A bill to be entitled

An act relating to economic development; amending s. 212.097, F.S.; revising provisions providing for an urban job tax credit program to apply to designated urban job tax credit areas rather than high-crime areas; revising and providing definitions, eligibility criteria, application procedures and requirements, and area characteristics and criteria; amending ss. 212.08, 220.1895, and 288.99, F.S., to conform; providing an effective date

10 effective date.

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

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.

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b. "Housing project" means the conversion of an existing manufacturing or industrial building to housing units in a designated an urban job tax credit high-crime area, enterprise zone, empowerment zone, Front Porch Community, designated brownfield area, or 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 the construction in a designated brownfield area of affordable housing for persons described in s. 420.0004(9), (10), or (14), or in s. 159.603(7).

- c. "Mixed-use project" means 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 project must be located in a designated an urban job tax credit high-crime area, enterprise zone, empowerment zone, Front Porch Community, designated brownfield area, or 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.
- 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 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. The provisions of s. 212.095 do not apply to any refund application made under this paragraph.

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. Section 212.097, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 212.097 <u>Designated</u> Urban <del>High-Crime Area</del> Job Tax Credit <u>Area</u> Program.--
    - (1) As used in this section, the term:

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"Eligible business" means any sole proprietorship, firm, partnership, or corporation that is located in a designated urban job tax credit area qualified county and is predominantly engaged in, or is headquarters for a business predominantly engaged in, activities usually provided for consideration by firms classified within the following standard industrial classifications: SIC 01-SIC 09 (agriculture, forestry, and fishing); SIC 20-SIC 39 (manufacturing); SIC 52-SIC 57 and SIC 59 (retail); SIC 422 (public warehousing and storage); SIC 70 (hotels and other lodging places); SIC 7391 (research and development); SIC 781 (motion picture production and allied services); SIC 7992 (public golf courses); and SIC 7996 (amusement parks); and a targeted industry eligible for the qualified target industry business tax refund under s. 288.106. A call center or similar customer service operation that services a multistate market or international market is also an eligible business. In addition, the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development may, as part of its final budget

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request submitted pursuant to s. 216.023, recommend additions to or deletions from the list of standard industrial classifications used to determine an eliqible business, and the Legislature may implement such recommendations. Excluded from eligible receipts are receipts from retail sales, except such receipts for SIC 52-SIC 57 and SIC 59 (retail) hotels and other lodging places classified in SIC 70, public golf courses in SIC 7992, and amusement parks in SIC 7996. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "predominantly" means that more than 50 percent of the business's gross receipts from all sources is generated by those activities usually provided for consideration by firms in the specified standard industrial classification. The determination of whether the business is located in a designated urban job tax credit qualified high-crime area and the tier ranking of that area must be based on the date of application for the credit under this section. Commonly owned and controlled entities are to be considered a single business entity.

(b) "Qualified employee" means any employee of an eligible business who performs duties in connection with the operations of the business on a regular, full-time basis for an average of at least 36 hours per week for at least 3 months within the designated urban job tax credit qualified high-crime area in which the eligible business is located. An owner or partner of the eligible business is not a qualified employee. The term also includes an employee leased from an employee leasing company licensed under chapter 468, if such employee has been

continuously leased to the employer for an average of at least 36 hours per week for more than 6 months.

- beginning operation on a site in a <u>designated urban job tax</u> credit <del>qualified high-crime</del> area and clearly separate from any other commercial or business operation of the business entity within a <u>designated urban job tax credit <del>qualified high-crime</del> area. A business entity that operated an eligible business within a <u>designated urban job tax credit <del>qualified high-crime</del> area within the 48 months before the period provided for application by subsection (2) is not considered a new business.</u></u>
- (d) "Existing business" means any eligible business that does not meet the criteria for a new business.
- (e) "Designated urban job tax credit Qualified high-crime area" means an area selected by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development in the following manner: every fifth third year, the office shall designate rank and tier those areas nominated under subsection (7), according to the highest level of distress experienced in the categories enumerated under subsection (7). The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall designate the 30 highest-distress-profile urban areas as eligible participants under the Designated Urban Job Tax Credit Area Program. following prioritized criteria:
- 1. Highest arrest rates within the geographic area for violent crime and for such other crimes as drug sale, drug possession, prostitution, vandalism, and civil disturbances;

2. Highest reported crime volume and rate of specific property crimes such as business and residential burglary, motor vehicle theft, and vandalism;

- 3. Highest percentage of reported index crimes that are violent in nature;
  - 4. Highest overall index crime volume for the area; and
- 5. Highest overall index crime rate for the geographic area.

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Tier-one areas are ranked 1 through 5 and represent the highest crime areas according to this ranking. Tier-two areas are ranked 6 through 10 according to this ranking. Tier-three areas are ranked 11 through 15. Notwithstanding this definition, "designated urban job tax credit qualified high-crime area" also means an area that has been designated as a federal Empowerment Zone pursuant to the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 or the Community Tax Relief Act of 2000. An area designated under this section as of December 31, 2006, shall retain such designation through December 31, 2013, and a business that is eligible for the tax credit as of June 30, 2006, within a designated area shall retain the same tax credit amounts through December 31, 2013, that were available to the business on June 30, 2006, if the business complies with the job creation requirements. Any area designated pursuant to this section shall retain the designation for a period not to exceed 7 years after the effective date of designation. Thereafter, any such area or any other area eligible for designation may seek approval from the

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office for designation Such a designated area is ranked in tier

three until the areas are reevaluated by the Office of Tourism,

Trade, and Economic Development.

- (f) "Urban" means a densely populated nonrural area located within an urban county that consists of a cluster of one or more census blocks, each of which has a population density of at least 400 people per square mile, or an area defined as an urbanized area by the most recent United States Census.
- (g) "Urban infill and redevelopment area" means an area or areas designated by a local government in which:
- 1. Public services such as water and wastewater,
  transportation, schools, and recreation are already available or
  are scheduled to be provided in an adopted 5-year schedule of
  capital improvements.
- 2. The area, or one or more neighborhoods within the area, suffers from pervasive poverty, unemployment, and general distress as described in s. 290.0058.
- 3. The area exhibits a proportion of properties that are substandard, overcrowded, dilapidated, vacant or abandoned, or functionally obsolete that is higher than the average for the local government.
- 4. More than 50 percent of the area is within 1/4 mile of a transit stop, or a sufficient number of such transit stops will be made available concurrent with the designation.
- 5. The area includes or is adjacent to community redevelopment areas, brownfields, enterprise zones, or Main Street programs or has been designated by the state or Federal Government as an urban redevelopment, revitalization, or infill area under empowerment zone, enterprise community, or brownfield

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## showcase community programs or similar programs.

- (2) A new eligible business may apply for a tax credit under this subsection once at any time during its first year of operation. A new eligible business in a designated urban job tax credit tier-one qualified high-crime area which has at least 10 qualified employees on the date of application shall receive a \$1,500 tax credit for each such employee. A new eligible business in a tier-two qualified high-crime area which has at least 20 qualified employees on the date of application shall receive a \$1,000 tax credit for each such employee. A new eligible business in a tier-three qualified high-crime area which has at least 30 qualified employees on the date of application shall receive a \$500 tax credit for each such employee.
- credit under this subsection at any time it is entitled to such credit, except as restricted by this subsection. An existing eligible business in a designated urban job tax credit tier-one qualified high-crime area which on the date of application has at least 5 more qualified employees than it had 1 year prior to its date of application shall receive a \$1,500 tax credit for each such additional employee. An existing eligible business in a tier-two qualified high-crime area which on the date of application has at least 10 more qualified employees than it had 1 year prior to its date of application shall receive a \$1,000 credit for each such additional employee. An existing business in a tier-three qualified high-crime area which on the date of application has at least 15 more qualified employees than it had

1 year prior to its date of application shall receive a \$500 tax credit for each such additional employee. An existing eligible business may apply for the credit under this subsection no more than once in any 12-month period. Any existing eligible business that received a credit under subsection (2) may not apply for the credit under this subsection sooner than 12 months after the application date for the credit under subsection (2).

- (4) For any new eligible business receiving a credit pursuant to subsection (2), an additional \$500 credit shall be provided for any qualified employee who is a welfare transition program participant. For any existing eligible business receiving a credit pursuant to subsection (3), an additional \$500 credit shall be provided for any qualified employee who is a welfare transition program participant. Such employee must be employed on the application date and have been employed less than 1 year. This credit shall be in addition to other credits pursuant to this section regardless of the tier-level of the high-crime area. Appropriate documentation concerning the eligibility of an employee for this credit must be submitted as determined by the department.
- (5) To be eligible for a tax credit under subsection (3), the number of qualified employees employed 1 year prior to the application date must be no lower than the number of qualified employees on the application date on which a credit under this section was based for any previous application, including an application under subsection (2).
- (6) Any county or municipality, or a county and one or more municipalities together, may apply to the Office of

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Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development for the designation of an area as a <u>designated urban job tax credit</u> high-crime area after the adoption by the governing body or bodies of a resolution that:

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- (a) Finds that <u>an urban</u> a high-crime area exists in such county or municipality, or in both the county and one or more municipalities, which chronically exhibits extreme and unacceptable levels of poverty, unemployment, physical deterioration, and economic disinvestment.÷
- (b) Determines that the rehabilitation, conservation, or redevelopment, or a combination thereof, of such an urban a high-crime area is necessary in the interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of such county or municipality, or such county and one or more municipalities.÷
- (c) Determines that the revitalization of such an urban a high-crime area can occur if the public sector or private sector can be induced to invest its own resources in productive enterprises that build or rebuild the economic viability of the area.
- (7) The governing body of the entity nominating the area shall <u>demonstrate</u> provide to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development <u>that</u> the <u>area meets the</u> following:
- (a)1. Forty percent of area residents are earning wages on an annual basis that are equal to or less than the annual wage of a person who is earning minimum wage; or
- 2. More than 20 percent of residents or families live below the federal standard of poverty for individuals or a

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family of four. The overall index crime rate for the geographic area;

- (b) The area has an unemployment rate at least 3
  percentage points higher than the state's unemployment rate. The
  overall index crime volume for the area;
- average rate for such crimes as drug sale, drug possession,
  prostitution, vandalism, and civil disturbances, as recorded by
  the total crime index of the Department of Law Enforcement. The
  percentage of reported index crimes that are violent in nature;
  - (d)1. Fifty percent or more of area residents rent;
- 2. Property values are within the lower 50 percent of the county's assessed property values;
- 3. More than 5 percent of area commercial buildings are currently vacant or have been condemned within the previous 24 months; or
- 4. Tax or special assessment delinquencies exceed the fair value of the land for 25 percent of such delinquencies. The reported crime volume and rate of specific property crimes such as business and residential burglary, motor vehicle theft, and vandalism; and
- (e) The arrest rates within the geographic area for violent crime and for such other crimes as drug sale, drug possession, prostitution, disorderly conduct, vandalism, and other public-order offenses.
- (8) A municipality, or a county and one or more municipalities together, may not nominate more than one urban

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high-crime area. However, any county as defined by s. 125.011(1) may nominate no more than three urban high-crime areas.

- (9) An area nominated by a county or municipality, or a county and one or more municipalities together, for designation as a <u>designated urban job tax credit</u> <u>high-crime</u> area shall be eligible only if it meets the following criteria:
- (a) The selected area does not exceed 20 square miles and either has a continuous boundary or consists of not more than three noncontiguous parcels.  $\div$
- (b) The selected area does not exceed the following mileage limitation:
- 1. For <u>areas</u> communities having a total population of 150,000 persons or more, the selected area does not exceed 20 square miles <u>and is within 10 miles of an urban infill and redevelopment area</u>.
- 2. For <u>areas</u> communities having a total population of 50,000 persons or more, but fewer than 150,000 persons, the selected area does not exceed 10 square miles <u>and is within 7.5</u> miles of an urban infill and redevelopment area.
- 3. For <u>areas</u> communities having a total population of 20,000 persons or more, but fewer than 50,000 persons, the selected area does not exceed 5 square miles <u>and is within 5</u> miles of an urban infill and redevelopment area.
- 4. For <u>areas</u> communities having a total population of fewer than 20,000 persons, the selected area does not exceed 3 square miles <u>and is within 3 miles of an urban infill and</u> redevelopment area.

(10)(a) In order to claim this credit, an eligible business must file under oath with the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development a statement that includes the name and address of the eligible business and any other information that is required to process the application.

- (b) Within 30 working days after receipt of an application for credit, the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall review the application to determine whether it contains all the information required by this subsection and meets the criteria set out in this section. Subject to the provisions of paragraph (c), the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall approve all applications that contain the information required by this subsection and meet the criteria set out in this section as eligible to receive a credit.
- (c) The maximum credit amount that may be approved during any calendar year is \$5 million, of which \$1 million shall be exclusively reserved for tier-one areas. The Department of Revenue, in conjunction with the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, shall notify the governing bodies in areas designated under this section as urban high-crime areas when the \$5 million maximum amount has been reached. Applications must be considered for approval in the order in which they are received without regard to whether the credit is for a new or existing business. This limitation applies to the value of the credit as contained in approved applications. Approved credits may be taken in the time and manner allowed pursuant to this section.

(11) If the application is insufficient to support the credit authorized in this section, the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall deny the credit and notify the business of that fact. The business may reapply for this credit within 3 months after such notification.

- (12) If the credit under this section is greater than can be taken on a single tax return, excess amounts may be taken as credits on any tax return submitted within 12 months after the approval of the application by the department.
- (13) It is the responsibility of each business to affirmatively demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Department of Revenue that it meets the requirements of this section.
- (14) Any person who fraudulently claims this credit is liable for repayment of the credit plus a mandatory penalty of 100 percent of the credit and is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
- (15) A corporation may take the credit under this section against its corporate income tax liability, as provided in s. 220.1895. However, a corporation that applies its job tax credit against the tax imposed by chapter 220 may not receive the credit provided for in this section. A credit may be taken against only one tax.
- (16) The department shall adopt rules governing the manner and form of applications for credit and may establish guidelines concerning the requisites for an affirmative showing of qualification for the credit under this section.

Section 3. Section 220.1895, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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220.1895 Rural Job Tax Credit and Designated Urban High-Crime Area Job Tax Credit. -- There shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed by this chapter amounts approved by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development pursuant to the Rural Job Tax Credit Program in s. 212.098 and the Designated Urban High-Crime Area Job Tax Credit Area Program in s. 212.097. A corporation that uses its credit against the tax imposed by this chapter may not take the credit against the tax imposed by chapter 212. If any credit granted under this section is not fully used in the first year for which it becomes available, the unused amount may be carried forward for a period not to exceed 5 years. The carryover may be used in a subsequent year when the tax imposed by this chapter for such year exceeds the credit for such year under this section after applying the other credits and unused credit carryovers in the order provided in s. 220.02(8).

- Section 4. Subsection (2) and paragraph (j) of subsection (3) of section 288.99, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

  288.99 Certified Capital Company Act.--
- (2) PURPOSE.--The primary purpose of this act is to stimulate a substantial increase in venture capital investments in this state by providing an incentive for insurance companies to invest in certified capital companies in this state which, in turn, will make investments in new businesses or in expanding businesses, including minority-owned or minority-operated businesses and businesses located in a designated Front Porch

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community, enterprise zone, <u>designated</u> urban <u>job tax credit</u>

high-crime area, rural job tax credit county, or nationally recognized historic district. The increase in investment capital flowing into new or expanding businesses is intended to contribute to employment growth, create jobs which exceed the average wage for the county in which the jobs are created, and expand or diversify the economic base of this state.

- (3) DEFINITIONS. -- As used in this section, the term:
- (j) "Qualified business" means the Digital Divide Trust Fund established under the State of Florida Technology Office or a business that meets the following conditions as evidenced by documentation required by commission rule:
- 1. The business is headquartered in this state and its principal business operations are located in this state or at least 75 percent of the employees are employed in the state.
- 2. At the time a certified capital company makes an initial investment in a business, the business would qualify for investment under 13 C.F.R. s. 121.301(c), which is involved in manufacturing, processing or assembling products, conducting research and development, or providing services.
- 3. At the time a certified capital company makes an initial investment in a business, the business certifies in an affidavit that:
- a. The business is unable to obtain conventional financing, which means that the business has failed in an attempt to obtain funding for a loan from a bank or other commercial lender or that the business cannot reasonably be

expected to qualify for such financing under the standards of commercial lending.  $\div$ 

- b. The business plan for the business projects that the business is reasonably expected to achieve in excess of \$25 million in sales revenue within 5 years after the initial investment, or the business is located in a designated Front Porch community, enterprise zone, designated urban job tax credit high crime area, rural job tax credit county, or nationally recognized historic district.÷
- c. The business will maintain its headquarters in this state for the next 10 years and any new manufacturing facility financed by a qualified investment will remain in this state for the next 10 years, or the business is located in a designated Front Porch community, enterprise zone, designated urban job tax credit high crime area, rural job tax credit county, or nationally recognized historic district.; and
- d. The business has fewer than 200 employees and at least 75 percent of the employees are employed in this state. For purposes of this subsection, the term also includes the Florida Black Business Investment Board, any entity majority owned by the Florida Black Business Investment Board, or any entity in which the Florida Black Business Investment Board holds a majority voting interest on the board of directors.
  - 4. The term does not include:
- a. Any business predominantly engaged in retail sales, real estate development, insurance, banking, lending, or oil and gas exploration.

b. Any business predominantly engaged in professional services provided by accountants, lawyers, or physicians.

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- c. Any company that has no historical revenues and either has no specific business plan or purpose or has indicated that its business plan is solely to engage in a merger or acquisition with any unidentified company or other entity.
- d. Any company that has a strategic plan to grow through the acquisition of firms with substantially similar business which would result in the planned net loss of Florida-based jobs over a 12-month period after the acquisition as determined by the office.
  - Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.