if applicable, the local pollution control program under s. 403.182, of its decision to designate a brownfield area for rehabilitation for the purposes of ss. 376.77-376.86. The notification must include a resolution adopted by the local government body. The local government shall notify the department, and, if applicable, the local pollution control program under s. 403.182, of the designation within 30 days after adoption of the resolution.
- 2. Resolution adoption.—The brownfield area designation must be carried out by a resolution adopted by the jurisdictional local government, which includes a map adequate to clearly delineate exactly which parcels are to be included in the brownfield area or alternatively a less-detailed map accompanied by a detailed legal description of the brownfield area. For municipalities, the governing body shall adopt the

Page 13 of 22

resolution in accordance with the procedures outlined in s. 166.041, except that the <u>notices</u> procedures for the public hearings on the proposed resolution must be in the form established in s. 166.041(3)(c) 2. For counties, the governing body shall adopt the resolution in accordance with the procedures outlined in s. 125.66, except that the <u>notices</u> procedures for the public hearings on the proposed resolution shall be in the form established in s. 125.66(4)(b).

- 3. Right to be removed from proposed brownfield area.—If a property owner within the area proposed for designation by the local government requests in writing to have his or her property removed from the proposed designation, the local government shall grant the request.
- 4. Notice and public hearing requirements for designation of a proposed brownfield area outside a redevelopment area or by a nongovernmental entity. Compliance with the following provisions is required before designation of a proposed brownfield area under paragraph (2)(a) or paragraph (2)(c):
- a. At least one of the required public hearings shall be conducted as closely as is reasonably practicable to the area to be designated to provide an opportunity for public input on the size of the area, the objectives for rehabilitation, job opportunities and economic developments anticipated, neighborhood residents' considerations, and other relevant local concerns.

Page 14 of 22

b. Notice of a public hearing must be made in a newspaper of general circulation in the area, must be made in ethnic newspapers or local community bulletins, must be posted in the affected area, and must be announced at a scheduled meeting of the local governing body before the actual public hearing.

- (2) (a) Local government-proposed brownfield area designation outside specified redevelopment areas.—If a local government proposes to designate a brownfield area that is outside a community redevelopment area, enterprise zone, empowerment zone, closed military base, or designated brownfield pilot project area, the local government shall provide notice, adopt the resolution, and conduct public hearings pursuant to paragraph (1)(c). At a public hearing to designate the proposed area as a brownfield area, as defined in s. 376.79, the local government must consider:
- 1. Whether the brownfield area warrants economic development and has a reasonable potential for such activities;
- 2. Whether the proposed area to be designated represents a reasonably focused approach and is not overly large in geographic coverage;
- 3. Whether the area has potential to interest the private sector in participating in rehabilitation; and
- 4. Whether the area contains sites or parts of sites suitable for limited recreational open space, cultural, or historical preservation purposes.

Page 15 of 22

(b) Local government-proposed brownfield area designation within specified redevelopment areas.—Paragraph (a) does not apply to a proposed brownfield area if the local government proposes to designate the brownfield area inside a community redevelopment area, enterprise zone, empowerment zone, closed military base, or designated brownfield pilot project area and the local government complies with paragraph (1)(c).

- (c) Brownfield area designation proposed by <u>specified</u> persons other than a governmental entity.—For designation of a brownfield area that is proposed by a person <u>under this</u> <u>subsection</u> other than the local government, the local government with jurisdiction over the proposed brownfield area shall provide notice and adopt a resolution to designate the brownfield area pursuant to paragraph (1)(c) if, at the public hearing to adopt the resolution, the person establishes all of the following with respect to the proposed brownfield area:
- 1. A person who owns or controls a potential brownfield site is requesting the designation and has agreed to rehabilitate and redevelop the brownfield site.
- 2. The rehabilitation and redevelopment of the proposed brownfield site will result in economic productivity of the area, along with the creation of at least 5 new permanent jobs at the brownfield site that are full-time equivalent positions not associated with the implementation of the brownfield site rehabilitation agreement and that are not associated with

Page 16 of 22

redevelopment project demolition or construction activities pursuant to the redevelopment of the proposed brownfield site or area. However, the job creation requirement does not apply to the rehabilitation and redevelopment of a brownfield site that will provide affordable housing as defined in s. 420.0004 or the creation of recreational areas, conservation areas, or parks.

- 3. The redevelopment of the proposed brownfield site is consistent with the local comprehensive plan and is a permittable use under the applicable local land development regulations.
- 4. Notice of the proposed rehabilitation of the brownfield area has been provided to neighbors and nearby residents of the proposed area to be designated pursuant to paragraph (1)(c), and the person proposing the area for designation has afforded to those receiving notice the opportunity for comments and suggestions about rehabilitation. Notice pursuant to this subparagraph must be posted in the affected area.
- 5. The person proposing the area for designation has provided reasonable assurance that he or she has sufficient financial resources to implement and complete the rehabilitation agreement and redevelopment of the brownfield site.
- (d) Negotiation of brownfield site rehabilitation agreement.—The designation of a brownfield area and the identification of a person responsible for brownfield site rehabilitation simply entitles a the identified person to

Page 17 of 22

negotiate a brownfield site rehabilitation agreement with the department or approved local pollution control program.

Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (2) of section 376.82, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

376.82 Eligibility criteria and liability protection.-

- (1) Eligibility.—Any person who has not caused or contributed to the contamination of a brownfield site on or after July 1, 1997, is eligible to participate in the brownfield program established in ss. 376.77-376.85, subject to the following:
- (b) Persons who have not caused or contributed to the contamination of a brownfield site on or after July 1, 1997, and who, prior to the department's approval of a brownfield site rehabilitation agreement, are subject to ongoing corrective action or enforcement under state authority established in this chapter or chapter 403, including those persons subject to a pending consent order with the state, are eligible for participation in a brownfield site rehabilitation agreement if:
- 1. The proposed brownfield site is currently idle or underutilized as a result of the contamination, and participation in the brownfield program will immediately, after cleanup or sooner, result in increased economic productivity at the site, including at a minimum the creation of 10 new permanent jobs, whether full-time or part-time, which are not

Page 18 of 22

associated with implementation of the brownfield site rehabilitation agreement. However, the job creation requirement does not apply to the rehabilitation and redevelopment of a brownfield site that will provide affordable housing as defined in s. 420.0004 or create recreational areas, conservation areas, or parks, or be maintained for cultural or historical preservation purposes; and

- 2. The person is complying in good faith with the terms of an existing consent order or department-approved corrective action plan, or responding in good faith to an enforcement action, as evidenced by a determination issued by the department or an approved local pollution control program.
- (c) Potential brownfield sites owned by the state or a local government which contain contamination for which a governmental entity is potentially responsible and which are already designated as federal brownfield pilot projects or have filed an application for designation to the United States Environmental Protection Agency are eligible for participation in a brownfield site rehabilitation agreement.
- (d) After July 1, 1997, petroleum and drycleaning contamination sites shall not receive both restoration funding assistance available for the discharge under this chapter and any state assistance available under s. 288.107. Nothing in this act shall affect the cleanup criteria, priority ranking, and other rights and obligations inherent in petroleum contamination

Page 19 of 22

and drycleaning contamination site rehabilitation under ss. 376.30-376.317, or the availability of economic incentives otherwise provided for by law.

(2) Liability protection.-

- (a) Any person, including his or her successors and assigns, who executes and implements to successful completion a brownfield site rehabilitation agreement, his or her successors and assigns, and any subsequent property owner of the brownfield site, is relieved of:
- 1. Further liability for remediation of the contaminated site or sites to the state and to third parties.
- 2. Liability in contribution to any other party who has or may incur cleanup liability for the contaminated site or sites.
- 3. Liability for claims of property damages, including, but not limited to, diminished value of real property or improvements; lost or delayed rent, sale, or use of real property or improvements; or stigma to real property or improvements caused by contamination addressed by a brownfield site rehabilitation agreement. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, this subparagraph applies to causes of action accruing on or after July 1, 2014. This subparagraph does not apply to a person who discharges contaminants on property subject to a brownfield site rehabilitation agreement, who commits fraud in demonstrating site conditions or completing site rehabilitation of a property subject to a brownfield site

rehabilitation agreement, or who exacerbates contamination of a property subject to a brownfield site rehabilitation agreement in violation of applicable laws which causes property damages.

- 4. Statutory causes of action arising under s. 376.313(3).
- (b) This section does not limit the right of a third party other than the state to pursue an action for damages to persons for bodily harm; however, such an action may not compel site rehabilitation in excess of that required in the approved brownfield site rehabilitation agreement or otherwise required by the department or approved local pollution control program.
- (c) This section <u>does not</u> shall not affect the ability or authority to seek contribution from any person who may have liability with respect to the contaminated site and who did not receive cleanup liability protection under this act.
- (d) The liability protection provided under this section shall become effective upon execution of a brownfield site rehabilitation agreement and shall remain effective as to any person responsible for brownfield site rehabilitation, provided each the person responsible for brownfield site rehabilitation complies with the terms of the site rehabilitation agreement, and as to any subsequent property owner of the brownfield site, such owner maintains compliance, as applicable, with any institutional controls or engineering controls required for site rehabilitation. Any statute of limitations that would bar the department from pursuing relief in accordance with its existing

526	authority is tolled from the time the agreement is executed
527	until site rehabilitation is completed or immunity is revoked
528	pursuant to s. 376.80(8).
529	Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.

Page 22 of 22