By Senator Altman

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24-00596A-10 20101188___ A bill to be entitled

An act relating to commercial launch zone tax incentives; creating s. 220.194, F.S.; providing intent; providing definitions; authorizing certain commercial spaceflight businesses to take a credit against the corporate income tax for certain commercial spaceflight projects; specifying eligible tax credits; specifying criteria, requirements, and limitations for individual tax credits; establishing eligibility requirements for the tax credits; allowing for the carryforward of tax credits under certain circumstances; providing application and certification requirements; requiring the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development to determine the eligibility of taxpayers; providing for the expiration and renewal of a taxpayer's eligibility for tax credits; providing for administration and auditing of tax credits by the Department of Revenue; requiring the return and deposit of tax credits under certain circumstances; requiring the office to consult with Space Florida and adopt rules for tax credit applications and certifications; authorizing the department to adopt rules for tax administration, claims and transfers of tax credits, auditing, and reporting; requiring an annual report to the Governor and Legislature; amending s. 14.2015, F.S.; revising the duties of the office to include administration of the tax credits created by the act; amending s. 213.053, F.S.; providing for sharing of confidential information;

amending s. 220.02, F.S.; revising legislative intent relating to the order for applying tax credits; amending s. 220.13, F.S.; specifying that net operating losses taken or transferred as corporate income tax credits may not also be deducted from income; amending s. 220.16, F.S.; adding the financial assistance obtained by the sale of tax credits pursuant to s. 220.194, F.S., to the category of nonbusiness income that must be reported; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 220.194, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

220.194 Corporate income tax credits for commercial spaceflight projects in Florida's commercial launch zone.—

(1) INTENT.—The intent of this section is to create incentives to attract commercial launch, payload, and other commercial space business to this state.

 (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

 (a) "Commercial launch zone" means an area within spaceport territory, as defined in s. 331.303(18).

(b) "Certified commercial spaceflight business" means a business that has been certified by the office; is registered with the Secretary of State to do business in this state; and is currently undertaking in this state, for nongovernmental purposes only, the following activities that will eventually result in a launch from a commercial launch zone: designing or

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manufacturing a launch vehicle, reentry vehicle, or components thereof; providing a launch service or reentry service; or providing the payload for a launch vehicle or reentry vehicle.

The business may participate in more than one commercial spaceflight project at a time. For the purposes of applying for the tax incentives created in this section, a certified commercial spaceflight business also must have:

- 1. Created, filled, and retained at least 35 net new jobs associated with an individual spaceflight project within the 3 calendar years prior to claiming the credit;
- 2. Invested a total of at least \$15 million in an individual spaceflight project during the 3 calendar years prior to claiming the credit; and
- 3. Participated in a commercial spaceflight project that resulted in a successful launch from a commercial launch zone within the previous 3 years.
- (c) "Commercial spaceflight project" means an activity performed by a certified commercial spaceflight business related to the launch or reentry of a launch vehicle or reentry vehicle for launches from a commercial launch zone. The term includes a launch service or reentry service, and any process that validates hardware or components to meet design and workmanship criteria for space launch vehicles per United States Department of Defense and National Aeronautics and Space Administration guidelines.
- (d) "Launch" means to place or attempt to place a launch vehicle or reentry vehicle and any payload from Earth into a suborbital trajectory, into Earth orbit in outer space, or otherwise into outer space.

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(e) "Launch service" means an activity related to the preparation of a launch vehicle and any payload for launch and the conduct of a launch.

- (f) "New job" means a full-time equivalent position that is created by a certified commercial spaceflight business on or after January 1, 2011, to work on a commercial spaceflight project; is not held by an owner, partner, or majority stockholder of the business; is not an administrative, clerical, or janitorial position; and is filled by an employee. The same job may not be counted more than once for the purposes of claiming incentives created by this section.
- (g) "Office" means the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.
- (h) "Outer space" means an altitude of at least 50 miles above the Earth's surface.
- (i) "Payload" means an object that a certified commercial spaceflight business undertakes to place in outer space by means of a launch vehicle or reentry vehicle, including components of the vehicle specifically designed or adapted for the object.
- (j) "Reentry" means to return or attempt to return a reentry vehicle and any payload from Earth orbit, or from outer space, to Earth.
- (k) "Reentry service" means an activity related to the preparation of a reentry vehicle and any payload for reentry and conduct of the reentry.
- $\underline{\mbox{(1) "Spaceport territory" has the same meaning as defined}}$ in s. 331.303(18).
- (m) "Space vehicle" means any spacecraft, satellite, upperstage, or launch vehicle system.

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(n) "Successful launch" means a launch that successfully places a launch vehicle or reentry vehicle and any payload from Earth into a suborbital trajectory, into Earth orbit in outer space, or otherwise into outer space.

- (o) "Taxpayer" has the same meaning as defined in s. 220.03.
- (3) TAX CREDITS.—For any tax year beginning on or after January 1, 2014, a certified commercial spaceflight business providing or conducting commercial spaceflight projects may select one of the following tax credits for which it is certified:
- (a) Nontransferable corporate income tax credit.—A credit equal to 50 percent of the net tax imposed by this chapter shall be granted to a certified commercial spaceflight business. Under no circumstances may the business claim this credit in any tax year that exceeds its corporate income tax liability that same tax year.
- (b) Transferable net operating loss tax credit.—The certified commercial spaceflight business may convert its net operating loss that has not otherwise been deducted from income for Florida tax purposes to a transferable tax credit as provided below.
- 1. In addition to meeting the requirements in paragraph (2) (b), the business must:
- <u>a. Have incurred net operating losses in any of the previous 3 calendar years; and</u>
- b. Not be at least 50 percent owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by another corporation that has demonstrated positive net income in any of the 3 previous years of ongoing

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operations, or not be part of a consolidated group of affiliated corporations, as filed for federal income tax purposes, which in the aggregate demonstrated positive net income in any of the 3 previous years of ongoing operations.

- 2. The amount of the transferable tax credit is equal to:
- <u>a. One hundred percent of the net operating losses incurred</u>
 <u>by a certified commercial spaceflight business during its first</u>
 full year of operations.
- b. One hundred percent of the net operating losses incurred by a certified commercial spaceflight business during its second full year of operations.
- c. One hundred percent of the net operating losses incurred by a certified commercial spaceflight business during its third full year of operations.
- 3. A certified commercial spaceflight business allowed a tax credit under this paragraph may transfer all or part of a transferable tax credit to any taxpayer that is subject to the tax imposed by this chapter. The certified commercial spaceflight business has 5 years after the date of its original certification to transfer a net operating loss tax credit. The transfer must be by written agreement for consideration of no less than 75 percent of the credit's face value. The transferee is entitled to apply the credit to the taxes owed under this chapter, and may carry forward an unused credit up to 5 years. Under no circumstances may the transferee claim a credit in any tax year that exceeds the corporate income taxes it owes that same tax year.
- 4. The office may not approve a cumulative amount of transferrable net operating loss tax credits that may result in

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the claim of more than \$50 million in tax credits during a single state fiscal year. However, the potential for a taxpayer to carry forward an unused tax credit may not be considered in calculating the annual limit.

- (c) Jobs tax credit.—A credit against the tax imposed by this chapter shall be granted to a certified commercial spaceflight business, in an amount equal to 10 percent of the annual wages subject to unemployment tax paid by the commercial spaceflight business to each employee in a new job, not to exceed \$7,500 per employee. The credits may be applied up to the amount of taxes owed under this chapter for the tax year in which they are claimed. Unused credits may be carried forward for up to 5 years. The office may not approve a cumulative amount of jobs tax credits that may result in the claim of more than \$15 million in tax credits in a single state fiscal year. However, the potential for a taxpayer to carry forward an unused tax credit may not be considered in calculating the annual limit.
- (d) Machinery and equipment credit.—A credit against the tax imposed by this chapter shall be granted to a certified commercial spaceflight business that invests a cumulative total of at least \$500,000 in machinery and equipment that is used for a commercial spaceflight project. An investment in machinery and equipment may be claimed once. The amount of the credit is equal to 7.5 percent of the investment of machinery and equipment. The taxpayer may only claim a credit not exceeding 50 percent of the taxpayer's tax liability in the year in which it is claimed. If credit granted under this paragraph is not fully used in any one tax year because of insufficient tax liability, the unused

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amount may be carried forward for up to 5 years.

(4) ADMINISTRATION.—

- (a) Unless transferred as provided in paragraph (3)(b), credits awarded under this section may be granted only against the corporate income tax liability generated by or arising out of a commercial spaceflight project, as documented in the business's annual audit prepared by a certified public accountant licensed to do business in this state and verified by the office.
- (b) Certified spaceflight businesses may not file consolidated returns for the purposes of claiming the tax incentives described in paragraphs (3)(a)-(d).
- (c) It is the responsibility of the certified commercial spaceflight business or transferee to demonstrate to the office's and the department's satisfaction that it is eligible for credit under this section.
- (5) APPLICATION AND CERTIFICATION.—To claim tax credits under this section, a commercial spaceflight business must submit a certification application to Space Florida for review.

 The application must include the following information, along with a \$250 nonrefundable fee:
 - (a) The name and physical Florida address of the taxpayer.
- (b) Documentation that the taxpayer is a commercial spaceflight business.
- (c) Documentation of the business's current commercial spaceflight project and any other information it will need to qualify for the tax credits, where applicable.
 - (d) The total amount and types of credits sought.
 - (e) The amount of transferable tax credits to be

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transferred, if any; when the business expects to transfer them; and the name and address of the recipient taxpayer or taxpayers.

- (f) A copy of an audit or audits of the pertinent tax years prepared by a certified public accountant licensed to practice in this state, that specifies, if applicable, that portion of the business's activities related to commercial spaceflight projects.
- (g) An acknowledgement that it must file an annual report on the project's progress with Space Florida and the office.
- (h) Any other information necessary to demonstrate that the applicant meets the job creation, investment, and other requirements of this section.

Within 60 days after receipt of the application, the executive staff of Space Florida shall evaluate the application and recommend it for certification or denial of certification by the office. The executive director of the office has 30 days following receipt of Space Florida's recommendation to approve or deny the application. The office shall provide a letter of certification to the applicant, if approved. If the office denies any part of the application, it shall inform the applicant of the grounds for the denial. A copy of the certification shall be submitted to the department within 10 days after the executive director's decision.

(6) COMMERCIAL SPACEFLIGHT BUSINESS; EXPIRATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR TAX CREDITS; RENEWAL.—Eligibility of a certified commercial spaceflight business for credits under this section shall expire 10 years after the executive director of the office certifies that the commercial spaceflight business is eligible

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for the credit program, or 10 years after the business' last successful launch of its commercial spaceflight project, whichever occurs later. A certified commercial spaceflight business whose eligibility expires under this subsection may renew its eligibility for another 10 years, upon a successful launch that results from its commercial spaceflight project.

- (7) ADMINISTRATION; AUDIT AUTHORITY; RECAPTURE OF CREDITS.-
- (a) In addition to its existing audit and investigative authority, the department may perform any additional financial and technical audits and investigations, including examining the accounts, books, and financial records of the tax credit applicant, which are necessary to verify the eligible costs included in the tax credit return and to ensure compliance with this section. The office shall provide technical assistance when requested by the department on any technical audits or examinations performed under this subsection.
- (b) It is grounds for forfeiture of previously claimed and received tax credits if the department determines, as a result of an audit or examination, or from information received from the office, that a certified commercial spaceflight business, or in the case of transferred tax credits a taxpayer, received tax credits under this section to which the certified commercial spaceflight business or taxpayer was not entitled. The certified commercial spaceflight business or taxpayer is responsible for returning forfeited tax credits to the department, and any returned funds shall be deposited in the state's General Revenue Fund.
- (c) The certified commercial spaceflight business must repay the credit amount claimed or transferred if its net

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operating loss is adjusted by amendment or as a result of any other recomputation or redetermination of federal or Florida taxable income or loss. The certified commercial spaceflight business also is liable for a penalty equal to the amount of the credit claimed or transferred, reduced in proportion to the amount of the net operating loss certified for transfer over the amount of the certified net operating loss disallowed. The applicant and its successors shall maintain all records necessary to support the reported net operating loss.

- (d) The office may revoke or modify any written decision granting eligibility for tax credits under this section if it is discovered that the certified commercial spaceflight business submitted any false statement, representation, or certification in any application, record, report, plan, or other document filed in an attempt to receive tax credits under this section. The office shall immediately notify the department of any revoked or modified orders affecting previously granted tax credits. Additionally, the certified commercial spaceflight business must notify the department of any change in its tax credit claimed.
- (e) The certified commercial spaceflight business shall file with the department an amended return or other report as the department prescribes by rule and shall pay any required tax and interest within 60 days after the certified commercial spaceflight business receives notification from the office that previously approved tax credits have been revoked or modified. If the revocation or modification order is contested, the certified commercial spaceflight business shall file an amended return or other report as provided in this paragraph within 60

320 days after a final order is issued following proceedings.

- (f) The department may assess additional tax, penalty, and interest as permitted by s. 95.091.
 - (8) RULES.-

- (a) The office, in consultation with Space Florida, shall adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this section, including rules relating to the certification forms for commercial spaceflight businesses to complete, and the application and certification procedures, guidelines, and requirements necessary to administer this section.
- (b) The department may adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this section, including rules relating to:
- 1. The forms required to claim a tax credit under this section, the requirements and basis for establishing an entitlement to a credit, and the examination and audit procedures required to administer this section.
- 2. The implementation and administration of the provisions allowing a transfer of a net operating loss as a tax credit, including rules prescribing forms, reporting requirements, and specific procedures, guidelines, and requirements necessary to perform the transfer.
- $\underline{\mbox{3. The minimum portion of the credit that is available for}}$ transfer.
- (9) ANNUAL REPORT.—The office, in cooperation with Space Florida and the department, shall submit an annual report of the commercial launch zone incentive program's activities to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by November 30 of each year, beginning in 2014.

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Section 2. Paragraph (f) of subsection (2) of section 14.2015, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 14.2015 Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development; creation; powers and duties.—
- (2) The purpose of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development is to assist the Governor in working with the Legislature, state agencies, business leaders, and economic development professionals to formulate and implement coherent and consistent policies and strategies designed to provide economic opportunities for all Floridians. To accomplish such purposes, the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall:
- (f)1. Administer the Florida Enterprise Zone Act under ss. 290.001-290.016, the community contribution tax credit program under ss. 220.183 and 624.5105, the tax refund program for qualified target industry businesses under s. 288.106, the taxrefund program for qualified defense contractors and space flight business contractors under s. 288.1045, contracts for transportation projects under s. 288.063, the sports franchise facility program under s. 288.1162, the professional golf hall of fame facility program under s. 288.1168, the expedited permitting process under s. 403.973, the Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Fund under s. 288.065, the Regional Rural Development Grants Program under s. 288.018, the Certified Capital Company Act under s. 288.99, the Florida State Rural Development Council, the Rural Economic Development Initiative, the corporate income tax credits for commercial spaceflight projects under s. 220.194, and other programs that are specifically assigned to the office by law, by the

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appropriations process, or by the Governor. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the office may expend interest earned from the investment of program funds deposited in the Grants and Donations Trust Fund to contract for the administration of the programs, or portions of the programs, enumerated in this paragraph or assigned to the office by law, by the appropriations process, or by the Governor. Such expenditures shall be subject to review under chapter 216.

2. The office may enter into contracts in connection with the fulfillment of its duties concerning the Florida First Business Bond Pool under chapter 159, tax incentives under chapters 212 and 220, tax incentives under the Certified Capital Company Act in chapter 288, foreign offices under chapter 288, the Enterprise Zone program under chapter 290, the Seaport Employment Training program under chapter 311, the Florida Professional Sports Team License Plates under chapter 320, Spaceport Florida under chapter 331, Expedited Permitting under chapter 403, and in carrying out other functions that are specifically assigned to the office by law, by the appropriations process, or by the Governor.

Section 3. Paragraph (z) is added to subsection (8) of section 213.053, Florida Statutes, to read:

213.053 Confidentiality and information sharing.-

- (8) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the department may provide:
- (z) Information relative to tax credits taken under s. 220.194 to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development or to Space Florida.

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Disclosure of information under this subsection shall be pursuant to a written agreement between the executive director and the agency. Such agencies, governmental or nongovernmental, shall be bound by the same requirements of confidentiality as the Department of Revenue. Breach of confidentiality is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided by s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Section 4. Subsection (8) of section 220.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

220.02 Legislative intent.-

(8) It is the intent of the Legislature that credits against either the corporate income tax or the franchise tax be applied in the following order: those enumerated in s. 631.828, those enumerated in s. 220.191, those enumerated in s. 220.181, those enumerated in s. 220.183, those enumerated in s. 220.182, those enumerated in s. 220.1895, those enumerated in s. 221.02, those enumerated in s. 220.184, those enumerated in s. 220.186, those enumerated in s. 220.1845, those enumerated in s. 220.197, those enumerated in s. 220.185, those enumerated in s. 220.187, those enumerated in s. 220.192, those enumerated in s. 220.193, and those enumerated in s. 288.9916, and those enumerated in s. 220.194.

Section 5. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1) of section 220.13, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

220.13 "Adjusted federal income" defined.-

(1) The term "adjusted federal income" means an amount equal to the taxpayer's taxable income as defined in subsection (2), or such taxable income of more than one taxpayer as provided in s. 220.131, for the taxable year, adjusted as

436 follows:

(a) Additions.—There shall be added to such taxable income:

- 1. The amount of any tax upon or measured by income, excluding taxes based on gross receipts or revenues, paid or accrued as a liability to the District of Columbia or any state of the United States which is deductible from gross income in the computation of taxable income for the taxable year.
- 2. The amount of interest which is excluded from taxable income under s. 103(a) of the Internal Revenue Code or any other federal law, less the associated expenses disallowed in the computation of taxable income under s. 265 of the Internal Revenue Code or any other law, excluding 60 percent of any amounts included in alternative minimum taxable income, as defined in s. 55(b)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, if the taxpayer pays tax under s. 220.11(3).
- 3. In the case of a regulated investment company or real estate investment trust, an amount equal to the excess of the net long-term capital gain for the taxable year over the amount of the capital gain dividends attributable to the taxable year.
- 4. That portion of the wages or salaries paid or incurred for the taxable year which is equal to the amount of the credit allowable for the taxable year under s. 220.181. This subparagraph shall expire on the date specified in s. 290.016 for the expiration of the Florida Enterprise Zone Act.
- 5. That portion of the ad valorem school taxes paid or incurred for the taxable year which is equal to the amount of the credit allowable for the taxable year under s. 220.182. This subparagraph shall expire on the date specified in s. 290.016 for the expiration of the Florida Enterprise Zone Act.

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6. The amount of emergency excise tax paid or accrued as a liability to this state under chapter 221 which tax is deductible from gross income in the computation of taxable income for the taxable year.

- 7. That portion of assessments to fund a guaranty association incurred for the taxable year which is equal to the amount of the credit allowable for the taxable year.
- 8. In the case of a nonprofit corporation which holds a pari-mutuel permit and which is exempt from federal income tax as a farmers' cooperative, an amount equal to the excess of the gross income attributable to the pari-mutuel operations over the attributable expenses for the taxable year.
- 9. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year under $s.\ 220.1895.$
- 10. Up to nine percent of the eligible basis of any designated project which is equal to the credit allowable for the taxable year under s. 220.185.
- 11. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year under s. 220.187.
- 12. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year under $s.\ 220.192.$
- 13. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year under s. 220.193.
- 14. Any portion of a qualified investment, as defined in s. 288.9913, which is claimed as a deduction by the taxpayer and taken as a credit against income tax pursuant to s. 288.9916.
- 491 <u>15. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year under</u> 492 s. 220.194.
 - (b) Subtractions.-

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1. There shall be subtracted from such taxable income:

- a. The net operating loss deduction allowable for federal income tax purposes under $s.\ 172$ of the Internal Revenue Code for the taxable year,
- b. The net capital loss allowable for federal income tax purposes under s. 1212 of the Internal Revenue Code for the taxable year, except that any net operating loss taken as a credit to corporate income taxes owed or that is transferred, pursuant to s. 220.194(3)(b), may not be deducted by the seller,
- c. The excess charitable contribution deduction allowable for federal income tax purposes under s. 170(d)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code for the taxable year, and
- d. The excess contributions deductions allowable for federal income tax purposes under s. 404 of the Internal Revenue Code for the taxable year.

However, a net operating loss and a capital loss shall never be carried back as a deduction to a prior taxable year, but all deductions attributable to such losses shall be deemed net operating loss carryovers and capital loss carryovers, respectively, and treated in the same manner, to the same extent, and for the same time periods as are prescribed for such carryovers in ss. 172 and 1212, respectively, of the Internal Revenue Code.

- 2. There shall be subtracted from such taxable income any amount to the extent included therein the following:
- a. Dividends treated as received from sources without the United States, as determined under s. 862 of the Internal Revenue Code.

b. All amounts included in taxable income under s. 78 or s.951 of the Internal Revenue Code.

However, as to any amount subtracted under this subparagraph, there shall be added to such taxable income all expenses deducted on the taxpayer's return for the taxable year which are attributable, directly or indirectly, to such subtracted amount. Further, no amount shall be subtracted with respect to dividends paid or deemed paid by a Domestic International Sales Corporation.

- 3. In computing "adjusted federal income" for taxable years beginning after December 31, 1976, there shall be allowed as a deduction the amount of wages and salaries paid or incurred within this state for the taxable year for which no deduction is allowed pursuant to s. 280C(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (relating to credit for employment of certain new employees).
- 4. There shall be subtracted from such taxable income any amount of nonbusiness income included therein, including payments received for a tax credit pursuant to s. 220.194(3)(b).
- 5. There shall be subtracted any amount of taxes of foreign countries allowable as credits for taxable years beginning on or after September 1, 1985, under s. 901 of the Internal Revenue Code to any corporation which derived less than 20 percent of its gross income or loss for its taxable year ended in 1984 from sources within the United States, as described in s. 861(a)(2)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code, not including credits allowed under ss. 902 and 960 of the Internal Revenue Code, withholding taxes on dividends within the meaning of subsubparagraph 2.a., and withholding taxes on royalties, interest,

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552 technical service fees, and capital gains.

- 6. Notwithstanding any other provision of this code, except with respect to amounts subtracted pursuant to subparagraphs 1. and 3., any increment of any apportionment factor which is directly related to an increment of gross receipts or income which is deducted, subtracted, or otherwise excluded in determining adjusted federal income shall be excluded from both the numerator and denominator of such apportionment factor. Further, all valuations made for apportionment factor purposes shall be made on a basis consistent with the taxpayer's method of accounting for federal income tax purposes.
- Section 6. Subsection (5) is added to section 220.16, Florida Statutes, to read:
- 220.16 Allocation of nonbusiness income.—Nonbusiness income shall be allocated as follows:
- (5) The amount of payments received in exchange for transferring a net operating loss as authorized by s. 220.194 is allocable to this state.
- Section 7. This act shall take effect January 1, 2011, and credits created herein may be claimed in the tax year beginning on or after January 1, 2014.