

By Representative Boyd

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the tax refund program for  
3           qualified target industry businesses; amending  
4           s. 288.106, F.S.; providing for determination  
5           of the "average wage in the area" based on  
6           private sector wages only; authorizing the  
7           Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic  
8           Development to waive the annual wage  
9           requirement imposed as a condition of  
10          qualifying for review for participation in the  
11          program under certain circumstances; providing  
12          an effective date.

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

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16           Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) and  
17           paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section 288.106, Florida  
18           Statutes, 1996 Supplement, are amended to read:

19           288.106 Tax refund program for qualified target  
20           industry businesses.--

21           (2) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section:

22           (b) "Average private sector wage in the area" means  
23           the statewide private sector average wage or the average of  
24           all private sector wages and salaries in the county or in the  
25           standard metropolitan area in which the business is located.

26           (4) APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS.--

27           (b) To qualify for review by the office, the  
28           application of a target industry business must, at a minimum,  
29           establish the following to the satisfaction of the office:

30           1. The jobs proposed to be provided under the  
31           application, pursuant to subparagraph (a)4., must pay an

1 estimated annual average wage equaling at least 115 percent of  
2 the average private sector wage in the area where the business  
3 is to be located or the statewide private sector average wage.  
4 The office may waive this average wage requirement at the  
5 request of the local governing body recommending the project  
6 and Enterprise Florida, Inc. The wage requirement may only be  
7 waived for a project located in a county designated by the  
8 Rural Economic Development Initiative or in an enterprise zone  
9 and only when the merits of the individual project or the  
10 specific circumstances in the community in relationship to the  
11 project warrant such action. If the local governing body and  
12 Enterprise Florida, Inc. make such a recommendation it must be  
13 transmitted in writing, and the specific justification for the  
14 waiver recommendation must be explained. If the director  
15 elects to waive the wage requirement, the waiver must be  
16 stated in writing and the reasons for granting the waiver must  
17 be explained.

18           2. The target industry business's project must result  
19 in the creation of at least 10 jobs at such project.

20           3. The business activity or product for the  
21 applicant's project is within an industry or industries that  
22 have been identified by the office to be high-value-added  
23 industries that contribute to the area and to the economic  
24 growth of the state and that produce a higher standard of  
25 living for citizens of this state in the new global economy or  
26 that can be shown to make an equivalent contribution to the  
27 area and state's economic progress.

28           Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
29 law.

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HOUSE SUMMARY

Authorize the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development to waive the annual wage requirement imposed as a condition of qualifying for review for participation in the qualified target industry businesses tax refund program under certain circumstances. Provides that for purposes of said requirement the "average wage in the area" shall be based on private sector wages only.