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Proposed Committee Substitute by the Policy and Steering Committee on Ways and Means

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to economic development; amending s. 125.045, F.S.; requiring an agency or entity that receives county funds for economic development purposes pursuant to a contract to submit a report on the use of the funds; requiring the county to include the report in its annual financial audit; requiring counties to report on the provision of economic development incentives to businesses to the Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs; amending s. 159.803, F.S.; conforming a crossreference to changes made by the act; amending s. 166.021, F.S.; requiring an agency or entity that receives municipal funds for economic development purposes pursuant to a contract to submit a report on the use of the funds; requiring the municipality to include the report in its annual financial audit; requiring municipalities to report on the provision of economic development incentives to businesses to the Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs; amending s. 212.05, F.S.; limiting the amount of sales taxes imposed on the occasional or isolated sale of an aircraft or boat; amending s. 212.08, F.S.; temporarily exempting from sales and use taxes the increase in purchases of certain industrial machinery and equipment over the amount of purchases made in a base year; redefining the terms "real property" and



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"rehabilitation of real property" for purposes of the sales tax exemption on certain building materials used in the rehabilitation of real property used in an enterprise zone; specifying procedures to claim a sales tax credit under the entertainment industry financial incentive program; amending s. 213.053, F.S.; authorizing the Department of Revenue to provide confidential taxpayer information relating to certain tax credits under the entertainment industry financial incentive program to the Office of Film and Entertainment and to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development; amending s. 220.02, F.S.; providing for tax credits pursuant to the entertainment industry financial incentive program and the jobs for the unemployed tax credit program to be taken against the corporate income tax or the franchise tax after other existing credits are taken; creating s. 220.1896, F.S.; creating the jobs for the unemployed tax credit program to provide a tax credit to certain businesses that employ certain individuals who were previously unemployed after a certain date; providing for applications for certification under the program to be reviewed by Enterprise Florida, Inc., and the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development; providing criminal penalties for fraudulent claims of a tax credit; authorizing the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development and the Department of Revenue to adopt rules; providing for the expiration of the tax credit program; creating



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s. 220.1899, F.S.; creating the entertainment industry tax credit for a tax credit against the qualified expenditures made by a qualified production company pursuant to the entertainment industry financial incentive program; amending s. 220.191, F.S.; redefining the terms "qualifying business" and "qualifying project" for purposes of the capital investment tax credit; providing for the amount of the credit to diminish over a 10-year period; conforming cross-references to changes made in the act; providing that a business seeking the tax credit has the responsibility of demonstrating qualification for the credit to the Department of Revenue and the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development; authorizing the payment of a prorated tax credit under certain circumstances; providing that a business that receives a capital investment tax credit is not eligible for a tax refund under the qualified target industry tax refund program; amending s. 288.095, F.S.; increasing the amount of tax refund payments available to pay the state's share of refunds under the qualified defense contractor and space flight business tax refund program and the tax refund program for qualified target industry businesses; amending s. 288.106, F.S.; providing legislative findings and declarations for the tax refund program for qualified target industry businesses; revising the definitions of terms applicable to the program; revising the criteria for the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development



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and Enterprise Florida, Inc., to use in identifying target industry businesses; conforming crossreferences to changes made by the act; authorizing additional tax refunds to qualified target industry businesses that meet specified conditions; requiring an application for certification as a qualified target industry business to include an estimate of the proportion of the machinery, equipment, and other resources that will be used in the applicant's proposed operation in Florida and purchased by the applicant outside the state; requiring the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development to consider the state's return on investment in evaluating applicants for the tax refund program; extending the date by which a qualified target industry business may request an economic-stimulus exemption; redesignating economic-stimulus exemptions as economic recovery extensions; authorizing the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development to waive the requirement for a business to annually provide proof of taxes paid if the business provides proof that it has paid certain taxes in amounts at least equal to the total amount of refunds for which the business is eligible; requiring the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development to conduct a review of certain qualified target industry businesses that have received their final tax refund and provide a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of



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Representatives; extending the date by which businesses may apply to participate in the tax refund program for qualified target industry businesses; amending s. 288.107, F.S.; conforming cross-references to changes made by the act; amending s. 288.125, F.S.; redefining the term "entertainment industry" to include digital media projects; amending s. 288.1251, F.S.; requiring the Office of Film and Entertainment to update its strategic plan every 5 years; deleting requirements for the Office of Film and Entertainment to represent certain decisionmakers within the entertainment industry and to act as a liaison between entertainment industry producers and labor organizations; amending s. 288.1252, F.S.; deleting obsolete provisions; deleting the requirement for the Commissioner of Film and Entertainment and a representative of the Florida Tourism Marketing Council to serve as ex officio members of the Film and Entertainment Advisory Council; amending s. 288.1253, F.S.; eliminating provisions authorizing the payment of travel expenses to persons other than employees of the Office of Film and Entertainment, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, and security staff; providing for the payment of travel expenses through reimbursements; amending s. 288.1254, F.S.; revising the entertainment industry financial incentive program to provide corporate income tax and sales and use tax credits to qualified entertainment entities rather than reimbursements from appropriations; revising



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provisions relating to definitions, creation, and scope, application procedures, approval process, eligibility, required documents, qualified and certified productions, and annual reports; providing duties and responsibilities of the Office of Film and Entertainment, the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, and the Department of Revenue relating to the tax credits; providing criteria and limitations for awards of tax credits; providing for uses, allocations, election, distributions, and carryforward of the tax credits; providing for withdrawal of tax credit eligibility; providing for use of consolidated returns; providing for partnership and noncorporate distributions of tax credits; providing for succession of tax credits; providing requirements for transfer of tax credits; authorizing the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development to adopt rules, policies, and procedures; authorizing the Department of Revenue to adopt rules and conduct audits; providing for revocation and forfeiture of tax credits; providing liability for reimbursement of certain costs and fees associated with a fraudulent claim; requiring an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature; providing for future repeal; amending s. 288.1258, F.S.; requiring the Office of Film and Entertainment to include in its records certain ratios of tax exemptions and incentives to the estimated funds expended by a certified production; creating s. 288.9552, F.S.; creating the Research



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Commercialization Matching Grant Program to provide grants to certain small companies; designating the Florida Institute for the Commercialization of Public Research to serve as the administrator of the program; specifying criteria to determine eligibility for a grant; limiting the maximum amount of an award; requiring the institute to issue an annual report relating to the grant program to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives; amending s. 290.00677, F.S.; conforming cross-references to changes made by the act; amending s. 373.4141, F.S.; providing legislative intent to expedite the processing of permits; deleting provisions relating to a requirement that the Department of Environmental Protection and a water management district request additional information needed from an applicant within 30 days after receipt of the application; requiring an application for certain permits, including certain permits from a local government, to be approved or denied within 30 days; amending s. 373.441, F.S.; requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt rules that authorize a local government to petition the Governor and Cabinet for certain delegation requests; requiring the Department of Environmental Protection detail the statutes or rules that were not satisfied by a local government that made a request for delegation and to detail actions that could be taken to allow for delegation; authorizing a local



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government to petition the Governor and Cabinet to review the denial of a delegation request; requiring certain counties and municipalities to apply for delegation by a certain date to require permits similar to an environmental resource permit; amending s. 403.061, F.S.; directing the Department of Environmental Protection to expand the use of online self-certification for certain exemptions and permits; limiting the authority of a local government the method or form for documenting that a project qualifies for an exemption or meets the requirements for a permit; amending s. 403.814, F.S.; granting a general permit for the construction and maintenance of certain surface water management systems that satisfy specified conditions; requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to review the Enterprise Zone Program and submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives; authorizing the funds in specific appropriation 2649 of ch. 2008-152, Laws of Florida, to be used for additional space-related economic-development purposes; providing an appropriation to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development to fund the operations of Space Florida; providing an appropriation to the Space Business Investment and Financial Services Trust Fund to carry out the purposes of the trust fund; providing an appropriation to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and



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Economic Development to enable Space Florida to provide targeted business-development support services and business recruitment; providing an appropriation to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development for Space Florida to retrain workers in the space industry; requiring the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund to direct state agencies to compile a list of surplus real properties and facilities that have the potential for sale or exchange; requiring the Board of Trustees in consultation with the Legislative Budget Commission to determine which properties or facilities should be declared as surplus and sold or exchanged for value; requiring the Department of Management Services to proceed with the disposal of surplus property; providing for the proceeds from the sale of surplus property to be deposited in the General Revenue Fund; requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to review and evaluate the Research Commercialization Matching Grant Program and submit a report of its findings to the Governor, President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives; limiting the effect of a ruling by a court which invalidates any portion of chapter 2009-96, Laws of Florida; validating certain exemptions, extensions, amendments to a local comprehensive plan comprehensive, and land development regulations made or granted under chapter 2009-96, Laws of Florida; extending the expiration dates of certain permits



issued by the Department of Environmental Protection or a water management district; extending certain previously granted build-out dates; amending s. 47 of chapter 2009-82, Laws of Florida; delaying the expiration of the Florida Homebuyer Opportunity Program; providing an appropriation to the Florida Institute for the Commercialization of Public Research to fund grants under the Research Commercialization Matching Grant Program; conditionally specifying the use of an appropriation to the Board of Governors of the State University System to fund proposals under the State University Research Commercialization Assistance Grant Program; providing a finding that the act fulfills an important state interest; providing for severability; providing effective dates.

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

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Section 1. Effective July 1, 2010, section 125.045, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

125.045 County economic development powers.-

(1) The Legislature finds and declares that this state faces increasing competition from other states and other countries for the location and retention of private enterprises within its borders. Furthermore, the Legislature finds that there is a need to enhance and expand economic activity in the counties of this state by attracting and retaining manufacturing development, business enterprise management, and other activities conducive to economic promotion, in order to provide



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a stronger, more balanced, and stable economy in the state; to enhance and preserve purchasing power and employment opportunities for the residents of this state; and to improve the welfare and competitive position of the state. The Legislature declares that it is necessary and in the public interest to facilitate the growth and creation of business enterprises in the counties of the state.

- (2) The governing body of a county may expend public funds to attract and retain business enterprises, and the use of public funds toward the achievement of such economic development goals constitutes a public purpose. The provisions of this chapter which confer powers and duties on the governing body of a county, including any powers not specifically prohibited by law which can be exercised by the governing body of a county, must be liberally construed in order to effectively carry out the purposes of this section.
- (3) For the purposes of this section, it constitutes a public purpose to expend public funds for economic development activities, including, but not limited to, developing or improving local infrastructure, issuing bonds to finance or refinance the cost of capital projects for industrial or manufacturing plants, leasing or conveying real property, and making grants to private enterprises for the expansion of businesses existing in the community or the attraction of new businesses to the community.
- (4) A contract between the governing body of a county or other entity engaged in economic development activities on behalf of the county and an economic development agency must require the agency or entity receiving county funds to submit a



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report to the governing body of the county detailing how county funds were spent and detailing the results of the economic development agency's or entity's efforts on behalf of the county. The county shall include the report as an addendum to the county's annual financial audit.

- (5) (a) By December 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, each county shall report to the Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations the economic development incentives given to any business during the county's previous fiscal year. Economic development incentives include:
- 1. Direct financial incentives of monetary assistance provided to a business from the county or through an organization authorized by the county. Such incentives include grants, loans, equity investments, loan insurance and quarantees, and training subsidies.
- 2. Indirect incentives in the form of grants and loans provided to businesses and community organizations that provide support to businesses or promote business investment or development.
- 3. Fee-based or tax-based incentives, including credits, refunds, exemptions, and property tax abatement or assessment reductions.
 - 4. Below-market rate leases or deeds for real property.
- 5. Any other inducement provided to a business in order for the business to create or retain jobs, relocate to or remain in the county, or expand its current operations in the county.
- (b) A county shall report its economic development incentives in the format specified by the Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.



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- (c) The Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations shall compile the economic development incentives provided by each county in a manner that shows the total of each class of economic development incentives provided by each county and all counties.
- (d) If a county did not provide any economic development incentives during its previous fiscal year, the governing body of the county must report to the Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations that the county did not provide any incentives.

Section 2. Effective July 1, 2010, subsection (11) of section 159.803, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

159.803 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:

(11) "Florida First Business project" means any project which is certified by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development as eligible to receive an allocation from the Florida First Business allocation pool established pursuant to s. 159.8083. The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development may certify those projects meeting the criteria set forth in s. 288.106(4)(b) s. 288.106(3)(b) or any project providing a substantial economic benefit to this state.

Section 3. Effective July 1, 2010, subsection (9) of section 166.021, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

166.021 Powers.-

(9) (a) The Legislature finds and declares that this state faces increasing competition from other states and other countries for the location and retention of private enterprises within its borders. Furthermore, the Legislature finds that there is a need to enhance and expand economic activity in the



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municipalities of this state by attracting and retaining manufacturing development, business enterprise management, and other activities conducive to economic promotion, in order to provide a stronger, more balanced, and stable economy in the state, to enhance and preserve purchasing power and employment opportunities for the residents of this state, and to improve the welfare and competitive position of the state. The Legislature declares that it is necessary and in the public interest to facilitate the growth and creation of business enterprises in the municipalities of the state.

- (b) The governing body of a municipality may expend public funds to attract and retain business enterprises, and the use of public funds toward the achievement of such economic development goals constitutes a public purpose. The provisions of this chapter which confer powers and duties on the governing body of a municipality, including any powers not specifically prohibited by law which can be exercised by the governing body of a municipality, shall be liberally construed in order to effectively carry out the purposes of this subsection.
- (c) For the purposes of this subsection, it constitutes a public purpose to expend public funds for economic development activities, including, but not limited to, developing or improving local infrastructure, issuing bonds to finance or refinance the cost of capital projects for industrial or manufacturing plants, leasing or conveying real property, and making grants to private enterprises for the expansion of businesses existing in the community or the attraction of new businesses to the community.
 - (d) A contract between the governing body of a municipality



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or other entity engaged in economic development activities on behalf of the municipality and an economic development agency must require the agency or entity receiving county funds to submit a report to the governing body of the county detailing how county funds were spent and detailing the results of the economic development agency's or entity's efforts on behalf of the county. The municipality shall include the report as an addendum to the municipality's annual financial audit.

- (e) 1. By December 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, each municipality having an annual revenues or expenditures greater than \$250,000 shall report to the Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations the economic development incentives given to any business during the municipality's previous fiscal year. Economic development incentives include:
- a. Direct financial incentives of monetary assistance provided to a business from the municipality or through an organization authorized by the municipality. Such incentives include grants, loans, equity investments, loan insurance and quarantees, and training subsidies.
- b. Indirect incentives in the form of grants and loans provided to businesses and community organizations that provide support to businesses or promote business investment or development.
- c. Fee-based or tax-based incentives, including credits, refunds, exemptions, and property tax abatement or assessment reductions.
 - d. Below-market rate leases or deeds for real property.
- e. Any other inducement provided to a business in order for the business to create or retain jobs, relocate to or remain in



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- the county, or expand its current operations in the county.
- 2. A municipality shall report its economic development incentives in the format specified by the Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.
- 3. The Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations shall compile the economic development incentives provided by each county in a manner that shows the total of each class of economic development incentives provided by each municipality and all municipalities.
- 4. If a municipality did not provide any economic development incentives during its previous fiscal year, the governing body of the municipality must report to the Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations that the municipality did not provide any incentives.
- (f) (d) Nothing contained in This subsection does not limit shall be construed as a limitation on the home rule powers granted by the State Constitution to for municipalities.

Section 4. Effective July 1, 2010, paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 212.05, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

212.05 Sales, storage, use tax.—It is hereby declared to be the legislative intent that every person is exercising a taxable privilege who engages in the business of selling tangible personal property at retail in this state, including the business of making mail order sales, or who rents or furnishes any of the things or services taxable under this chapter, or who stores for use or consumption in this state any item or article of tangible personal property as defined herein and who leases or rents such property within the state.



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- (1) For the exercise of such privilege, a tax is levied on each taxable transaction or incident, which tax is due and payable as follows:
- (a) 1.a. At the rate of 6 percent of the sales price of each item or article of tangible personal property when sold at retail in this state, computed on each taxable sale for the purpose of remitting the amount of tax due the state, and including each and every retail sale.
- b. Each occasional or isolated sale of an aircraft, boat, mobile home, or motor vehicle of a class or type that which is required to be registered, licensed, titled, or documented in this state or by the United States Government shall be subject to tax at the rate provided in this paragraph. However, the maximum amount of tax imposed pursuant to this subparagraph on each sale of an aircraft or boat may not exceed \$18,000. The department shall by rule adopt any nationally recognized publication for valuation of used motor vehicles as the reference price list for any used motor vehicle that which is required to be licensed pursuant to s. 320.08(1), (2), (3)(a), (b), (c), or (e), or (9). If any party to an occasional or isolated sale of such a vehicle reports to the tax collector a sales price that which is less than 80 percent of the average loan price for the specified model and year of such vehicle as listed in the most recent reference price list, the tax levied under this paragraph shall be computed by the department on such average loan price unless the parties to the sale have provided to the tax collector an affidavit signed by each party, or other substantial proof, stating the actual sales price. Any party to such sale who reports a sales price less than the actual sales



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price commits is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. The department shall collect or attempt to collect from such party any delinquent sales taxes. In addition, such party shall pay any tax due and any penalty and interest assessed plus a penalty equal to twice the amount of the additional tax owed. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Department of Revenue may waive or compromise any penalty imposed pursuant to this subparagraph.

- 2. This paragraph does not apply to the sale of a boat or aircraft by or through a registered dealer under this chapter to a purchaser who, at the time of taking delivery, is a nonresident of this state, does not make his or her permanent place of abode in this state, and is not engaged in carrying on in this state any employment, trade, business, or profession in which the boat or aircraft will be used in this state, or is a corporation none of the officers or directors of which is a resident of, or makes his or her permanent place of abode in, this state, or is a noncorporate entity that has no individual vested with authority to participate in the management, direction, or control of the entity's affairs who is a resident of, or makes his or her permanent abode in, this state. For purposes of this exemption, either a registered dealer acting on his or her own behalf as seller, a registered dealer acting as broker on behalf of a seller, or a registered dealer acting as broker on behalf of the purchaser may be deemed to be the selling dealer. This exemption is shall not be allowed unless:
- a. The purchaser removes a qualifying boat, as described in sub-subparagraph f., from the state within 90 days after the



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date of purchase or extension, or the purchaser removes a nonqualifying boat or an aircraft from this state within 10 days after the date of purchase or, when the boat or aircraft is repaired or altered, within 20 days after completion of the repairs or alterations;

- b. The purchaser, within 30 days after from the date of departure, shall provide the department with written proof that the purchaser licensed, registered, titled, or documented the boat or aircraft outside the state. If such written proof is unavailable, within 30 days the purchaser shall provide proof that the purchaser applied for such license, title, registration, or documentation. The purchaser shall forward to the department proof of title, license, registration, or documentation upon receipt;
- c. The purchaser, within 10 days after of removing the boat or aircraft from Florida, shall furnish the department with proof of removal in the form of receipts for fuel, dockage, slippage, tie-down, or hangaring from outside of Florida. The information so provided must clearly and specifically identify the boat or aircraft;
- d. The selling dealer, within 5 days after of the date of sale, shall provide to the department a copy of the sales invoice, closing statement, bills of sale, and the original affidavit signed by the purchaser attesting that he or she has read the provisions of this section;
- e. The seller makes a copy of the affidavit a part of his or her record for as long as required by s. 213.35; and
- f. Unless the nonresident purchaser of a boat of 5 net tons of admeasurement or larger intends to remove the boat from this



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state within 10 days after the date of purchase or when the boat is repaired or altered, within 20 days after completion of the repairs or alterations, the nonresident purchaser shall apply to the selling dealer for a decal that which authorizes 90 days after the date of purchase for removal of the boat. The nonresident purchaser of a qualifying boat may apply to the selling dealer within 60 days after the date of purchase for an extension decal that authorizes the boat to remain in this state for an additional 90 days, but not more than a total of 180 days, before the nonresident purchaser is required to pay the tax imposed by this chapter. The department may is authorized to issue decals in advance to dealers. The number of decals issued in advance to a dealer shall be consistent with the volume of the dealer's past sales of boats which qualify under this subsubparagraph. The selling dealer or his or her agent shall mark and affix the decals to qualifying boats, in the manner prescribed by the department, before prior to delivery of the boat.

- (I) The department may is hereby authorized to charge dealers a fee sufficient to recover the costs of decals issued, except the extension decal shall cost \$425.
- (II) The proceeds from the sale of decals shall will be deposited into the administrative trust fund.
- (III) Decals shall display information to identify the boat as a qualifying boat under this sub-subparagraph, including, but not limited to, the decal's date of expiration.
- (IV) The department may is authorized to require dealers who purchase decals to file reports with the department and may prescribe all necessary records by rule. All such records are



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subject to inspection by the department.

(V) Any dealer or his or her agent who issues a decal falsely, fails to affix a decal, mismarks the expiration date of a decal, or fails to properly account for decals shall will be considered prima facie to have committed a fraudulent act to evade the tax, is and will be liable for payment of the tax plus a mandatory penalty of 200 percent of the tax, and is shall be liable for fine and punishment as provided by law for a conviction of a misdemeanor of the first degree, as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(VI) Any nonresident purchaser of a boat who removes a decal before prior to permanently removing the boat from the state, who or defaces, changes, modifies, or alters a decal in a manner affecting its expiration date before prior to its expiration, or who causes or allows the same to be done by another, shall will be considered prima facie to have committed a fraudulent act to evade the tax, is and will be liable for payment of the tax plus a mandatory penalty of 200 percent of the tax, and is shall be liable for fine and punishment as provided by law for a conviction of a misdemeanor of the first degree, as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(VII) The department may is authorized to adopt rules necessary to administer and enforce this subparagraph and to publish the necessary forms and instructions.

(VIII) The department <u>may</u> is hereby authorized to adopt emergency rules pursuant to s. 120.54(4) to administer and enforce the provisions of this subparagraph.

If the purchaser fails to remove the qualifying boat from this



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state within the maximum 180 days after purchase or a nonqualifying boat or an aircraft from this state within 10 days after purchase or, when the boat or aircraft is repaired or altered, within 20 days after completion of such repairs or alterations, or permits the boat or aircraft to return to this state within 6 months after from the date of departure, or if the purchaser fails to furnish the department with any of the documentation required by this subparagraph within the prescribed time period, the purchaser is shall be liable for use tax on the cost price of the boat or aircraft and, in addition thereto, payment of a penalty to the Department of Revenue equal to the tax payable. This penalty is shall be in lieu of the penalty imposed by s. 212.12(2) and is mandatory and may shall not be waived by the department. The maximum 180-day period following the sale of a qualifying boat tax-exempt to a nonresident may not be tolled for any reason. Notwithstanding other provisions of this paragraph to the contrary, an aircraft purchased in this state under the provisions of this paragraph may be returned to this state for repairs within 6 months after the date of its departure without being in violation of the law and without incurring liability for the payment of tax or penalty on the purchase price of the aircraft if the aircraft is removed from this state within 20 days after the completion of the repairs and if such removal can be demonstrated by invoices for fuel, tie-down, hangar charges issued by out-of-state vendors or suppliers, or similar documentation.

Section 5. Effective July 1, 2010, paragraphs (b) and (g) of subsection (5) of section 212.08, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (q) is added to that subsection, to read:



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- 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.-
- (b) Machinery and equipment used to increase productive output.-
- 1. Industrial machinery and equipment purchased for exclusive use by a new business in spaceport activities as defined by s. 212.02 or for use in new businesses that which manufacture, process, compound, or produce for sale items of tangible personal property at fixed locations are exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter upon an affirmative showing by the taxpayer to the satisfaction of the department that such items are used in a new business in this state. Such purchases must be made prior to the date the business first begins its productive operations, and delivery of the purchased item must be made within 12 months after of that date.
- 2. Industrial machinery and equipment purchased for exclusive use by an expanding facility which is engaged in spaceport activities as defined by s. 212.02 or for use in expanding manufacturing facilities or plant units which manufacture, process, compound, or produce for sale items of tangible personal property at fixed locations in this state are exempt from any amount of tax imposed by this chapter upon an affirmative showing by the taxpayer to the satisfaction of the department that such items are used to increase the productive



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output of such expanded facility or business by not less than 10 percent.

3. Beginning July 1, 2010, that portion of the total amount incurred for industrial machinery and equipment purchased for exclusive use by a facility that is engaged in spaceport activities as defined by s. 212.02, or for use in manufacturing facilities or plant units that manufacture, process, compound, or produce for sale items of tangible personal property at fixed locations in this state, which exceeds the total amount incurred for such items purchased and placed into service by the taxpayer in its tax year that began in 2008, is exempt from the amount of tax imposed by this chapter to the extent that the taxpayer, by an affirmative showing to the satisfaction of the department, demonstrates the actual costs incurred for the items and that the items have been located and placed into service in this state. Tax year 2008 shall serve as the baseline year for future computations of the tax exemption for as long as the exemption exists.

4.3.a. To receive an exemption provided by this paragraph subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2., a qualifying business entity shall apply to the department for a temporary tax exemption permit. The application shall state that a $\frac{1}{1}$ business exemption or expanded business exemption is being sought. Upon a tentative affirmative determination by the department pursuant to subparagraph 1., or subparagraph 2., or subparagraph 3., the department shall issue such permit.

b. The applicant shall be required to maintain all necessary books and records to support the exemption. Upon completion of purchases of qualified machinery and equipment



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pursuant to subparagraph 1., or subparagraph 2., or subparagraph 3., the temporary tax permit shall be delivered to the department or returned to the department by certified or registered mail.

- c. If, in a subsequent audit conducted by the department, it is determined that the machinery and equipment purchased as exempt under subparagraph 1., or subparagraph 2., or subparagraph 3. did not meet the criteria mandated by this paragraph or if commencement of production did not occur, the amount of taxes exempted at the time of purchase shall immediately be due and payable to the department by the business entity, together with the appropriate interest and penalty, computed from the date of purchase, in the manner prescribed by this chapter.
- d. If In the event a qualifying business entity fails to apply for a temporary exemption permit or if the tentative determination by the department required to obtain a temporary exemption permit is negative, a qualifying business entity shall receive an the exemption provided in this paragraph subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2. through a refund of previously paid taxes. No refund may be made for such taxes unless the criteria mandated by subparagraph 1., or subparagraph 2., or subparagraph 3. have been met and commencement of production has occurred.
- e. The exemption provided by subparagraph 3. applies to the taxpayer only through a refund of previously paid taxes. The taxpayer must submit a refund application to the Department of Revenue within 12 months after the last day of the 12-month period during which the machinery and equipment qualifies for the exemption under this subparagraph. The refund shall be paid



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to the taxpayer from the General Revenue Fund.

5.4. The department shall adopt rules governing applications for, issuance of, and the form of temporary tax exemption permits; provisions for recapture of taxes; and the manner and form of refund applications, and may establish quidelines as to the requisites for an affirmative showing of increased productive output, commencement of production, and qualification for exemption.

6.5. The exemptions provided in this paragraph subparagraphs 1. and 2. do not apply to machinery or equipment purchased or used by electric utility companies, communications companies, oil or gas exploration or production operations, publishing firms that do not export at least 50 percent of their finished product out of the state, any firm subject to regulation by the Division of Hotels and Restaurants of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, or any firm that which does not manufacture, process, compound, or produce for sale items of tangible personal property or that which does not use such machinery and equipment in spaceport activities as required by this paragraph. The exemptions provided in this paragraph subparagraphs 1. and 2. shall apply to machinery and equipment purchased for use in phosphate or other solid minerals severance, mining, or processing operations.

- 7.6. For the purposes of the exemptions provided in this paragraph, the term subparagraphs 1.and 2., these terms have the following meanings:
- a. "Industrial machinery and equipment" means tangible personal property or other property that has a depreciable life of 3 years or more and that is used as an integral part in the



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manufacturing, processing, compounding, or production of tangible personal property for sale or is exclusively used in spaceport activities. A building and its structural components are not industrial machinery and equipment unless the building or structural component is so closely related to the industrial machinery and equipment that it houses or supports that the building or structural component can be expected to be replaced when the machinery and equipment are replaced. Heating and airconditioning systems are not industrial machinery and equipment unless the sole justification for their installation is to meet the requirements of the production process, even though the system may provide incidental comfort to employees or serve, to an insubstantial degree, nonproduction activities. The term includes parts and accessories only to the extent that the exemption thereof is consistent with the provisions of this paragraph.

b. "Productive output" means the number of units actually produced by a single plant or operation in a single continuous 12-month period, irrespective of sales. Increases in productive output shall be measured by the output for 12 continuous months immediately following the completion of installation of such machinery or equipment over the output for the 12 continuous months immediately preceding such installation. However, if a different 12-month continuous period of time would more accurately reflect the increase in productive output of machinery and equipment purchased to facilitate an expansion, the increase in productive output may be measured during that 12-month continuous period of time if such time period is mutually agreed upon by the Department of Revenue and the



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expanding business prior to the commencement of production; provided, however, in no case may such time period begin later than 2 years following the completion of installation of the new machinery and equipment. The units used to measure productive output shall be physically comparable between the two periods, irrespective of sales.

- (q) Building materials used in the rehabilitation of real property located in an enterprise zone.-
- 1. Building materials used in the rehabilitation of real property located in an enterprise zone are shall be exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter upon an affirmative showing to the satisfaction of the department that the items have been used for the rehabilitation of real property located in an enterprise zone. Except as provided in subparagraph 2., this exemption inures to the owner, lessee, or lessor of the rehabilitated real property located in an enterprise zone only through a refund of previously paid taxes. To receive a refund pursuant to this paragraph, the owner, lessee, or lessor of the rehabilitated real property located in an enterprise zone must file an application under oath with the governing body or enterprise zone development agency having jurisdiction over the enterprise zone where the business is located, as applicable, which includes:
 - a. The name and address of the person claiming the refund.
- b. An address and assessment roll parcel number of the rehabilitated real property in an enterprise zone for which a refund of previously paid taxes is being sought.
- c. A description of the improvements made to accomplish the rehabilitation of the real property.



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- d. A copy of the building permit issued for the rehabilitation of the real property.
- e. A sworn statement, under the penalty of perjury, from the general contractor licensed in this state with whom the applicant contracted to make the improvements necessary to accomplish the rehabilitation of the real property, which statement lists the building materials used in the rehabilitation of the real property, the actual cost of the building materials, and the amount of sales tax paid in this state on the building materials. If In the event that a general contractor has not been used, the applicant shall provide this information in a sworn statement, under the penalty of perjury. Copies of the invoices that which evidence the purchase of the building materials used in such rehabilitation and the payment of sales tax on the building materials shall be attached to the sworn statement provided by the general contractor or by the applicant. Unless the actual cost of building materials used in the rehabilitation of real property and the payment of sales taxes due thereon is documented by a general contractor or by the applicant in this manner, the cost of such building materials shall be an amount equal to 40 percent of the increase in assessed value for ad valorem tax purposes.
- f. The identifying number assigned pursuant to s. 290.0065 to the enterprise zone in which the rehabilitated real property is located.
- g. A certification by the local building code inspector that the improvements necessary to accomplish the rehabilitation of the real property are substantially completed.
 - h. Whether the business is a small business as defined by



s. 288.703(1).

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- i. If applicable, the name and address of each permanent employee of the business, including, for each employee who is a resident of an enterprise zone, the identifying number assigned pursuant to s. 290.0065 to the enterprise zone in which the employee resides.
- 2. This exemption inures to a municipality city, county, other governmental agency, or nonprofit community-based organization through a refund of previously paid taxes if the building materials used in the rehabilitation of real property located in an enterprise zone are paid for from the funds of a community development block grant, State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program, or similar grant or loan program. To receive a refund pursuant to this paragraph, a municipality city, county, other governmental agency, or nonprofit communitybased organization must file an application that which includes the same information required to be provided in subparagraph 1. by an owner, lessee, or lessor of rehabilitated real property. In addition, the application must include a sworn statement signed by the chief executive officer of the municipality city, county, other governmental agency, or nonprofit community-based organization seeking a refund which states that the building materials for which a refund is sought were paid for from the funds of a community development block grant, State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program, or similar grant or loan program.
- 3. Within 10 working days after receipt of an application, the governing body or enterprise zone development agency shall review the application to determine if it contains all the



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information required pursuant to subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2. and meets the criteria set out in this paragraph. The governing body or agency shall certify all applications that contain the information required pursuant to subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2. and that meet the criteria set out in this paragraph as eligible to receive a refund. If applicable, the governing body or agency shall also certify if 20 percent of the employees of the business are residents of an enterprise zone, excluding temporary and part-time employees. The certification shall be in writing, and a copy of the certification shall be transmitted to the executive director of the department of Revenue. The applicant is shall be responsible for forwarding a certified application to the department within the time specified in subparagraph 4.

- 4. An application for a refund pursuant to this paragraph must be submitted to the department within 6 months after the rehabilitation of the property is deemed to be substantially completed by the local building code inspector or by September 1 after the rehabilitated property is first subject to assessment.
- 5. Not more than one exemption through a refund of previously paid taxes for the rehabilitation of real property shall be permitted for any single parcel of property unless there is a change in ownership, a new lessor, or a new lessee of the real property. No refund shall be granted pursuant to this paragraph unless the amount to be refunded exceeds \$500. No refund granted pursuant to this paragraph shall exceed the lesser of 97 percent of the Florida sales or use tax paid on the cost of the building materials used in the rehabilitation of the real property as determined pursuant to sub-subparagraph 1.e. or



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\$5,000, or, if no less than 20 percent of the employees of the business are residents of an enterprise zone, excluding temporary and part-time employees, the amount of refund granted pursuant to this paragraph may shall not exceed the lesser of 97 percent of the sales tax paid on the cost of such building materials or \$10,000. A refund approved pursuant to this paragraph shall be made within 30 days after of formal approval by the department of the application for the refund. This subparagraph applies shall apply retroactively to July 1, 2005.

- 6. The department shall adopt rules governing the manner and form of refund applications and may establish guidelines as to the requisites for an affirmative showing of qualification for exemption under this paragraph.
- 7. The department shall deduct an amount equal to 10 percent of each refund granted under the provisions of this paragraph from the amount transferred into the Local Government Half-cent Sales Tax Clearing Trust Fund pursuant to s. 212.20 for the county area in which the rehabilitated real property is located and shall transfer that amount to the General Revenue Fund.
- 8. For the purposes of the exemption provided in this paragraph, the term:
- a. "Building materials" means tangible personal property that which becomes a component part of improvements to real property.
- b. "Real property" has the same meaning as provided in s. 192.001(12), except that the term does not include a condominium parcel or condominium property as defined in s. 718.103.
 - c. "Rehabilitation of real property" means the



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reconstruction, renovation, restoration, rehabilitation, construction, or expansion of improvements to real property.

- d. "Substantially completed" has the same meaning as provided in s. 192.042(1).
- 9. This paragraph expires on the date specified in s. 290.016 for the expiration of the Florida Enterprise Zone Act.
- (q) Entertainment industry tax credit; authorization; eligibility for <u>credits.—The credit against sales tax authorized</u> pursuant to s. 288.1254 is available to the transferee only through a refund of previously paid taxes. To receive a refund, the transferee must submit an application for refund to the Department of Revenue within 12 months of receipt of the transferred credit. Such refund shall be paid to the transferee from the General Revenue Fund. If the credit for the qualified expenditures is larger than the amount owed on the sales and use tax return on which the credit may be claimed, the unused amount of the credit may be carried forward to a succeeding reporting period as provided in s. 288.1254(4)(e).

Section 6. Effective July 1, 2012, paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section 212.08, Florida Statutes, as amended by this act, 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.-
- (b) Machinery and equipment used to increase productive



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- 1. Industrial machinery and equipment purchased for exclusive use by a new business in spaceport activities as defined by s. 212.02 or for use in new businesses that manufacture, process, compound, or produce for sale items of tangible personal property at fixed locations are exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter upon an affirmative showing by the taxpayer to the satisfaction of the department that such items are used in a new business in this state. Such purchases must be made prior to the date the business first begins its productive operations, and delivery of the purchased item must be made within 12 months after that date.
- 2. Industrial machinery and equipment purchased for exclusive use by an expanding facility that is engaged in spaceport activities as defined by s. 212.02 or for use in expanding manufacturing facilities or plant units that manufacture, process, compound, or produce for sale items of tangible personal property at fixed locations in this state are exempt from any amount of tax imposed by this chapter upon an affirmative showing by the taxpayer to the satisfaction of the department that such items are used to increase the productive output of such expanded facility or business by at least 10 percent.
- 3. Beginning July 1, 2010, that portion of the total amount incurred for industrial machinery and equipment purchased for exclusive use by a facility that is engaged in spaceport activities as defined by s. 212.02, or for use in manufacturing facilities or plant units that manufacture, process, compound, or produce for sale items of tangible personal property at fixed



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locations in this state, which exceeds the total amount incurred for such items purchased and placed into service by the taxpayer in its tax year that began in 2008, is exempt from the amount of tax imposed by this chapter to the extent that the taxpayer, by an affirmative showing to the satisfaction of the department, demonstrates the actual costs incurred for the items and that the items have been located and placed into service in this state. Tax year 2008 shall serve as the baseline year for future computations of the tax exemption for as long as the exemption exists.

- 3.4-a. To receive an exemption provided by this paragraph, a qualifying business entity shall apply to the department for a temporary tax exemption permit. The application shall state that a business exemption or is being sought. Upon a tentative affirmative determination by the department pursuant to subparagraph 1. or, subparagraph 2., or subparagraph 3., the department shall issue such permit.
- b. The applicant shall maintain all necessary books and records to support the exemption. Upon completion of purchases of qualified machinery and equipment pursuant to subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2., or subparagraph 3., the temporary tax permit shall be delivered to the department or returned to the department by certified or registered mail.
- c. If, in a subsequent audit conducted by the department, it is determined that the machinery and equipment purchased as exempt under subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2., or subparagraph 3. did not meet the criteria mandated by this paragraph or if commencement of production did not occur, the amount of taxes exempted at the time of purchase shall immediately be due and



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payable to the department by the business entity, together with the appropriate interest and penalty, computed from the date of purchase, in the manner prescribed by this chapter.

- d. If a qualifying business entity fails to apply for a temporary exemption permit or if the tentative determination by the department required to obtain a temporary exemption permit is negative, a qualifying business entity shall receive the exemption provided in subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2. through a refund of previously paid taxes. No refund may be made for such taxes unless the criteria mandated by subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2., or subparagraph 3. have been met and commencement of production has occurred.
- e. The exemption provided by subparagraph 3. applies to the taxpayer only through a refund of previously paid taxes. The taxpayer must submit a refund application to the Department of Revenue within 12 months after the last day of the 12-month period during which the machinery and equipment qualifies for the exemption under this subparagraph. The refund shall be paid to the taxpayer from the General Revenue Fund.
- 4.5. The department shall adopt rules governing applications for, issuance of, and the form of temporary tax exemption permits; provisions for recapture of taxes; and the manner and form of refund applications, and may establish quidelines as to the requisites for an affirmative showing of increased productive output, commencement of production, and qualification for exemption.
- 5.6. The exemptions provided in this paragraph do not apply to machinery or equipment purchased or used by electric utility companies, communications companies, oil or gas exploration or



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production operations, publishing firms that do not export at least 50 percent of their finished product out of the state, any firm subject to regulation by the Division of Hotels and Restaurants of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, or any firm that does not manufacture, process, compound, or produce for sale items of tangible personal property or that does not use such machinery and equipment in spaceport activities as required by this paragraph. The exemptions provided in this paragraph apply to machinery and equipment purchased for use in phosphate or other solid minerals severance, mining, or processing operations.

6.7. For the purposes of the exemptions provided in this paragraph, the term:

a. "Industrial machinery and equipment" means tangible personal property or other property that has a depreciable life of 3 years or more and that is used as an integral part in the manufacturing, processing, compounding, or production of tangible personal property for sale or is exclusively used in spaceport activities. A building and its structural components are not industrial machinery and equipment unless the building or structural component is so closely related to the industrial machinery and equipment that it houses or supports that the building or structural component can be expected to be replaced when the machinery and equipment are replaced. Heating and airconditioning systems are not industrial machinery and equipment unless the sole justification for their installation is to meet the requirements of the production process, even though the system may provide incidental comfort to employees or serve, to an insubstantial degree, nonproduction activities. The term



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includes parts and accessories only to the extent that the exemption thereof is consistent with the provisions of this paragraph.

b. "Productive output" means the number of units actually produced by a single plant or operation in a single continuous 12-month period, irrespective of sales. Increases in productive output shall be measured by the output for 12 continuous months immediately following the completion of installation of such machinery or equipment over the output for the 12 continuous months immediately preceding such installation. However, if a different 12-month continuous period of time would more accurately reflect the increase in productive output of machinery and equipment purchased to facilitate an expansion, the increase in productive output may be measured during that 12-month continuous period of time if such time period is mutually agreed upon by the Department of Revenue and the expanding business prior to the commencement of production; however, in no case may such time period begin later than 2 years following the completion of installation of the new machinery and equipment. The units used to measure productive output shall be physically comparable between the two periods, irrespective of sales.

Section 7. Effective July 1, 2010, 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. 288.1254 to the Office of Film and Entertainment and to the



Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.

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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 8. Effective July 1, 2010, 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. 220.19, 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. 288.1254, and those enumerated in s. 220.1896.

Section 9. Effective July 1, 2010, section 220.1896, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

- 220.1896 Jobs for the Unemployed Tax Credit Program. -
- (1) As used in this section, the term:
 - (a) "Certified project" means a project proposed by an



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1130 eligible business that has been certified by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development to receive and use tax 1131 1132 credits awarded under this incentive.

- (b) "Eliqible business" means any target industry business as defined in s. 288.106(2) which is subject to the tax imposed by this chapter. The eligible business does not have to be certified to receive the Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Incentive under s. 288.106 in order to receive the tax credit available under this section.
- (c) "Office" means the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.
 - (d) "Qualified employee" means a person:
- 1. Who was unemployed and determined to be monetarily eligible for unemployment compensation benefits by the Agency for Workforce Innovation for a benefit year beginning on or after January 1, 2009.
- 2. Who was hired by an eligible business on or after July 1, 2010, and had not previously been employed by the eligible business or its parent or an affiliated corporation.
- 3. Who performed duties connected to the operations of the eligible business on a regular, full-time basis for an average of at least 36 hours per week and for at least 12 months before an eligible business is awarded a tax credit.
- 4. Whose employment by the eligible business has not formed the basis for any other claim to a credit pursuant to this section.
- (2) A certified business shall receive a \$1,000 tax credit for each qualified employee, pursuant to limitation in subsection (5).



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- (3) (a) In order to become a certified business, an eligible business must file under oath with the office an application that includes:
- 1. The name, address and NAICS identifying code of the eligible business.
 - 2. Relevant employment information.
- 3. Verification of previous unemployment of each employee for whom the eliqible business is seeking credits under this section.
- 4. Verification that the wages paid by the eligible business to each of its qualified employees exceeds the wage eligibility levels for Medicaid and other public assistance programs.
- 5. Any other information necessary to process the application.
- (b) The notice of monetary determination issued by the Agency for Workforce Innovation may be used as evidence of previous unemployment under subparagraph (3)(a)3. However, before an employee provides the notice of monetary determination to the employer, the employee may redact information that the employee considers confidential if the information is not required by the office to approve the application to certify a project.
- (c) The office and Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall process applications to certify a business in the order in which the applications are received, without regard as to whether the applicant is a new or an existing business. The office and Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall review and approve or deny an application pursuant to s. 288.061.



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- (d) 1. The office shall submit a copy of the letter of certification to the department within 10 days after the office issues the letter of certification to the applicant.
- 2. If the application of an eligible business is not sufficient to certify the applicant business, the office must deny the application and issue a notice of denial to the applicant.
- 3. If the application of an eliqible business does not contain sufficient documentation of the number of qualified employees, the office shall approve the application with respect to the employees for whom the office determines are qualified employees. The office must deny the application with respect to persons for whom the office determines are not qualified employees or for whom insufficient documentation has been provided. A business may not submit a revised application for certification or for the determination of a person as qualified employee more than 3 months after the issuance of a notice of denial with respect to the business or a particular person as a qualified employee.
- (4) The applicant for a tax credit under this section has the responsibility to affirmatively demonstrate to the satisfaction of the office and the department that the applicant and the persons claimed as qualified employees meet the requirements of this section.
- (5) The total amount of tax credits under this section which may be approved by the office for all applicants is \$10 million, with \$5 million available to be awarded in the 2011-2012 fiscal year and \$5 million available to be awarded in the 2012-2013 fiscal year. The credit may be applied to corporate



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income tax liability due on returns for fiscal years beginning July 1, 2011, and July 1, 2012.

- (6) An unused tax credit amount that is granted under this section which is not fully used in the first year for which it becomes available, may be carried forward to the subsequent tax year. The carryover credit may be used in the subsequent year if 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).
- (7) A person who fraudulently claims a credit under this section is liable for repayment of the credit plus a mandatory penalty of 100 percent of the credit. Such person also commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
- (8) The office may adopt rules governing the manner and form of applications for the tax credit. The office may establish quidelines for making an affirmative showing of qualification for the tax credit under this section.
- (9) The department may adopt rules to administer this section, including rules relating to the creation of forms to claim a tax credit and examination and audit procedures required to administer this section.
- (10) This section expires June 30, 2012. However, a taxpayer that is awarded a tax credit in the second year of the program may carry forward any unused credit amount to the subsequent tax reporting period. Rules adopted by the department to administer this section shall remain valid as long as a taxpayer may use a credit against its corporate income tax



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1247 Section 10. Effective July 1, 2010, section 220.1899, 1248 Florida Statutes, is created to read:

220.1899 Entertainment Industry Tax Credit.-

- (1) There shall be a credit allowed against the tax imposed by this chapter in the amounts approved by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development pursuant to the entertainment industry financial incentives program in s. 288.1254.
- (2) A qualified production company, as defined in s. 288.1254(1)(j), which is awarded a tax credit against its qualified expenditures pursuant to s. 288.1254, for expenditures made between July 1, 2010, and June 30, 2015, may not claim a credit before July 1, 2011, regardless of when such credit is awarded.
- (3) To the extent that a credit amount exceeds the amount due on a return, the balance of the credit may be carried forward to a succeeding reporting period pursuant to s. 288.1254(4)(e).

Section 11. Effective July 1, 2010, section 220.191, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

220.191 Capital investment tax credit.-

- (1) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:
- (a) "Commencement of operations" means the beginning of active operations by a qualifying business of the principal function for which a qualifying project was constructed.
- (b) "Cumulative capital investment" means the total capital investment in land, buildings, and equipment made in connection with a qualifying project during the period from the beginning



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of construction of the project to the commencement of operations.

- (c) "Eligible capital costs" means all expenses incurred by a qualifying business in connection with the acquisition, construction, installation, and equipping of a qualifying project during the period from the beginning of construction of the project to the commencement of operations, including, but not limited to:
- 1. The costs of acquiring, constructing, installing, equipping, and financing a qualifying project, including all obligations incurred for labor and obligations to contractors, subcontractors, builders, and materialmen.
- 2. The costs of acquiring land or rights to land and any cost incidental thereto, including recording fees.
- 3. The costs of architectural and engineering services, including test borings, surveys, estimates, plans and specifications, preliminary investigations, environmental mitigation, and supervision of construction, as well as the performance of all duties required by or consequent to the acquisition, construction, installation, and equipping of a qualifying project.
- 4. The costs associated with the installation of fixtures and equipment; surveys, including archaeological and environmental surveys; site tests and inspections; subsurface site work and excavation; removal of structures, roadways, and other surface obstructions; filling, grading, paving, and provisions for drainage, storm water retention, and installation of utilities, including water, sewer, sewage treatment, gas, electricity, communications, and similar facilities; and offsite



construction of utility extensions to the boundaries of the property.

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Eliqible capital costs shall not include the cost of any property previously owned or leased by the qualifying business.

- (d) "Income generated by or arising out of the qualifying project" means the qualifying project's annual taxable income as determined by generally accepted accounting principles and under s. 220.13.
 - (e) "Jobs" means full-time equivalent positions, as that term is consistent with terms used by the Agency for Workforce Innovation and the United States Department of Labor for purposes of unemployment tax administration and employment estimation, resulting directly from a project in this state. The term does not include temporary construction jobs involved in the construction of the project facility.
 - (f) "Office" means the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.
 - (g) "Qualifying business" means a business that is designated as a qualified target industry business pursuant to s. 288.106(2)(t), which establishes a qualifying project in this state, and which is certified by the office to receive tax credits pursuant to this section.
 - (h) "Qualifying project" means:
 - 1. A new or expanding facility in this state which creates at least 50 100 new jobs in this state, pays an annual average wage of at least 130 percent of the average private sector wage as defined in s. 288.106(2), makes a cumulative capital investment of at least \$25 million in this state, and is \underline{a}



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qualified target industry business pursuant to s. 288.106(2)(t) in one of the high-impact sectors identified by Enterprise Florida, Inc., and certified by the office pursuant to s. 288.108(6), including, but not limited to, aviation, aerospace, automotive, and silicon technology industries; or

2. A new or expanded facility in this state which is engaged in a target industry designated pursuant to the procedure specified in s. 288.106(1)(o) and which is induced by this credit to create or retain at least 1,000 jobs in this state, provided that at least 100 of those jobs are new, pay an annual average wage of at least 130 percent of the average private sector wage in the area as defined in s. 288.106(1), and make a cumulative capital investment of at least \$100 million after July 1, 2005. Jobs may be considered retained only if there is significant evidence that the loss of jobs is imminent. Notwithstanding subsection (2), annual credits against the tax imposed by this chapter shall not exceed 50 percent of the increased annual corporate income tax liability or the premium tax liability generated by or arising out of a project qualifying under this subparagraph. A facility that qualifies under this subparagraph for an annual credit against the tax imposed by this chapter may take the tax credit for a period not to exceed 5 years; or

2.3. A new or expanded headquarters facility in this state which locates in an enterprise zone and brownfield area and is induced by this credit to create at least 1,500 jobs that which on average pay at least 200 percent of the statewide average annual private sector wage, as published by the Agency for Workforce Innovation or its successor, and which new or expanded



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headquarters facility makes a cumulative capital investment in this state of at least \$250 million.

(2)(a) On or after July 1, 2010, a qualifying business that enters into an agreement with the office for a qualifying project shall receive an annual credit against the tax imposed by this chapter shall be granted to any qualifying business in an amount equal to a diminishing percentage 5 percent of the eligible capital costs generated by a qualifying project during a 10-year, for a period not to exceed 20 years beginning with the commencement of operations of the project. The credit shall be awarded as follows: 15 percent of the eliqible capital costs in each of the years 1 through 3; 10 percent in each of the years 4 through 7; and 5 percent each year in years 8 through 10. An agreement for a qualifying project between a qualifying business and the office which was entered into before July 1, 2010, is subject to the law in effect when the agreement was executed. Unless assigned as described in this subsection, the tax credit shall be granted against only the corporate income tax liability or the premium tax liability generated by or arising out of the qualifying project, and the sum of all tax credits provided pursuant to this section may shall not exceed 100 percent of the eligible capital costs of the project. In no event may any credit granted under this section be carried forward or backward by any qualifying business with respect to a subsequent or prior year. The annual tax credit granted under this section may shall not exceed the following percentages of the annual corporate income tax liability or the premium tax liability generated by or arising out of a qualifying project:

1. One hundred percent for a qualifying project which



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results in a cumulative capital investment of at least \$100 million.

- 2. Seventy-five percent for a qualifying project which results in a cumulative capital investment of at least \$50 million but less than \$100 million.
- 3. Fifty percent for a qualifying project which results in a cumulative capital investment of at least \$25 million but less than \$50 million.
- (b) A qualifying project that which results in a cumulative capital investment of less than \$25 million is not eligible for the capital investment tax credit. However, an insurance company claiming a credit against premium tax liability under this program is shall not be required to pay any additional retaliatory tax levied pursuant to s. 624.5091 as a result of claiming such credit. Because credits under this section are available to an insurance company, s. 624.5091 does not limit such credit in any manner.
- (c) A qualifying business that establishes a qualifying project that includes locating a new solar panel manufacturing facility in this state which that generates a minimum of 400 jobs within 6 months after commencement of operations with an average salary of at least \$50,000 may assign or transfer the annual credit, or any portion thereof, granted under this section to any other business. However, the amount of the tax credit that may be transferred in any year shall be the lesser of the qualifying business's state corporate income tax liability for that year, as limited by the percentages applicable under paragraph (a) and as calculated prior to taking any credit pursuant to this section, or the credit amount



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granted for that year. A business receiving the transferred or assigned credits may use the credits only in the year received, and the credits may not be carried forward or backward. To perfect the transfer, the transferor shall provide the department with a written transfer statement notifying the department of the transferor's intent to transfer the tax credits to the transferee; the date the transfer is effective; the transferee's name, address, and federal taxpayer identification number; the tax period; and the amount of tax credits to be transferred. The department shall, upon receipt of a transfer statement conforming to the requirements of this paragraph, provide the transferee with a certificate reflecting the tax credit amounts transferred. A copy of the certificate must be attached to each tax return for which the transferee seeks to apply such tax credits.

- (3) (a) Notwithstanding subsection (2), an annual credit against the tax imposed by this chapter shall be granted to a qualifying business that which establishes a qualifying project pursuant to subparagraph (1)(h)2. $\frac{(1)(h)3.}{(1)}$, in an amount equal to the lesser of \$15 million or 5 percent of the eligible capital costs made in connection with a qualifying project, for a period not to exceed 20 years beginning with the commencement of operations of the project. The tax credit shall be granted against the corporate income tax liability of the qualifying business and as further provided in paragraph (c). The total tax credit provided pursuant to this subsection shall be equal to no more than 100 percent of the eligible capital costs of the qualifying project.
 - (b) If the credit granted under this subsection is not



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fully used in any one year because of insufficient tax liability on the part of the qualifying business, the unused amount may be carried forward for a period not to exceed 20 years after the commencement of operations of the project. The carryover credit may be used in a subsequent year when the tax imposed by this chapter for that year exceeds the credit for which the qualifying business is eligible in that year under this subsection after applying the other credits and unused carryovers in the order provided by s. 220.02(8).

- (c) The credit granted under this subsection may be used in whole or in part by the qualifying business or any corporation that is either a member of that qualifying business's affiliated group of corporations, is a related entity taxable as a cooperative under subchapter T of the Internal Revenue Code, or, if the qualifying business is an entity taxable as a cooperative under subchapter T of the Internal Revenue Code, is related to the qualifying business. Any entity related to the qualifying business may continue to file as a member of a Florida-nexus consolidated group pursuant to a prior election made under s. 220.131(1), Florida Statutes (1985), even if the parent of the group changes due to a direct or indirect acquisition of the former common parent of the group. Any credit may can be used by any of the affiliated companies or related entities referenced in this paragraph to the same extent as it could have been used by the qualifying business. However, any such use does shall not operate to increase the amount of the credit or extend the period within which the credit must be used.
- (4) Prior to receiving tax credits pursuant to this section, a qualifying business must achieve and maintain the



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minimum employment goals beginning with the commencement of operations at a qualifying project and continuing each year thereafter during which tax credits are available pursuant to this section. However, the office may approve a prorated tax credit amount for a qualifying business that enters into an agreement with the office on or after July 1, 2010, has satisfied the capital investment and average wage requirements but that has not met the employment requirements because of market conditions. The prorated tax refund shall be calculated by multiplying the tax refund amount for which the qualifying business would have been eligible if all applicable requirements had been satisfied by the percentage of the average employment specified in the tax refund agreement which was actually achieved.

- (5) Applications shall be reviewed and certified pursuant to s. 288.061. The office, upon a recommendation by Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall first certify a business as eligible to receive tax credits pursuant to this section prior to the commencement of operations of a qualifying project, and such certification shall be transmitted to the Department of Revenue. Upon receipt of the certification, the Department of Revenue shall enter into a written agreement with the qualifying business specifying, at a minimum, the method by which income generated by or arising out of the qualifying project will be determined.
- (6) The office, in consultation with Enterprise Florida, Inc., may is authorized to develop the necessary guidelines and application materials for the certification process described in subsection(5).



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- (7) It shall be the responsibility of The qualifying business has the responsibility to affirmatively demonstrate to the satisfaction of the department and the office of Revenue that such business meets the job creation and capital investment requirements of this section.
- (8) The department of Revenue may specify by rule the methods by which a qualifying project's pro forma annual taxable income is determined.
- (9) A business that receives a tax credit pursuant to this section is not eliqible for a tax refund under the tax refund program for qualified target industry businesses, s. 288.106.

Section 12. Effective July 1, 2010, paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 288.095, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

288.095 Economic Development Trust Fund.-

(3) (a) The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development may approve applications for certification pursuant to ss. 288.1045(3) and 288.106. However, the total state share of tax refund payments scheduled in all active certifications for fiscal year 2001-2002 may not exceed \$30 million. The total state share of tax refund payments for active certifications for each subsequent fiscal year may not exceed \$100 \$35 million.

Section 13. Effective July 1, 2010, section 288.106, Florida Statutes, is reordered and amended to read:

288.106 Tax refund program for qualified target industry businesses.-

(1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.—The Legislature finds that retaining and expanding existing businesses in Florida, encouraging the creation of new businesses in Florida,



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attracting new businesses from out of state, and generally providing conditions favorable for the growth of target <u>industries creates high-quality</u>, high-wage employment opportunities for the citizens of this state and strengthens Florida's economic foundation. The Legislature also finds that incentives that are narrowly focused in application and scope tend to be more effective at achieving the state's economicdevelopment goals. Further, the Legislature finds that higherwage jobs reduce the state's share of hidden costs such as public assistance and subsidized health care associated with low-wage jobs. Therefore, the Legislature declares that it is the policy of this state to encourage the growth of higher-wage jobs and a diverse economic base by providing state tax refunds to qualified target industry businesses that originate or expand in this state or that relocate to this state.

- (2) (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section:
- (a) "Account" means the Economic Development Incentives Account within the Economic Development Trust Fund established under s. 288.095.
- (c) (b) "Average area private sector wage in the area" means the statewide private sector average wage, or the average of all private sector wages and salaries in the county, or the average of all private sector wages and salaries in the standard metropolitan area, as determined by the governing body of the county or municipality in which the business will be is located.
- (d) (e) "Business" means an employing unit, as defined in s. 443.036, which is registered for unemployment compensation purposes with the state agency providing unemployment tax collection services under contract with the Agency for Workforce



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Innovation through an interagency agreement pursuant to s. 443.1316, or a subcategory or division of an employing unit which is accepted by the state agency providing unemployment tax collection services as a reporting unit.

(e) (d) "Corporate headquarters business" means an international, national, or regional headquarters office of a multinational or multistate business enterprise or national trade association, whether separate from or connected with other facilities used by such business.

(n) (e) "Office" means the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.

(q) (f) "Enterprise zone" means an area designated as an enterprise zone pursuant to s. 290.0065.

(h) (g) "Expansion of an existing business" means the expansion of an existing Florida business by or through additions to real and personal property, resulting in a net increase in employment of not less than 10 percent at such business.

(i) (h) "Fiscal year" means the fiscal year of the state.

(j)(i) "Jobs" means full-time equivalent positions, as that term is consistent with terms used by the Agency for Workforce Innovation and the United States Department of Labor for purposes of unemployment compensation tax administration and employment estimation, resulting directly from a project in this state. The term does not include temporary construction jobs involved with the construction of facilities for the project or any jobs previously included in any application for tax refunds under s. 288.1045 or this section.

(k) (j) "Local financial support" means funding from local



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sources, public or private, which is paid to the Economic Development Trust Fund and which is equal to 20 percent of the annual tax refund for a qualified target industry business. A qualified target industry business may not provide, directly or indirectly, more than 5 percent of such funding in any fiscal year. The sources of such funding may not include, directly or indirectly, state funds appropriated from the General Revenue Fund or any state trust fund, excluding tax revenues shared with local governments pursuant to law.

(1) (k) "Local financial support exemption option" means the option to exercise an exemption from the local financial support requirement available to any applicant whose project is located in a brownfield area or a rural community county with a population of 75,000 or fewer or a county with a population of 125,000 or fewer which is contiguous to a county with a population of 75,000 or fewer. Any applicant that exercises this option is shall not be eliqible for more than 80 percent of the total tax refunds allowed such applicant under this section.

(m) (1) "New business" means a business that applies for the qualified target industry refund program before beginning operations which heretofore did not exist in this state and will begin, first beginning operations on a site that was not used for the operations of a related entity within the 48 months before the submission of the application located in this state and clearly separate from any other commercial or industrial operations owned by the same business.

(o) (m) "Project" means the creation of a new business or expansion of an existing business.

(f) (n) "Director" means the Director of the Office of



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Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.

(t) (o) "Target industry business" means a corporate headquarters business or any business that is engaged in one of the target industries identified pursuant to the following criteria developed by the office in consultation with Enterprise Florida, Inc.:

- 1. Future growth.—Industry forecasts should indicate strong expectation for future growth in both employment and output, according to the most recent available data. Preference Special consideration should be given to businesses that export goods or services Florida's growing access to international markets or to businesses that replace domestic and international replacing imports of goods or services.
- 2. Stability.—The industry should not be subject to periodic layoffs, whether due to seasonality or sensitivity to volatile economic variables such as weather. The industry should also be relatively resistant to recession, so that the demand for products of this industry is not typically necessarily subject to decline during an economic downturn.
- 3. High wage.—The industry should pay higher relatively high wages compared to statewide or area averages.
- 4. Market and resource independent.—The location of industry businesses should not be dependent on Florida markets or resources as indicated by industry analysis, with the exception of businesses in the renewable-energy industry. Special consideration should be given to the development of strong industrial clusters which include defense and homeland security businesses.
 - 5. Industrial base diversification and strengthening.-The



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industry should contribute toward expanding or diversifying the state's or area's economic base, as indicated by analysis of employment and output shares compared to national and regional trends. Preference Special consideration should be given to industries that strengthen regional economies by adding value to basic products or building regional industrial clusters as indicated by industry analysis. Additionally, preference should be given to the development of strong industrial clusters that include defense and homeland security businesses.

6. Economic benefits.—The industry is expected to should have strong positive impacts on or benefits to the state or and regional economies.

The office, in consultation with Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall develop a list of such target industries annually and submit such list as part of the final agency legislative budget request submitted pursuant to s. 216.023(1). A target industry business may not include any industry engaged in retail activities; any electrical utility company; any phosphate or other solid minerals severance, mining, or processing operation; any oil or gas exploration or production operation; or any business firm subject to regulation by the Division of Hotels and Restaurants of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation; or any business within NAICS code 56, administrative support services, including call centers and customer account service centers.

(u) (p) "Taxable year" means taxable year as defined in s. 220.03(1)(y).

(p) (q) "Qualified target industry business" means a target



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industry business that has been approved by the director to be eligible for tax refunds pursuant to this section.

(q) "Return on investment" means the gain in state revenues as a percentage of the state's investment. The state's investment includes state grants, tax exemptions, tax refunds, tax credits, and other state incentives. Return on investment is expressed mathematically as follows:

Return on investment = (gain in state revenues - state's investment)/state's investment

(r) "Rural county" means a county with a population of 75,000 or fewer or a county with a population of 100,000 or fewer which is contiguous to a county with a population of 75,000 or fewer.

(r) (s) "Rural city" means a city having with a population of 10,000 or <u>fewer</u> less, or a city <u>having</u> with a population of greater than 10,000 but fewer less than 20,000 which has been determined by the office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development to have economic characteristics such as, but not limited to, a significant percentage of residents on public assistance, a significant percentage of residents with income below the poverty level, or a significant percentage of the city's employment base in agriculture-related industries.

(s) (t) "Rural community" means:

- 1. A county having with a population of 75,000 or fewer.
- 2. A county having with a population of 125,000 or fewer which is contiguous to a county having with a population of 75,000 or fewer.



3. A municipality within a county described in subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2.

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For purposes of this paragraph, population shall be determined in accordance with the most recent official estimate pursuant to s. 186.901.

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(b) (u) "Authorized local economic development agency" means a any public or private entity, including those defined in s. 288.075, authorized by a county or municipality to promote the general business or industrial interests of that county or municipality.

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(3) (2) TAX REFUND; ELIGIBLE AMOUNTS.-

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(a) There shall be allowed, from the account, a refund to a qualified target industry business for the amount of eligible taxes certified by the director which were paid by the such business. The total amount of refunds for all fiscal years for each qualified target industry business must be determined pursuant to subsection (4) (3). The annual amount of a refund to a qualified target industry business must be determined pursuant

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(b) 1. Upon approval by the director, a qualified target industry business shall be allowed tax refund payments equal to \$3,000 times the number of jobs specified in the tax refund agreement under subparagraph (5)(a)1. (4)(a)1., or equal to \$6,000 times the number of jobs if the project is located in a rural county or an enterprise zone.

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2. Further, A qualified target industry business shall be allowed additional tax refund payments equal to \$1,000 times the number of jobs specified in the tax refund agreement under

to subsection (6) (5).



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subparagraph (5)(a)1. (4)(a)1., if such jobs pay an annual average wage of at least 150 percent of the average area private sector wage in the area, or equal to \$2,000 times the number of jobs if such jobs pay an annual average area wage of at least 200 percent of the average area private sector wage in the area.

- 3. A qualified target industry business shall be allowed a tax refund payment in addition to the payments authorized in sub-subparagraphs 1. and 2. equal to \$2,000 times the number of jobs specified in the tax refund agreement under subparagraph (5) (a) 1., for one of the following:
- a. Projects classified as a corporate headquarters for businesses that did not exist in this state before applying for certification as a qualified target industry business or corporate headquarters for businesses in the following industries: renewable energy, as defined in s. 366.91(2)(d); transportation equipment manufacturing; life sciences; financial services; or information technology.
- b. Businesses that increase exports of their goods through a Florida seaport or a Florida airport by at least 10 percent in value or tonnage in each of the years that they receive a tax credit under this section. For purposes of this subsubparagraph, Florida seaports are limited to the ports of Jacksonville, Tampa, Port Everglades, Miami, Port Canaveral, Ft. Pierce, Palm Beach, Port Manatee, Port St. Joe, Panama City, St. Petersburg, Pensacola, Fernandina, and Key West.
- 4. A qualified target industry business shall be allowed a tax refund in addition to the payments authorized in subsubparagraphs 1., 2., and 3. equal to \$1,000 times the number of jobs specified in the tax refund agreement under subparagraph



(5)(a)1., if:

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a. The local financial support is equal to that of the state's incentive award under subparagraph (3)(b)1.; or

b. The business is employing, among those jobs specified in the tax refund agreement under subparagraph (5)(a)1., a Florida resident who has been unemployed and who was determined to be monetarily eligible for unemployment compensation benefits by the Agency for Workforce Innovation for a benefit year beginning on or after January 1, 2009. These employees must perform duties connected to the operations of the eligible business on a regular, full-time basis for an average of at least 36 hours per week and for at least 12 months before an eligible business files for the tax credit.

(c) A qualified target industry business may not receive refund payments of more than 25 percent of the total tax refunds specified in the tax refund agreement under subparagraph (5) (a) 1. (4) (a) 1. in any fiscal year. Further, a qualified target industry business may not receive more than \$1.5 million in refunds under this section in any single fiscal year, or more than \$2.5 million in any single fiscal year if the project is located in an enterprise zone. A qualified target industry business may not receive more than \$5 million in refund payments under this section in all fiscal years, or more than \$7.5 million if the project is located in an enterprise zone. Funds made available pursuant to this section may not be expended in connection with the relocation of a business from one community to another community in this state unless the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development determines that without such relocation the business will move outside this state or



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determines that the business has a compelling economic rationale for the relocation and that the relocation will create additional jobs.

(d) (e) After entering into a tax refund agreement under subsection (5) (4), a qualified target industry business may:

- 1. Receive refunds from the account for the following taxes due and paid by that business beginning with the first taxable year of the business which begins after entering into the agreement:
 - a. Corporate income taxes under chapter 220.
 - b. Insurance premium tax under s. 624.509.
- 2. Receive refunds from the account for the following taxes due and paid by that business after entering into the agreement:
- a. Taxes on sales, use, and other transactions under chapter 212.
 - b. Intangible personal property taxes under chapter 199.
 - c. Emergency excise taxes under chapter 221.
 - d. Excise taxes on documents under chapter 201.
 - e. Ad valorem taxes paid, as defined in s. 220.03(1).
- f. State communications services taxes administered under chapter 202. This provision does not apply to the gross receipts tax imposed under chapter 203 and administered under chapter 202 or the local communications services tax authorized under s. 202.19.

1822 The addition of state communications services taxes administered 1823 under chapter 202 is remedial in nature and retroactive to October 1, 2001. The office may make supplemental tax refund 1824 1825 payments to allow for tax refunds for communications services



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taxes paid by an eligible qualified target industry business after October 1, 2001.

(e) (d) However, a qualified target industry business may not receive a refund under this section for any amount of credit, refund, or exemption granted to that business for any of the such taxes listed in paragraph (d). If a refund for such taxes is provided by the office, which taxes are subsequently adjusted by the application of any credit, refund, or exemption granted to the qualified target industry business other than as provided in this section, the business shall reimburse the account for the amount of that credit, refund, or exemption. A qualified target industry business shall notify and tender payment to the office within 20 days after receiving any credit, refund, or exemption other than one provided in this section.

(f) Refunds made available pursuant to this section may not be expended in connection with the relocation of a business from one community to another community in this state unless the office determines that without such relocation the business will move outside this state, or determines that the business has a compelling economic rationale for the relocation and that the relocation will create additional jobs.

(g) (e) A qualified target industry business that fraudulently claims a refund under this section:

- 1. Is liable for repayment of the amount of the refund to the account, plus a mandatory penalty in the amount of 200 percent of the tax refund which shall be deposited into the General Revenue Fund.
- 2. Commits Is quilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.



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(4) (3) APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS.

- (a) To apply for certification as a qualified target industry business under this section, the business must file an application with the office before the business decides has made the decision to locate a new business in this state or before the business decides had made the decision to expand its an existing operations business in this state. The application must shall include, but need is not be limited to, the following information:
- 1. The applicant's federal employer identification number and, if applicable, the applicant's state sales tax registration number.
- 2. The proposed permanent location of the applicant's facility in this state at which the project is or is to be located.
- 3. A description of the type of business activity or product covered by the project, including a minimum of a fivedigit NAICS code for all activities included in the project. As used in this paragraph, "NAICS" means those classifications contained in the North American Industry Classification System, as published in 2007 by the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, and updated periodically.
- 4. The <u>proposed</u> number of net new full-time equivalent Florida jobs at the qualified target industry business as of December 31 of each year included in the project and the average wage of those jobs. If more than one type of business activity or product is included in the project, the number of jobs and average wage for those jobs must be separately stated for each type of business activity or product.



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- 5. The total number of full-time equivalent employees employed by the applicant in this state, if applicable.
 - 6. The anticipated commencement date of the project.
- 7. A brief statement explaining concerning the role that the estimated tax refunds to be requested will play in the decision of the applicant to locate or expand in this state.
- 8. An estimate of the proportion of the sales resulting from the project that will be made outside this state.
- 9. An estimate of the proportion of the cost of the machinery and equipment, and any other resources necessary in the development of its product or service, to be used by the business in its Florida operations which will be purchased outside this state.
- 10.9. A resolution adopted by the governing board of the county or municipality in which the project will be located, which resolution recommends that the project certain types of businesses be approved as a qualified target industry business and specifies states that the commitments of local financial support necessary for the target industry business exist. In advance of the passage of such resolution, the office may also accept an official letter from an authorized local economic development agency that endorses the proposed target industry project and pledges that sources of local financial support for such project exist. For the purposes of making pledges of local financial support under this subsection, the authorized local economic development agency shall be officially designated by the passage of a one-time resolution by the local governing authority.
 - 11.10. Any additional information requested by the office.



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

1.a. The jobs proposed to be <u>created</u> provided under the application, pursuant to subparagraph (a)4., must pay an estimated annual average wage equaling at least 115 percent of the average area private sector wage in the area where the business is to be located or the statewide private sector average wage. The governing body of the county where the qualified target industry business is to be located shall notify the office and Enterprise Florida, Inc., which calculation of the average area private sector wage must be used as the basis for the business' wage commitment. In determining the average annual wage, the office shall include only new proposed jobs, and wages for existing jobs shall be excluded from this calculation.

b. The office may waive the average wage requirement at the request of the local governing body recommending the project and Enterprise Florida, Inc. The director may waive the wage requirement may only be waived for a project located in a brownfield area designated under s. 376.80 or in a rural city, rural community, or county, or in an enterprise zone and only if when the merits of the individual project or the specific circumstances in the community in relationship to the project warrant such action. If the local governing body and Enterprise Florida, Inc., make such a recommendation, it must be transmitted in writing and the specific justification for the waiver recommendation must be explained. If the director elects to waive the wage requirement, the waiver must be stated in



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writing and the reasons for granting the waiver must be explained.

- 2. The target industry business's project must result in the creation of at least 10 jobs at the such project and, if an expansion of an existing business, must result in an a net increase in employment of at least 10 percent at the business. Notwithstanding the definition of the term "expansion of an existing business" in paragraph (1)(g), At the request of the local governing body recommending the project and Enterprise Florida, Inc., the office may waive this requirement for a business in a rural community or enterprise zone define an "expansion of an existing business" in a rural community or an enterprise zone as the expansion of a business resulting in a net increase in employment of less than 10 percent at such business if the merits of the individual project or the specific circumstances in the community in relationship to the project warrant such action. If the local governing body and Enterprise Florida, Inc., make such a request, the request must be transmitted in writing and the specific justification for the request must be explained. If the director elects to grant the request, the grant must be stated in writing and the reason for granting the request must be explained.
- 3. The business activity or product for the applicant's project is within an industry or industries that have been identified by the office as a target industry business to be high-value-added industries that contributes contribute to the area and to the economic growth of the state and the region in which it is located, that produces produce a higher standard of living for residents of this state in the new global economy $_{\boldsymbol{L}}$ or



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that can be shown to make an equivalent contribution to the area and state's economic progress. The director must approve requests to waive the wage requirement for brownfield areas designated under s. 376.80 unless it is demonstrated that such action is not in the public interest.

- (c) Each application meeting the requirements of paragraph (b) must be submitted to the office for determination of eligibility. The office shall review and evaluate each application based on, but not limited to, the following criteria:
- 1. Expected contributions to the state economy, consistent with the state strategic economic development plan adopted by Enterprise Florida, Inc., taking into account the long-term effects of the project and of the applicant on the state economy.
- 2. The return on investment of the proposed award under the qualified target industry incentive program and the return on investment for all state incentives proposed for the project economic benefit of the jobs created by the project in this state, taking into account the cost and average wage of each job created.
- 3. The amount of capital investment to be made by the applicant in this state.
- 4. The local financial commitment and support for the project.
- 5. The effect of the project on the <u>unemployment rate in</u> local community, taking into account the unemployment rate for the county where the project will be located.
 - 6. The effect of the award any tax refunds granted pursuant



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to this section on the viability of the project and the probability that the project would will be undertaken in this state if such tax refunds are granted to the applicant, taking into account the expected long-term commitment of the applicant to economic growth and employment in this state.

- 7. The expected long-term commitment of the applicant to economic growth and employment to this state resulting from the project.
- 8. A review of the business's past activities in this state or other states, including whether such business has been subjected to criminal or civil fines and penalties. This subparagraph does not require the disclosure of confidential information.
- (d) Applications shall be reviewed and certified pursuant to s. 288.061. The office shall include in its review projections of the tax refunds the business would be eligible to receive in each fiscal year based on the creation and maintenance of the net new Florida jobs specified in subparagraph (a) 4. as of December 31 of the preceding state fiscal year. If appropriate, the director shall enter into a written agreement with the qualified target industry business pursuant to subsection (5) $\frac{(4)}{(4)}$.
- (e) The director may not certify any target industry business as a qualified target industry business if the value of tax refunds to be included in that letter of certification exceeds the available amount of authority to certify new businesses as determined in s. 288.095(3). However, if the commitments of local financial support represent less than 20 percent of the eligible tax refund payments, or to otherwise



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preserve the viability and fiscal integrity of the program, the director may certify a qualified target industry business to receive tax refund payments of less than the allowable amounts specified in paragraph (3)(b) $\frac{(2)(b)}{(2)}$. A letter of certification that approves an application must specify the maximum amount of tax refund that will be available to the qualified industry business in each fiscal year and the total amount of tax refunds that will be available to the business for all fiscal years.

- (f) This section does not create a presumption that an applicant shall receive any tax refunds under this section. However, the office may issue nonbinding opinion letters, upon the request of prospective applicants, as to the applicants' eligibility and the potential amount of refunds.
 - (5) (4) TAX REFUND AGREEMENT.
- (a) Each qualified target industry business must enter into a written agreement with the office which specifies, at a minimum:
- 1. The total number of full-time equivalent jobs in this state that will be dedicated to the project, the average wage of those jobs, the definitions that will apply for measuring the achievement of these terms during the pendency of the agreement, and a time schedule or plan for when such jobs will be in place and active in this state.
- 2. The maximum amount of tax refunds which the qualified target industry business is eligible to receive on the project and the maximum amount of a tax refund that the qualified target industry business is eligible to receive for each fiscal year, based on the job creation and maintenance schedule specified in subparagraph 1.



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- 3. That the office may review and verify the financial and personnel records of the qualified target industry business to ascertain whether that business is in compliance with this section.
- 4. The date by which, in each fiscal year, the qualified target industry business may file a claim under subsection (6) (5) to be considered to receive a tax refund in the following fiscal year.
- 5. That local financial support will be annually available and will be paid to the account. The director may not enter into a written agreement with a qualified target industry business if the local financial support resolution is not passed by the local governing authority within 90 days after he or she has issued the letter of certification under subsection (4)
- (b) Compliance with the terms and conditions of the agreement is a condition precedent for the receipt of a tax refund each year. The failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the tax refund agreement results in the loss of eligibility for receipt of all tax refunds previously authorized under this section and the revocation by the director of the certification of the business entity as a qualified target industry business, unless the business is eligible to receive and elects to accept a prorated refund under paragraph (6) (e) (5)(d) or the office grants the business an economic recovery extension economic-stimulus exemption.
- 1. A qualified target industry business may submit, in writing, a request to the office for an economic recovery extension economic-stimulus exemption. The request must provide quantitative evidence demonstrating how negative economic



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conditions in the business's industry, the effects of the impact of a named hurricane or tropical storm, or specific acts of terrorism affecting the qualified target industry business have prevented the business from complying with the terms and conditions of its tax refund agreement.

- 2. Upon receipt of a request under subparagraph 1., the director has shall have 45 days to notify the requesting business, in writing, if its <u>extension</u> exemption has been granted or denied. In determining if an exemption should be granted, the director shall consider the extent to which negative economic conditions in the requesting business's industry have occurred in the state or the effects of the impact of a named hurricane or tropical storm or specific acts of terrorism affecting the qualified target industry business have prevented the business from complying with the terms and conditions of its tax refund agreement. The office shall consider current employment statistics for this state by industry, including whether the business's industry had substantial job loss during the prior year, when determining whether an exemption shall be granted.
- 3. As a condition for receiving a prorated refund under paragraph (6)(e) (5)(d) or an economic recovery extension economic-stimulus exemption under this paragraph, a qualified target industry business must agree to renegotiate its tax refund agreement with the office to, at a minimum, ensure that the terms of the agreement comply with current law and office procedures governing application for and award of tax refunds. Upon approving the award of a prorated refund or granting an economic recovery extension economic-stimulus exemption, the



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office shall renegotiate the tax refund agreement with the business as required by this subparagraph. When amending the agreement of a business receiving an economic recovery extension economic-stimulus exemption, the office may extend the duration of the agreement for a period not to exceed 2 years.

- 4. A qualified target industry business may submit a request for an economic recovery extension economic-stimulus exemption to the office in lieu of any tax refund claim scheduled to be submitted after January 1, 2009, but before July 1, 2012 2011.
- 5. A qualified target industry business that receives an economic recovery extension economic-stimulus exemption may not receive a tax refund for the period covered by the extension exemption.
- (c) The agreement must be signed by the director and by an authorized officer of the qualified target industry business within 120 days after the issuance of the letter of certification under subsection (4) $\frac{(3)}{}$, but not before passage and receipt of the resolution of local financial support. The office may grant an extension of this period at the written request of the qualified target industry business.
- (d) The agreement must contain the following legend, clearly printed on its face in bold type of not less than 10 points in size: "This agreement is neither a general obligation of the State of Florida, nor is it backed by the full faith and credit of the State of Florida. Payment of tax refunds is are conditioned on and subject to specific annual appropriations by the Florida Legislature of moneys sufficient to pay amounts authorized in section 288.106, Florida Statutes."



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$(6) \frac{(5)}{(5)}$ ANNUAL CLAIM FOR REFUND.

- (a) To be eligible to claim any scheduled tax refund, a qualified target industry business that has entered into a tax refund agreement with the office under subsection (5) (4) must apply by January 31 of each fiscal year to the office for the tax refund scheduled to be paid from the appropriation for the fiscal year that begins on July 1 following the January 31 claims-submission date. The office may, upon written request, grant a 30-day extension of the filing date.
- (b) The claim for refund by the qualified target industry business must include a copy of all receipts pertaining to the payment of taxes for which the refund is sought and data related to achievement of each performance item specified in the tax refund agreement. The amount requested as a tax refund may not exceed the amount specified for the relevant fiscal year in that agreement.
- (c) If the qualified target industry business provides the office with proof that in a single year it has paid an amount of state taxes, from the categories in paragraph (3)(d), at least equal to the total amount of tax refunds it may receive through successful completion of its qualified target industry agreement, the office may waive the requirement for proof of taxes paid in future years.
- (d) (e) A tax refund may not be approved for a qualified target industry business unless the required local financial support has been paid into the account for that refund. If the local financial support provided is less than 20 percent of the approved tax refund, the tax refund must be reduced. In no event may the tax refund exceed an amount that is equal to 5 times the



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amount of the local financial support received. Further, funding from local sources includes any tax abatement granted to that business under s. 196.1995 or the appraised market value of municipal or county land conveyed or provided at a discount to that business. The amount of any tax refund for such business approved under this section must be reduced by the amount of any such tax abatement granted or the value of the land granted; and the limitations in subsection (3) (2) and paragraph (4) (e)(3) (e) must be reduced by the amount of any such tax abatement or the value of the land granted. A report listing all sources of the local financial support shall be provided to the office when such support is paid to the account.

(e) (d) A prorated tax refund, less a 5 percent 5-percent penalty, shall be approved for a qualified target industry business if provided all other applicable requirements have been satisfied and the business proves to the satisfaction of the director that:

1. It has achieved at least 80 percent of its projected employment; and that

2. The average wage paid by the business is at least 90 percent of the average wage specified in the tax refund agreement, but in no case less than 115 percent of the average private sector wage in the area available at the time of certification, or 150 percent or 200 percent of the average private sector wage if the business requested the additional per-job tax refund authorized in paragraph (3)(b) (2)(b) for wages above those levels.

The prorated tax refund shall be calculated by multiplying the



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tax refund amount for which the qualified target industry business would have been eligible, if all applicable requirements had been satisfied, by the percentage of the average employment specified in the tax refund agreement which was achieved, and by the percentage of the average wages specified in the tax refund agreement which was achieved.

(f) (e) The director, with such assistance as may be required from the office, the Department of Revenue, or the Agency for Workforce Innovation, shall, by June 30 following the scheduled date for submission of the tax refund claim, specify by written order the approval or disapproval of the tax refund claim and, if approved, the amount of the tax refund that is authorized to be paid to the qualified target industry business for the annual tax refund. The office may grant an extension of this date on the request of the qualified target industry business for the purpose of filing additional information in support of the claim.

(g) (f) The total amount of tax refund claims approved by the director under this section in any fiscal year must not exceed the amount authorized under s. 288.095(3).

(h) (g) This section does not create a presumption that a tax refund claim will be approved and paid.

(i) (h) Upon approval of the tax refund under paragraphs $\frac{(c)_{T}}{(c)_{T}}$ (d), and (e), and (f), the Chief Financial Officer shall issue a warrant for the amount specified in the written order. If the written order is appealed, the Chief Financial Officer may not issue a warrant for a refund to the qualified target industry business until the conclusion of all appeals of that order.



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(7) (6) ADMINISTRATION.

- (a) The office <u>may</u> is authorized to verify information provided in any claim submitted for tax credits under this section with regard to employment and wage levels or the payment of the taxes to the appropriate agency or authority, including the Department of Revenue, the Agency for Workforce Innovation, or any local government or authority.
- (b) To facilitate the process of monitoring and auditing applications made under this program, the office may provide a list of qualified target industry businesses to the Department of Revenue, to the Agency for Workforce Innovation, or to any local government or authority. The office may request the assistance of those entities with respect to monitoring jobs, wages, and the payment of the taxes listed in subsection (3) $\frac{(2)}{(2)}$.
- (c) Funds specifically appropriated for the tax refund program for qualified target industry businesses may not be used by the office for any purpose other than the payment of tax refunds authorized by this section.
- (d) For all agreements signed after January 1, 2006, the office shall conduct a review of each qualified target industry business approximately 12 months after such business has received its final incentive refund in order to evaluate whether the business is continuing to contribute to the regional or state economy. To complete the reviews, the office shall examine the size of each business's workforce, the annual average wage of its employees, whether the business has made additional investments in its operations since the completion of its agreement, and whether the business has expanded into additional



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locations. The office shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations from its reviews to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The first report shall be submitted by December 1, 2011, and each December 1 thereafter.

(7) Notwithstanding paragraphs (4) (a) and (5) (c), the office may approve a waiver of the local financial support requirement for a business located in any of the following counties in which businesses received emergency loans administered by the office in response to the named hurricanes of 2004: Bay, Brevard, Charlotte, DeSoto, Escambia, Flagler, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Indian River, Lake, Lee, Martin, Okaloosa, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Polk, Putnam, Santa Rosa, Seminole, St. Lucie, Volusia, and Walton. A waiver may be granted only if the office determines that the local financial support cannot be provided or that doing so would effect a demonstrable hardship on the unit of local government providing the local financial support. If the office grants a waiver of the local financial support requirement, the state shall pay 100 percent of the refund due to an eligible business. The waiver shall apply for tax refund applications made for fiscal years 2004-2005, 2005-2006, and 2006-2007.

- (8) AVALIABILITY OF OTHER TAX CREDITS.—A business that receives tax refunds pursuant to this section is not eligible for the capital investment tax credit under s. 220.191.
- (9) (8) EXPIRATION.—An applicant may not be certified as qualified under this section after June 30, 2015 2010. A tax refund agreement existing on that date shall continue in effect in accordance with its terms.



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Section 14. Effective July 1, 2010, paragraph (e) of subsection (1), subsection (2), paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (4), and paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section 288.107, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

288.107 Brownfield redevelopment bonus refunds.-

- (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section:
- (e) "Eligible business" means:
- 1. A qualified target industry business as defined in s. 288.106(2) s. 288.106(1)(0); or
- 2. A business that can demonstrate a fixed capital investment of at least \$2 million in mixed-use business activities, including multiunit housing, commercial, retail, and industrial in brownfield areas, or at least \$500,000 in brownfield areas that do not require site cleanup, and which provides benefits to its employees.
- (2) BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT BONUS REFUND. -Bonus refunds shall be approved by the office as specified in the final order issued by the director and allowed from the account as follows:
- (a) A bonus refund of \$2,500 shall be allowed to any qualified target industry business as defined by s. 288.106 for each new Florida job created in a brownfield area which is claimed on the qualified target industry business's annual refund claim authorized in $\underline{s. 288.106(6)}$ $\underline{s. 288.106(5)}$.
- (b) A bonus refund of up to \$2,500 shall be allowed to any other eligible business as defined in subparagraph (1)(e)2. for each new Florida job created in a brownfield which is claimed under an annual claim procedure similar to the annual refund claim authorized in s. 288.106(6) s. 288.106(5). The amount of the refund shall be equal to 20 percent of the average annual



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wage for the jobs created.

- (4) PAYMENT OF BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT BONUS REFUNDS. -
- (a) To be eligible to receive a bonus refund for new Florida jobs created in a brownfield, a business must have been certified as a qualified target industry business under s. 288.106 or eligible business as defined in paragraph (1)(e) and must have indicated on the qualified target industry tax refund application form submitted in accordance with s. 288.106(4) s. 288.106(3) or other similar agreement for other eligible business as defined in paragraph (1)(e) that the project for which the application is submitted is or will be located in a brownfield and that the business is applying for certification as a qualified brownfield business under this section, and must have signed a qualified target industry tax refund agreement with the office which indicates that the business has been certified as a qualified target industry business located in a brownfield and specifies the schedule of brownfield redevelopment bonus refunds that the business may be eligible to receive in each fiscal year.
- (d) After entering into a tax refund agreement as provided in s. 288.106 or other similar agreement for other eligible businesses as defined in paragraph (1)(e), an eligible business may receive brownfield redevelopment bonus refunds from the account pursuant to s. $288.106(3)(d) \frac{s. 288.106(2)(c)}{s}$.
 - (5) ADMINISTRATION. -
- (b) To facilitate the process of monitoring and auditing applications made under this program, the office may provide a list of qualified target industry businesses to the Department of Revenue, to the Agency for Workforce Innovation, to the



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Department of Environmental Protection, or to any local government authority. The office may request the assistance of those entities with respect to monitoring the payment of the taxes listed in s. 288.106(3) s. 288.106(2).

Section 15. Effective July 1, 2010, section 288.125, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

288.125 Definition of "entertainment industry".-For the purposes of ss. 288.1251-288.1258, the term "entertainment industry" means those persons or entities engaged in the operation of motion picture or television studios or recording studios; those persons or entities engaged in the preproduction, production, or postproduction of motion pictures, made-fortelevision movies, television programming, digital media projects, commercial advertising, music videos, or sound recordings; and those persons or entities providing products or services directly related to the preproduction, production, or postproduction of motion pictures, made-for-television movies, television programming, digital media projects, commercial advertising, music videos, or sound recordings, including, but not limited to, the broadcast industry.

Section 16. Effective July 1, 2010, paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 288.1251, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

288.1251 Promotion and development of entertainment industry; Office of Film and Entertainment; creation; purpose; powers and duties.-

- (1) CREATION.-
- (b) The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall conduct a national search for a qualified person to fill



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the position of Commissioner of Film and Entertainment, when the position is vacant. and The Executive Director of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development has the responsibility to shall hire the commissioner of Film and Entertainment. Qualifications for the commissioner Guidelines for selection of the Commissioner of Film and Entertainment shall include, but are not be limited to, the Commissioner of Film and Entertainment having the following:

- 1. A working knowledge of the equipment, personnel, financial, and day-to-day production operations of the industries to be served by the Office of Film and Entertainment;
- 2. Marketing and promotion experience related to the film and entertainment industries to be served by the office;
- 3. Experience working with a variety of individuals representing large and small entertainment-related businesses, industry associations, local community entertainment industry liaisons, and labor organizations; and
- 4. Experience working with a variety of state and local governmental agencies.
 - (2) POWERS AND DUTIES.-
- (a) The Office of Film and Entertainment, in performance of its duties, shall:
- 1. In consultation with the Florida Film and Entertainment Advisory Council, update the develop and implement a 5-year strategic plan every 5 years to guide the activities of the Office of Film and Entertainment in the areas of entertainment industry development, marketing, promotion, liaison services, field office administration, and information. The plan, to be developed by no later than June 30, 2000, shall:



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- a. Be annual in construction and ongoing in nature.
- b. Include recommendations relating to the organizational structure of the office.
- c. Include an annual budget projection for the office for each year of the plan.
- d. Include an operational model for the office to use in implementing programs for rural and urban areas designed to:
 - (I) Develop and promote the state's entertainment industry.
- (II) Have the office serve as a liaison between the entertainment industry and other state and local governmental agencies, local film commissions, and labor organizations.
- (III) Gather statistical information related to the state's entertainment industry.
- (IV) Provide information and service to businesses, communities, organizations, and individuals engaged in entertainment industry activities.
- (V) Administer field offices outside the state and coordinate with regional offices maintained by counties and regions of the state, as described in sub-sub-subparagraph (II), as necessary.
- e. Include performance standards and measurable outcomes for the programs to be implemented by the office.
- f. Include an assessment of, and make recommendations on, the feasibility of creating an alternative public-private partnership for the purpose of contracting with such a partnership for the administration of the state's entertainment industry promotion, development, marketing, and service programs.
 - 2. Develop, market, and facilitate a smooth working



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2462 2463 relationship between state agencies and local governments in cooperation with local film commission offices for out-of-state and indigenous entertainment industry production entities.

- 3. Implement a structured methodology prescribed for coordinating activities of local offices with each other and the commissioner's office.
- 4. Represent the state's indigenous entertainment industry to key decisionmakers within the national and international entertainment industry, and to state and local officials.
- 5. Prepare an inventory and analysis of the state's entertainment industry, including, but not limited to, information on crew, related businesses, support services, job creation, talent, and economic impact and coordinate with local offices to develop an information tool for common use.
- 6. Represent key decisionmakers within the national and international entertainment industry to the indigenous entertainment industry and to state and local officials.
- 7. Serve as liaison between entertainment industry producers and labor organizations.
- 6.8. Identify, solicit, and recruit entertainment production opportunities for the state.
- 7.9. Assist rural communities and other small communities in the state in developing the expertise and capacity necessary for such communities to develop, market, promote, and provide services to the state's entertainment industry.

Section 17. Effective July 1, 2010, subsection (3) of section 288.1252, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

288.1252 Florida Film and Entertainment Advisory Council; creation; purpose; membership; powers and duties .-



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- (3) MEMBERSHIP.-
- (a) The council shall consist of 17 members, seven to be appointed by the Governor, five to be appointed by the President of the Senate, and five to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, with the initial appointments being made no later than August 1, 1999.
- (b) When making appointments to the council, the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint persons who are residents of the state and who are highly knowledgeable of, active in, and recognized leaders in Florida's motion picture, television, video, sound recording, or other entertainment industries. These persons shall include, but not be limited to, representatives of local film commissions, representatives of entertainment associations, a representative of the broadcast industry, representatives of labor organizations in the entertainment industry, and board chairs, presidents, chief executive officers, chief operating officers, or persons of comparable executive position or stature of leading or otherwise important entertainment industry businesses and offices. Council members shall be appointed in such a manner as to equitably represent the broadest spectrum of the entertainment industry and geographic areas of the state.
- (c) Council members shall serve for 4-year terms, except that the initial terms shall be staggered:
- 1. The Governor shall appoint one member for a 1-year term, two members for 2-year terms, two members for 3-year terms, and two members for 4-year terms.
 - 2. The President of the Senate shall appoint one member for



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a 1-year term, one member for a 2-year term, two members year terms, and one member for a 4-year term.

- 3. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member for a 1-year term, one member for a 2-year term, two members for 3-year terms, and one member for a 4-year term.
- (d) Subsequent appointments shall be made by the official who appointed the council member whose expired term is to be filled.
- (e) The Commissioner of Film and Entertainment, A representative of Enterprise Florida, Inc., a representative of Workforce Florida, Inc., and a representative of Visit Florida the Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation shall serve as ex officio, nonvoting members of the council, and shall be in addition to the 17 appointed members of the council.
- (f) Absence from three consecutive meetings shall result in automatic removal from the council.
- (g) A vacancy on the council shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by the official who appointed the vacating member.
- (h) No more than one member of the council may be an employee of any one company, organization, or association.
- (i) Any member shall be eligible for reappointment but may not serve more than two consecutive terms.
- Section 18. Effective July 1, 2010, subsections (1), (2), (4), and (5) of section 288.1253, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
 - 288.1253 Travel and entertainment expenses.
 - (1) As used in this section, the term:



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- (a) "Business client" means any person, other than a state official or state employee, who receives the services of representatives of the Office of Film and Entertainment in connection with the performance of its statutory duties, including persons or representatives of entertainment industry companies considering location, relocation, or expansion of an entertainment industry business within the state.
- (b) "Entertainment expenses" means the actual, necessary, and reasonable costs of providing hospitality for business clients or quests, which costs are defined and prescribed by rules adopted by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, subject to approval by the Chief Financial Officer.
- (c) "Guest" means a person, other than a state official or state employee, authorized by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development to receive the hospitality of the Office of Film and Entertainment in connection with the performance of its statutory duties.
- (d) "travel expenses" means the actual, necessary, and reasonable costs of transportation, meals, lodging, and incidental expenses normally incurred by an employee of the Office of Film and Entertainment a traveler, which costs are defined and prescribed by rules adopted by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, subject to approval by the Chief Financial Officer.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 112.061, the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall adopt rules by which it may make expenditures by advancement or reimbursement, or a combination thereof, to:
 - (a) the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, security staff



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of the Governor or Lieutenant Governor, the Commissioner of Film and Entertainment, or staff of the Office of Film and Entertainment for travel expenses or entertainment expenses incurred by such individuals solely and exclusively in connection with the performance of the statutory duties of the Office of Film and Entertainment.

(b) The Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, security staff of the Governor or Lieutenant Governor, the Commissioner of Film and Entertainment, or staff of the Office of Film and Entertainment for travel expenses or entertainment expenses incurred by such individuals on behalf of quests, business clients, or authorized persons as defined in s. 112.061(2)(e) solely and exclusively in connection with the performance of the statutory duties of the Office of Film and Entertainment.

(c) Third-party vendors for the travel or entertainment expenses of quests, business clients, or authorized persons as defined in s. 112.061(2)(e) incurred solely and exclusively while such persons are participating in activities or events carried out by the Office of Film and Entertainment in connection with that office's statutory duties.

The rules are shall be subject to approval by the Chief Financial Officer before adoption prior to promulgation. The rules shall require the submission of paid receipts, or other proof of expenditure prescribed by the Chief Financial Officer, with any claim for reimbursement and shall require, as a condition for any advancement of funds, an agreement to submit paid receipts or other proof of expenditure and to refund any unused portion of the advancement within 15 days after the



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expense is incurred or, if the advancement is made in with travel, within 10 working days after the traveler's return to headquarters. However, with respect to an advancement of funds made solely for travel expenses, the rules may allow paid receipts or other proof of expenditure to be submitted, and any unused portion of the advancement to be refunded, within 10 working days after the traveler's return to headquarters. Operational or promotional advancements, as defined in s. 288.35(4), obtained pursuant to this section shall not be commingled with any other state funds.

(5) Any claim submitted under this section is shall not be required to be sworn to before a notary public or other officer authorized to administer oaths, but any claim authorized or required to be made under any provision of this section shall contain a statement that the expenses were actually incurred as necessary travel or entertainment expenses in the performance of official duties of the Office of Film and Entertainment and shall be verified by written declaration that it is true and correct as to every material matter. Any person who willfully makes and subscribes to any claim which he or she does not believe to be true and correct as to every material matter or who willfully aids or assists in, procures, or counsels or advises with respect to, the preparation or presentation of a claim pursuant to this section that is fraudulent or false as to any material matter, whether or not such falsity or fraud is with the knowledge or consent of the person authorized or required to present the claim, commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. Whoever receives \underline{a} an advancement or reimbursement by



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means of a false claim is civilly liable, in the amount of the overpayment, for the reimbursement of the public fund from which the claim was paid.

Section 19. Effective July 1, 2010, section 288.1254, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

(Substantial rewording of section. See

s. 288.1254, F.S., for present text.)

288.1254 Entertainment industry financial incentive program.-

- (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:
- (a) "Certified production" means a qualified production that has tax credits allocated to it by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development based on the production's estimated qualified expenditures, up to the production's maximum certified amount of tax credits, by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development. The term does not include a production if the first date that it incurs production expenditures in this state occurs before the production is certified by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.
- (b) "Digital media project" means a production of interactive entertainment that is produced for distribution in commercial or educational markets. The term includes a video game or production intended for Internet or wireless distribution. The term does not include a production deemed by the Office of Film and Entertainment to contain obscene content as defined in s. 847.001(10).
- (c) "High-impact television series" means a production created to run multiple production seasons and having an



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estimated order of at least seven episodes per season and qualified expenditures of at least \$625,000 per episode.

- (d) "Off-season certified production" means a production, other than a digital media project or an animated production, commercial, music video, or documentary, which films 75 percent or more of its principal photography days from June 1 through November 30.
- (e) "Principal photography" means the filming of major or significant components of the qualified production which involve lead actors.
- (f) "Production" means a theatrical or direct-to-video motion picture; a made-for-television motion picture; visual effects or digital animation sequences produced in conjunction with a motion picture; a commercial; a music video; an industrial or educational film; an infomercial; a documentary film; a television pilot program; a presentation for a television pilot program; a television series, including, but not limited to, a drama, a reality show, a comedy, a soap opera, a telenovela, a game show, or a miniseries production; or a digital media project by the entertainment industry. One season of a television series is considered one production. The term does not include a weather or market program; a sporting event; a sports show; a gala; a production that solicits funds; a home shopping program; a political program; a political documentary; political advertising; a gambling-related project or production; a concert production; or a local, regional, or Internetdistributed-only news show, current-events show, pornographic production, or current-affairs show. A production may be produced on or by film, tape, or otherwise by means of a motion



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picture camera; electronic camera or device; tape device; computer; any combination of the foregoing; or any other means, method, or device now used or later adopted.

- (q) "Production expenditures" means the costs of tangible and intangible property used for, and services performed primarily and customarily in, production, including preproduction and postproduction, but excluding costs for development, marketing, and distribution. The term includes, but is not limited to:
- 1. Wages, salaries, or other compensation paid to legal residents of this state, including amounts paid through payroll service companies, for technical and production crews, directors, producers, and performers.
- 2. Expenditures for sound stages, backlots, production editing, digital effects, sound recordings, sets, and set construction.
- 3. Expenditures for rental equipment, including, but not limited to, cameras and grip or electrical equipment.
- 4. Up to \$300,000 of the costs of newly purchased computer software and hardware unique to the project, including servers, data processing, and visualization technologies, which are located in and used exclusively in the state for the production of digital media.
 - 5. Expenditures for meals, travel, and accommodations.
- (h) "Qualified expenditures" means production expenditures incurred in this state by a qualified production for:
- 1. Goods purchased or leased from, or services, including, but not limited to, insurance costs and bonding, payroll services, and legal fees, which are provided by a vendor or



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supplier in this state which is registered with the Department of State or the Department of Revenue, is doing business in the state, and whose primary employees involved in facilitating the transaction are legal residents of and doing business in this state.

2. Payments to legal residents of this state in the form of salary, wages, or other compensation up to a maximum of \$650,000 per resident unless otherwise specified in subsection (4).

For a qualified production involving an event, such as an awards show, the term does not include expenditures solely associated with the event itself and not directly required by the production. The term does not include expenditures incurred before certification, with the exception of those incurred for a commercial, a music video, or the pickup of additional episodes of a high-impact television series within a single season.

- (i) "Qualified production" means a production in this state meeting the requirements of this section. The term does not include a production:
- 1. In which, for the first 2 years of the incentive program, less than 50 percent, and, thereafter, less than 60 percent, of the positions that make up its production cast and below-the-line production crew, or, in the case of digital media projects, less than 75 percent of such positions, are filled by <u>legal residents of this state</u>, whose residency is demonstrated by a valid Florida driver's license or other state-issued identification confirming residency, or students enrolled fulltime in a film-and-entertainment-related course of study at an institution of higher education in this state; or



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- 2. That is deemed by the Office of Film and Entertainment to contain obscene content as defined in s. 847.001(10).
- (j) "Qualified production company" means a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, or other legal entity engaged in one or more productions in this state.
- (2) CREATION AND PURPOSE OF PROGRAM.—The entertainment industry financial incentive program is created within the Office of Film and Entertainment. The purpose of this program is to encourage the use of this state as a site for filming, for the digital production of films, and to develop and sustain the workforce and infrastructure for film, digital media, and entertainment production.
 - (3) APPLICATION PROCEDURE; APPROVAL PROCESS.-
- (a) Program application.—A qualified production company producing a qualified production in this state may submit a program application to the Office of Film and Entertainment for the purpose of determining qualification for an award of tax credits authorized by this section no earlier than 6 months before the first date that production expenditures are incurred in this state. The applicant shall provide the Office of Film and Entertainment with information required to determine whether the production is a qualified production and to determine the qualified expenditures and other information necessary for the office to determine eligibility for the tax credit.
- (b) Required documentation.—The Office of Film and Entertainment shall develop an application form for qualifying an applicant as a qualified production. The form must include, but need not be limited to, production-related information concerning employment of residents in this state, a detailed



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budget of planned qualified expenditures, and the applicant's signed affirmation that the information on the form has been verified and is correct. The Office of Film and Entertainment and local film commissions shall distribute the form.

- (c) Application process. The Office of Film and Entertainment shall establish a process by which an application is accepted and reviewed and by which tax credit eligibility and the award amount are determined. The Office of Film and Entertainment may request assistance from a duly appointed local film commission in determining compliance with this section.
- (d) Certification.—The Office of Film and Entertainment shall review the application within 15 business days after receipt. Upon its determination that the application contains all the information required by this subsection and meets the criteria set out in this section, the Office of Film and Entertainment shall qualify the applicant and recommend to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development that the applicant be certified for the maximum tax credit award amount. Within 5 business days after receipt of the recommendation, the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall reject the recommendation or certify the maximum recommended tax credit award, if any, to the applicant and to the executive director of the Department of Revenue.
- (e) Grounds for denial.—The Office of Film and Entertainment shall deny an application if it determines that the application is incomplete or the production or application does not meet the requirements of this section.
 - (f) Verification of actual qualified expenditures .-
 - 1. The Office of Film and Entertainment shall develop a



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process to verify the actual qualified expenditures of a certified production. The process must require:

- a. A certified production to submit, in a timely manner after principal photography, digital production, or the digital media project ends and after making all of its qualified expenditures, data substantiating each qualified expenditure to an independent certified public accountant licensed in this state;
- b. Such accountant to conduct a compliance audit, at the certified production's expense, to substantiate each qualified expenditure and submit the results as a report, along with the required substantiating data, to the Office of Film and Entertainment; and
- c. The Office of Film and Entertainment to review the accountant's submittal and report to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development the final verified amount of actual qualified expenditures made by the certified production.
- 2. The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall determine and approve the final tax credit award amount to each certified applicant based on the final verified amount of actual qualified expenditures and shall notify the executive director of the Department of Revenue in writing that the certified production has met the requirements of the incentive program and of the final amount of the tax credit award. The final tax credit award amount may not exceed the maximum tax credit award amount certified under paragraph (d).
- (q) Promoting Florida. The Office of Film and Entertainment shall ensure that, as a condition of receiving a tax credit under this section, marketing materials promoting this state as



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a tourist destination or film and entertainment production destination are included, when appropriate, at no cost to the state, which must, at a minimum, include placement of a "Filmed in Florida" or "Produced in Florida" logo in the opening credits and end credits and on all packaging material and hard media, unless prohibited by licensing or other contractual obligations. The size and placement of such logo shall be commensurate to other logos used. If no logos are used, the statement "Filmed in Florida using Florida's Entertainment Industry Financial Incentive," or a similar statement approved by the Office of Film and Entertainment, shall be used. The Office of Film and Entertainment shall provide a logo and supply it for the purposes specified in this paragraph.

- (4) TAX CREDIT ELIGIBILITY; TAX CREDIT AWARDS; QUEUES; ELECTION AND DISTRIBUTION; CARRYFORWARD; CONSOLIDATED RETURNS; PARTNERSHIP AND NONCORPORATE DISTRIBUTIONS; MERGERS AND ACOUISITIONS.-
- (a) Priority for tax credit award.—The priority of a qualified production for tax credit awards must be determined on a first-come, first-served basis within its appropriate queue. Each qualified production must be placed into the appropriate queue and is subject to the requirements of that queue.
 - (b) Tax credit eligibility.-
- 1. General production queue.-Ninety-four percent of tax credits authorized in any state fiscal year must be dedicated to the general production queue. The general production queue consists of all qualified productions other than those eliqible for the commercial and music video queue or the independent production queue. A qualified production that demonstrates a



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minimum of \$625,000 in qualified expenditures is eligible for tax credits equal to 20 percent of its actual qualified expenditures, up to a maximum of \$8 million. A qualified production that incurs qualified expenditures during multiple state fiscal years may combine those expenditures to satisfy the \$625,000 minimum threshold.

- a. An off-season certified production that is a feature film, independent film, or television series or pilot is eligible for an additional 5-percent tax credit on actual qualified expenditures. An off-season certified production that does not complete 75 percent of principal photography due to a disruption caused by a hurricane or tropical storm may not be disqualified from eligibility for the additional 5-percent credit as a result of the disruption.
- b. A qualified high-impact television series shall be allowed first position in this queue for tax credit awards not vet certified.
- 2. Commercial and music video queue.—Three percent of tax credits authorized in any state fiscal year must be dedicated to the commercial and music video queue. A qualified production company that produces national or regional commercials or music videos may be eligible for a tax credit award if it demonstrates a minimum of \$100,000 in qualified expenditures per national or regional commercial or music video and exceeds a combined threshold of \$500,000 after combining actual qualified expenditures from qualified commercials and music videos during a single state fiscal year. After a qualified production company that produces commercials, music videos, or both reaches the threshold of \$500,000, it is eligible to apply for certification



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for a tax credit award. The maximum credit award shall be equal to 20 percent of its actual qualified expenditures up to a maximum of \$500,000. If there is a surplus at the end of a fiscal year after the Office of Film and Entertainment certifies and determines the tax credits for all qualified commercial and video projects, such surplus tax credits shall be carried forward to the following fiscal year and be available to any eligible qualified productions under the general production queue.

- 3. Independent production queue.—Three percent of tax credits authorized in any state fiscal year must be dedicated to the independent production queue. An independent Florida film or digital media project that meets the criteria of this subparagraph and demonstrates a minimum of \$100,000, but not more than \$625,000, in total qualified expenditures is eligible for tax credits equal to 20 percent of its actual qualified expenditures. To qualify for this tax credit, a qualified production must:
- a. Be planned as a feature film or documentary of at least 70 minutes in length or be a digital media project.
- b. Employ legal residents of this state in at least two of the following key positions: writer, director, producer, star, or composer; or, in the case of a digital media project, employ <u>legal residents of this state in at</u> least two positions functionally equivalent to the positions of writer, director, producer, star, or composer.
- 4. Family-friendly productions.—A certified production determined by the Commissioner of Film and Entertainment, with the advice of the Florida Film and Entertainment Advisory



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Council, to be family-friendly, based on the review of the script and the review of the final release version, is eligible for an additional tax credit equal to 5 percent of its actual qualified expenditures. Family-friendly productions are those that have cross-generational appeal; would be considered suitable for viewing by children age 5 or older; are appropriate in theme, content, and language for a broad family audience; embody a responsible resolution of issues; and do not exhibit or imply any act of smoking, sex, nudity, gratuitous violence, or vulgar or profane language.

- (c) Withdrawal of tax credit eligibility.—A qualified or certified production must continue on a reasonable schedule, which means beginning principal photography, or, in the case of a digital media project, the start date of the production, in this state no more than 45 calendar days before or after the date provided in the production's program application. The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall withdraw the eligibility of a qualified or certified production that does not continue on a reasonable schedule.
 - (d) Election and distribution of tax credits.-
- 1. A certified production company receiving a tax credit award under this section shall, at the time the credit is awarded by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development after production is completed and all requirements to receive a credit award have been met, make an irrevocable election to apply the credit against taxes due under chapter 220, against taxes collected or accrued under chapter 212, except that the credit authorized under this section may not be applied against discretionary sales surtaxes authorized under s.



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212.055, or against a stated combination of the two taxes. The election is binding upon any distributee, successor, transferee, or purchaser. The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall notify the Department of Revenue of any election made pursuant to this paragraph.

- 2. For the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2010, and ending June 30, 2015, a qualified production company is eligible for tax credits against its sales and use tax liabilities and corporate income tax liabilities as provided in this section. However, tax credits awarded under this section may not be claimed against sales and use tax liabilities or corporate income tax liabilities for any tax period beginning before July 1, 2011, regardless of when the credits are applied for or awarded.
- (e) Tax credit carryforward.—If the certified production company cannot use the entire tax credit in the taxable year or reporting period in which the credit is awarded, any excess amount may be carried forward to a succeeding taxable year or reporting period. A tax credit applied against taxes imposed under chapter 212 may be carried forward for a maximum of 5 years after the date the credit is awarded. A tax credit applied against taxes imposed under chapter 220 may be carried forward for a maximum of 5 years after the date the credit is awarded, after which the credit expires and may not be used.
- (f) Consolidated returns.—A certified production company that files a Florida consolidated return as a member of an affiliated group under s. 220.131(1) may be allowed the credit on a consolidated return basis up to the amount of the tax imposed upon the consolidated group under chapter 220.



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- (q) Partnership and noncorporate distributions.—A qualified production company that is not a corporation as defined in s. 220.03 may elect to distribute tax credits awarded under this section to its partners or members in proportion to their respective distributive income or loss in the taxable fiscal year in which the tax credits were awarded.
- (h) Mergers or acquisitions.—Tax credits available under this section to a certified production company may succeed to a surviving or acquiring entity subject to the same conditions and limitations as described in this section; however, they may not be transferred again by the surviving or acquiring entity.
 - (5) TRANSFER OF TAX CREDITS.-
- (a) Authorization. Upon application to the Office of Film and Entertainment and approval by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, a certified production company, or a partner or member that has received a distribution under paragraph (4)(g), may elect to transfer, in whole or in part, any unused credit amount granted under this section. An election to transfer any unused tax credit amount under chapter 212 or chapter 220 must be made no later than 5 years after the date the credit is awarded, after which period the credit expires and may not be used. The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall notify the Department of Revenue of the election and transfer.
- (b) Number of transfers permitted.—A certified production company that elects to apply a credit amount against taxes remitted under chapter 212 is permitted a one-time transfer of unused credits to one transferee. The credit against sales tax is available to the transferee only through a refund of



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previously paid taxes pursuant to s. 212.08(5)(g). A certified production company that elects to apply a credit amount against taxes due under chapter 220 is permitted a one-time transfer of unused credits to no more than four transferees, and such transfers must occur in the same taxable year.

- (c) Transferee rights and limitations.—The transferee is subject to the same rights and limitations as the certified production company awarded the tax credit, except that the transferee may not sell or otherwise transfer the tax credit.
- (d) Rulemaking.—The Department of Revenue may adopt rules to administer this subsection, as provided in subsection (7).
 - (6) ANNUAL ALLOCATION OF TAX CREDITS.-
- (a) The aggregate amount of the tax credits that may be certified pursuant to paragraph (3)(d) may not exceed \$20 million per fiscal year.
- (b) Any portion of the maximum amount of tax credits established per fiscal year in paragraph (a) that is not certified as of the end of a fiscal year shall be carried forward and made available for certification during the following two fiscal years in addition to the amounts available for certification under paragraph (a) for those fiscal years.
- (c) Upon approval of the final tax credit award amount pursuant to subparagraph (3)(f)2., an amount equal to the difference between the maximum tax credit award amount previously certified under paragraph (3)(d) and the approved final tax credit award amount shall immediately be available for recertification during the current and following fiscal years in addition to the amounts available for certification under paragraph (a) for those fiscal years. Credit amounts are



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available for recertification only once under this paragraph. (d) If, during a fiscal year, the total amount of credits applied for, pursuant to paragraph (3)(a), exceeds the amount of credits available for certification in that fiscal year, such excess shall be treated as having been applied for on the first day of the next fiscal year in which credits remain available for certification.

- (7) RULES, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES.—
- (a) The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 and develop policies and procedures to implement and administer this section, including, but not limited to, rules specifying requirements for the application and approval process, records required for substantiation for tax credits, procedures for making the election in paragraph (4)(d), the manner and form of documentation required to claim tax credits awarded or transferred under this section, and marketing requirements for tax credit recipients.
- (b) The Department of Revenue may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this section, including rules governing the examination and audit procedures required to administer this section and the manner and form of documentation required to claim tax credits awarded or transferred under this section.
- (8) AUDIT AUTHORITY; REVOCATION AND FORFEITURE OF TAX CREDITS; FRAUDULENT CLAIMS.-
- (a) Audit authority.—The Department of Revenue may conduct examinations and audits as provided in s. 213.34 to verify that tax credits under this section are received, transferred, and



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applied according to the requirements of this section. If the Department of Revenue determines that tax credits are not received, transferred, or applied as required by this section, it may, in addition to the remedies provided in this subsection, pursue recovery of such funds pursuant to the laws and rules governing the assessment of taxes.

(b) Revocation of tax credits.—The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development may revoke or modify any written decision qualifying, certifying, or otherwise granting eligibility for tax credits under this section if it is discovered that the tax credit applicant 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 of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall immediately notify the Department of Revenue of any revoked or modified orders affecting previously granted tax credits. Additionally, the applicant must notify the Department of Revenue of any change in its tax credit claimed.

(c) Forfeiture of tax credits.—A determination by the Department of Revenue, as a result of an audit or examination by the Department of Revenue or from information received from the Office of Film and Entertainment, that an applicant received tax credits pursuant to this section to which the applicant was not entitled is grounds for forfeiture of previously claimed and received tax credits. The applicant is responsible for returning forfeited tax credits to the Department of Revenue, and such funds shall be paid into the General Revenue Fund of the state. Tax credits purchased in good faith are not subject to



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forfeiture unless the transferee submitted fraudulent information in the purchase or failed to meet the requirements in subsection (5).

- (d) Fraudulent claims.—Any applicant that submits fraudulent information under this section is liable for reimbursement of the reasonable costs and fees associated with the review, processing, investigation, and prosecution of the fraudulent claim. An applicant that obtains a credit payment under this section through a claim that is fraudulent is liable for reimbursement of the credit amount plus a penalty in an amount double the credit amount. The penalty is in addition to any criminal penalty to which the applicant is liable for the same acts. The applicant is also liable for costs and fees incurred by the state in investigating and prosecuting the fraudulent claim.
- (9) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each October 1, the Office of Film and Entertainment shall provide an annual report for the previous fiscal year to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives which outlines the return on investment and economic benefits to the state.
- (10) REPEAL.—This section is repealed July 1, 2015, except that the tax credit carryforward provided in this section shall continue to be valid for the period specified.

Section 20. Effective July 1, 2010, subsection (5) of section 288.1258, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

288.1258 Entertainment industry qualified production companies; application procedure; categories; duties of the Department of Revenue; records and reports.-

(5) RELATIONSHIP OF TAX EXEMPTIONS AND INCENTIVES TO



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INDUSTRY GROWTH; REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE.—The Office of Film and Entertainment shall keep annual records from the information provided on taxpayer applications for tax exemption certificates beginning January 1, 2001. These records shall reflect a ratio percentage comparison of the annual amount of funds exempted sales and use tax exemptions under this section and incentives awarded pursuant to s. 288.1284 to the estimated amount of funds expended by certified productions, including productions that received incentives pursuant to s. 288.1254 in relation to entertainment industry products. These records also shall reflect a separate ratio of the annual amount of sales and use tax exemptions under this section, plus the incentives awarded pursuant to s. 288.1254 to the estimated amount of funds expended by certified productions. In addition, the office shall maintain data showing annual growth in Florida-based entertainment industry companies and entertainment industry employment and wages. The Office of Film and Entertainment shall report this information to the Legislature by no later than December 1 of each year.

Section 21. Effective July 1, 2010, section 288.9552, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

288.9552 Florida Research Commercialization Matching Grant Program.-

- (1) PURPOSE; GOALS AND OBJECTIVES; CREATION OF PROGRAM.-
- (a) The purpose of the Florida Research Commercialization Matching Grant Program is to increase the amount of federal funding to this state which will produce the kind of distinctive technologies that drive today's knowledge-based economy. By leveraging federal, state, and private-sector resources, the



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Legislature intends that program accelerate the innovation process and more efficiently transform research results into products in the marketplace.

- (b) The matching grant program is specifically intended to be a catalyst for small or startup companies that can take advantage of federal and state partnerships in order to accelerate their growth and market penetration by helping them to overcome the funding gap faced by many small companies that are based in this state. Specific goals and objectives of the program include:
- 1. Increasing the amount of federal research moneys received by small businesses in this state through awards from the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program of the Office of Technology of the United States Small Business Administration.
- 2. Accelerating the entry of new technology-based products into the marketplace.
- 3. Producing additional technology-based jobs for the state.
- 4. Providing leveraged resources to increase the effectiveness and success of applicants' projects.
 - 5. Speeding commercialization of promising technologies.
- 6. Encouraging the establishment and growth of highquality, advanced technology firms in the state.
- 7. Accelerating the rate of investment and enhancing the state's investment infrastructure.
- (c) The Florida Research Commercialization Matching Grant Program is created for the purpose of accomplishing the goals and objectives specified in this section.



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- (2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Florida Institute for the Commercialization of Public Research shall develop programmatic policy, ensure statewide applicability of the matching grant program, establish criteria for grant awards, approve grant awards, and review program progress and results.
 - (3) ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES.—A qualified applicant must:
- (a) Be a business entity that is registered with the Secretary of State to operate in this state. The qualified applicant must also have its primary office and a majority of its employees domiciled in Florida, and its principal research activities must be conducted in the state.
- (b) Be a small company for which a state matching grant is necessary for project development and implementation.
- (c) Have received a Phase I award under the federal Small Business Innovation Research Program or Small Business Technology Transfer Program and have received an invitation to submit an application for a Phase II award. If a Phase II award has already been issued, the end date of the federal award must be identified and justification must be provided as to how these additional funds will enhance, not supplant, the existing award.
- (d) Use federal, local, and private resources to the maximum extent possible. Total project funding shall demonstrate that:
- 1. Private-sector investments offset the total cost of the project; and
- 2. At least 75 percent of the project's total funding is from sources other than the state grant.
- (e) Conduct the project funded by the matching grant program in this state.



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- (4) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR. Subject to appropriations, the Florida Institute for the Commercialization of Public Research shall serve as program administrator. The institute may contract for the performance of a technology review and related functions with a third party. Not more than 10 percent of a legislative appropriation may be used for administrative purposes. The responsibilities of the program administrator include, but are not limited to:
- (a) Coordinating and supporting the grant review, approval, and contracting activities;
- (b) Administering the grant-selection process, including, but not limited to, issuing open-call requests for grant applications and receiving, reviewing, and processing grant applications;
- (c) Serving as grant contract manager for recipients of a matching grant;
 - (d) Reporting program progress and results; and
- (e) Establishing a mechanism by which information regarding grant projects may be made available to facilitate additional investment by individual investors, investment for early startup costs, or venture capital investment.
- (5) APPLICATION REVIEW.—An application for a matching grant award must be reviewed and approved or denied within 45 days after receipt.
- (6) FIDUCIARY. The institute shall award a grant to a qualified applicant if:
- (a) The qualified applicant demonstrates that it has obtained a Phase II award under the federal Small Business Innovation Research Program or Small Business Technology



Transfer Program; and

(b) The qualified applicant executes a performance contract with the institute.

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The institute shall release the grant to a qualified applicant upon completion of all contract requirements.

- (7) AWARDS.—The matching grant program may make one-time awards of up to \$250,000 per project to a qualified applicant.
 - (8) REPORTING.—Beginning December 1, 2011, and annually thereafter, the institute shall transmit a report relating to the grants awarded under the program to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the previous fiscal year.

Section 22. Effective July 1, 2010, section 290.00677, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

290.00677 Rural enterprise zones; special qualifications.-

- (1) Notwithstanding the enterprise zone residency requirements set out in s. 212.096(1)(c), eligible businesses as defined by s. 212.096(1)(a), located in rural enterprise zones as defined by s. 290.004, may receive the basic minimum credit provided under s. 212.096 for creating a new job and hiring a person residing within the jurisdiction of a rural community county, as defined by <u>s. 288.106(2)</u> s. 288.106(1)(r). All other provisions of s. 212.096, including, but not limited to, those relating to the award of enhanced credits, apply to such businesses.
- (2) Notwithstanding the enterprise zone residency requirements set out in s. 220.03(1)(q), businesses as defined by s. 220.03(1)(c), located in rural enterprise zones as defined



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in s. 290.004, may receive the basic minimum credit provided under s. 220.181 for creating a new job and hiring a person residing within the jurisdiction of a rural community county, as defined by s. 288.106(2) s. 288.106(1) (r). All other provisions of s. 220.181, including, but not limited to, those relating to the award of enhanced credits apply to such businesses.

Section 23. Effective July 1, 2010, section 373.4141, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

373.4141 Permits; processing.-

- (1) The Legislature finds that it is in the best interests of the state to expedite the processing of permits under this part. Within 30 days after receipt of an application for a permit under this part, the department or the water management district shall review the application and shall request submittal of all additional information the department or the water management district is permitted by law to require. If the applicant believes any request for additional information is not authorized by law or rule, the applicant may request a hearing pursuant to s. 120.57. Within 30 days after receipt of such additional information, the department or water management district shall review it and may request only that information needed to clarify such additional information or to answer new questions raised by or directly related to such additional information. If the applicant believes the request of the department or water management district for such additional information is not authorized by law or rule, the department or water management district, at the applicant's request, shall proceed to process the permit application.
 - (2) (a) An application for a permit under this part must



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shall be approved or denied within 30 90 days after receipt of the original application, the last item of timely requested additional material, or the applicant's written request to begin processing the permit application. An application for a permit that is not approved within 30 days is deemed approved by default.

- (b) A permit required by local government for an activity that also requires a state permit under this part, shall be approved or denied within 30 days after receipt of the original application. An application for a local permit that is not approved within 30 days is deemed approved by default.
- (3) Processing of applications for permits for affordable housing projects shall be expedited to a greater degree than other projects.

Section 24. Effective July 1, 2010, section 373.441, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 373.441 Role of counties, municipalities, and local pollution control programs in permit processing; delegation.-
- (1) The department in consultation with the water management districts shall, by December 1, 1994, adopt rules to guide the participation of counties, municipalities, and local pollution control programs in an efficient, streamlined permitting system. Such rules shall seek to increase governmental efficiency, shall maintain environmental standards, and shall include consideration of the following:
- (a) Provisions under which the environmental resource permit program shall be delegated, upon approval of the department and the appropriate water management districts, to a county, municipality, or local pollution control program which



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has the financial, technical, and administrative capabilities and desire to implement and enforce the program;

- (b) Provisions under which a locally delegated permit program may have stricter environmental standards than state standards;
- (c) Provisions for identifying and reconciling any duplicative permitting by January 1, 1995;
- (d) Provisions for timely and cost-efficient notification by the reviewing agency of permit applications, and permit requirements, to counties, municipalities, local pollution control programs, the department, or water management districts, as appropriate;
- (e) Provisions for ensuring the consistency of permit applications with local comprehensive plans;
- (f) Provisions for the partial delegation of the environmental resource permit program to counties, municipalities, or local pollution control programs, and standards and criteria to be employed in the implementation of such delegation by counties, municipalities, and local pollution control programs;
- (g) Special provisions under which the environmental resource permit program may be delegated to counties having with populations of 75,000 or fewer less, or municipalities with, or local pollution control programs serving, populations of 50,000 or <u>fewer</u> less; and
- (h) Provisions for the applicability of chapter 120 to local government programs when the environmental resource permit program is delegated to counties, municipalities, or local pollution control programs; and



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- (i) Provisions for a local government to petition the Governor and Cabinet for the review of a request for a delegation of authority which has not been approved or denied within 1 year after being initiated.
- (2) Any denial by the department of a local government's request for a delegation of authority must provide specific detail of those statutory or rule provisions that were not satisfied. Such detail shall also include specific actions that can be taken in order to allow for the delegation of authority. A local government, upon being denied a request for a delegation of authority, may petition the Governor and Cabinet for a review of the request. The Governor and Cabinet may reverse the decision of the department and may provide any necessary conditions to allow the delegation of authority to occur.
- (3) A county having a population of more than 75,000 or more or a municipality having or local pollution control programs serving populations of more than 50,000 must apply for delegation of authority on or before June 1, 2011. A county, municipality, or local pollution control programs that fails to apply for delegation of authority may not require permits that in part or in full are substantially similar to the requirements needed to obtain an environmental resource permit.
- (4) (2) Nothing in this section affects or modifies land development regulations adopted by a local government to implement its comprehensive plan pursuant to chapter 163.
- (5) The department shall review environmental resource permit applications for electrical distribution and transmission lines and other facilities related to the production, transmission, and distribution of electricity which are not



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certified under ss. 403.52-403.5365, the Florida Electric Transmission Line Siting Act, regulated under this part.

Section 25. Effective July 1, 2010, subsection (41) is added to section 403.061, Florida Statutes, to read:

403.061 Department; powers and duties.—The department shall have the power and the duty to control and prohibit pollution of air and water in accordance with the law and rules adopted and promulgated by it and, for this purpose, to:

(41) Expand the use of online self-certification for appropriate exemptions and general permits issued by the department or the water management districts if such expansion is economically feasible. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, a local government may not specify the method or form for documenting that a project qualifies for an exemption or meets the requirements for a permit under chapter 161, chapter 253, chapter 373, or this chapter. This preclusion of local government authority extends to Internet-based department programs that provide for self-certification.

The department shall implement such programs in conjunction with its other powers and duties and shall place special emphasis on reducing and eliminating contamination that presents a threat to humans, animals or plants, or to the environment.

Section 26. Effective July 1, 2010, subsection (12) is added to section 403.814, Florida Statutes, to read:

403.814 General permits; delegation.

(12) A general permit is granted for the construction, alteration, and maintenance of a surface water management system serving a total project area of up to 40 acres. The construction



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of such a system may proceed without any agency action by the department or water management district if:

- (a) The surface water management system design plans and calculations are signed and sealed by a professional engineer licensed under chapter 471;
- (b) The system will not be located in surface waters or wetlands, as delineated in s. 373.421(1);
- (c) The system will not cause adverse water quantity impacts to receiving waters and adjacent lands, as provided by department or district rule;
- (d) The system will not cause adverse flooding to onsite or off-site property, as provided by department or district rule;
- (e) The system will not cause adverse impacts to existing surface water storage and conveyance capabilities, as provided by department or district rule;
- (f) The system will not adversely affect the quality of receiving waters such that the standards applicable to waters as defined in s. 403.031(13), including any special standards for Outstanding Florida Waters, will be violated, as provided by department or district rule;
- (q) The system will not adversely impact the maintenance of surface or ground water levels or surface water flows established pursuant to s. 373.042, as provided by department or district rule;
- (h) The system will not cause adverse impacts to a work of the district established pursuant to s. 373.086, as provided by department or district rule;
- (i) The system will not be part of a larger plan of development or sale;

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576-02355F-10 (j) The system will comply with all applicable NPDES requirements, as implemented by department or district rule; and (k) Within 10 days after the commencement of construction of the surface water management system, the professional engineer who is responsible for the design provides written notice of the commencement of construction to the department or district. Section 27. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall review and evaluate the Florida Enterprise Zone Program in ss. 290.001-290.014, Florida Statutes, over the 2010 interim, and submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 11, 2011. The review shall include, but need not be limited to: how the program has changed over the years since it was created; whether the program is effectively and efficiently

addressing the issues that precipitated its creation; the direct and indirect costs of the program to the state and local governments that participate; whether the program's tax incentives are effectively designed to benefit economically distressed or high-poverty areas and their residents and business owners; and whether the application, review, and approval processes are transparent, effective, and efficient.

Section 28. Funds in Specific Appropriation 2649 of chapter 2008-152, Laws of Florida, for Space and Aerospace Infrastructure to make improvements to Launch Complex 36 on the 45th Space Wing property may also be used for improvements to other launch complexes and space transportation facilities in order to attract new space vehicle testing and launch businesses



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to the state; to address intermodal requirements and impacts of the launch ranges, spaceports, and other space transportation facilities; and to assist in the development of joint-use facilities and technology that support aviation and aerospace operations, including high-altitude and suborbital flights and range technology development.

Section 29. Effective July 1, 2010, the following appropriations for the 2010-2011 state fiscal year are authorized:

- (1) To the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development within the Office of the Governor, the sum of \$3,839,943 in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund to fund the operations of Space Florida.
- (2) To the Space Business Investment and Financial Services Trust Fund, the sum of \$10 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund. Notwithstanding s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351, any remaining funds from this appropriation as of June 30, 2011, shall remain in the trust fund and be available for carrying out the purpose of the trust fund.
- (3) To the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development within the Office of the Governor, the sum of \$3 million in nonrecurring general revenue for the exclusive purpose of providing targeted-business-development support services and business recruitment through Space Florida. Activities and services may include securing federal programs and processes, identifying and securing new contract and grant opportunities for Florida businesses, assisting businesses in establishing operations, securing necessary qualifications and



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approvals, obtaining capital, and engaging company and federal officials to site new program elements including research, design, testing, and manufacturing work packages in Florida. Emphasis will be placed on assisting small- to medium-sized businesses on a statewide basis. These funds may not be used for administrative or operational costs of Space Florida.

(4) To the Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development within the Office of the Governor, the sum of \$3.2 million in nonrecurring general revenue exclusively for Space Florida to retrain workers as the result of the retirement of the Space Shuttle Program.

Section 30. (1) The Legislature finds that it is in the best interests of the state to identify surplus properties and dispose of properties owned by the state which are unnecessary to achieving the state's responsibilities, which may cost more to maintain than the revenue generated, and which serve no public purpose.

(2) (a) The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund shall direct each agency that manages real property owned by the state to compile a list of all parcels or facilities owned by the state which are under the management of that agency. The list need not include real property managed for conservation purposes. The list also must include information on the total number of acres of property or number of facilities, as appropriate, which are managed by the particular agency; a brief history, description, and original purchase price or construction cost of each property listed; the current annual management costs of each property listed; and the current revenue generated by each property listed. The list must also



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identify surplus properties that have the potential for sale or exchange.

- (b) Any agency whose list identifies fewer than 10 percent of the state-owned acreage or facilities under its management shall provide a detailed and specific written explanation as to why so few properties are identified as surplus.
- (c) The lists must be submitted to the Board of Trustees and the Legislative Budget Commission by August 1, 2010. The board of trustees, in consultation with the Legislative Budget Commission, shall evaluate the lists and determine by November 15, 2010, which items of real property may be declared surplus and sold or exchanged for other compensation. The Department of Management Services shall investigate the marketability of the real property identified by the board of trustees and the Legislative Budget Commission, and shall present recommendations to them by February 1, 2011, on how to proceed with the disposal of the real property.
- (d) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the proceeds of the sale of real property under this section shall be deposited in the General Revenue Fund to be used, to the extent practical, for activities supporting economic development.

Section 31. Before the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall conduct a review and evaluation of the effectiveness and viability of the Florida Research Commercialization Matching Grant Program. The office shall specifically evaluate the use of federal grants and private investment and the creation of new businesses and jobs. The



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office shall also recommend outcome measures for further evaluation of the program. The office shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 15, 2013.

Section 32. Notwithstanding any final declaration by a court of this state that chapter 2009-96, Laws of Florida, or any portion of such law is invalid, the following actions shall, if taken prior to such final judicial declaration of invalidity, remain valid and continue in effect:

- (1) Any exemption granted for any project for which an application for development approval has been approved or filed pursuant to s. 380.06, Florida Statutes, or for which a complete development application or rescission request has been approved or is pending and the application or rescission process is continuing in good faith, within a development that is located within an area that qualifies for an exemption under s. 380.06, Florida Statutes, as amended by chapter 2009-96, Laws of Florida.
- (2) Any 2-year extension authorized pursuant to section 14 of chapter 2009-96, Laws of Florida.
- (3) Any amendment to a local comprehensive plan adopted pursuant to s. 163.3184, Florida Statutes, as amended by chapter 2009-96, Laws of Florida, and legally in effect to authorize and implement a transportation concurrency exception area pursuant to s. 163.3180, Florida Statutes, as amended by chapter 2009-96, Laws of Florida.
- Section 33. (1) Except as provided in subsection (4), a development order issued by a local government, building permit,



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permit issued by the Department of Environmental Protection, or permit issued by a water management district pursuant to part IV of chapter 373, Florida Statutes, which has an expiration date from September 1, 2008, through January 1, 2012, is extended and renewed for a period of 2 years following its previously scheduled date of expiration. This 2-year extension also applies to build-out dates including any extension of build-out date that was granted previously under s. 380.06(19)(c), Florida Statutes. This section does not prohibit conversion from the construction phase to the operation phase upon completion of construction. This extension is in addition to a 2-year permit extension under s. 14 of chapter 2009-96, Laws of Florida.

- (2) The commencement and completion dates for any required mitigation associated with a phased construction project are extended such that mitigation takes place in the same timeframe relative to the phase as originally permitted.
- (3) The holder of a valid permit or other authorization that is eliqible for the 2-year extension must notify the authorizing agency in writing by December 31, 2010, identifying the specific authorization for which the holder intends to use the extension and the anticipated timeframe for acting on the authorization.
- (4) The extension provided for in subsection (1) does not apply to:
- (a) A permit or other authorization under any programmatic or regional general permit issued by the Army Corps of Engineers.
- (b) A permit or other authorization held by an owner or operator determined to be in significant noncompliance with the



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conditions of the permit or authorization as established through the issuance of a warning letter or notice of violation, the initiation of formal enforcement, or other equivalent action by the authorizing agency.

- (c) A permit or other authorization, if granted an extension that would delay or prevent compliance with a court order.
- (5) Permits extended under this section shall continue to be governed by rules in effect at the time the permit was issued, except if it can be demonstrated that the rules in effect at the time the permit was issued would create an immediate threat to public safety or health. This provision applies to any modification of the plans, terms, and conditions of the permit which lessens the environmental impact, except that any such modification does not extend the time limit beyond 2 additional years.
- (6) This section does not impair the authority of a county or municipality to require the owner of a property that has notified the county or municipality of the owner's intention to receive the extension of time granted by this section to maintain and secure the property in a safe and sanitary condition in compliance with applicable laws and ordinances.

Section 34. Section 47 of chapter 2009-82, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

Section 47. In order to implement Specific Appropriation 1570 of the 2009-2010 General Appropriations Act:

(1) The intent of the Legislature is to ensure that residents of the state derive the maximum possible economic benefit from the federal first-time homebuyer tax credit created



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through The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 by providing subordinate down payment assistance loans to firsttime homebuyers for owner-occupied primary residences which can be repaid by the income tax refund the homebuyer is entitled to under the First Time Homebuyer Credit. The state program shall be called the "Florida Homebuyer Opportunity Program."

- (2) The Florida Housing Finance Corporation shall administer the Florida Homebuyer Opportunity Program to optimize eligibility for conventional, VA, USDA, FHA, and other loan programs through the State Housing Initiatives Partnership program in accordance with ss. 420.907-420.9079, Florida Statutes, and the provisions of this section.
- (3) Prior to December 1, 2009, or any later date established by the Internal Revenue Service for such purchases, counties and eligible municipalities receiving funds shall expend the funds appropriated under Specific Appropriation 1570A only to provide subordinate loans to prospective first-time homebuyers under the Florida Homebuyer Opportunity Program pursuant to this section, except that up to 10 percent of such funds may be used to cover administrative expenses of the counties and eligible municipalities to implement the Florida Homebuyer Opportunity Program, and not more than .25 percent may be used to compensate the Florida Housing Finance Corporation for the expenses associated with compliance monitoring. The funds appropriated under Specific Appropriation 1570A may not be used for any other program currently existing under ss. 420.907-420.9079, Florida Statutes. Thereafter, the funds shall be expended in accordance with ss. 420.907-420.9079, Florida Statutes.



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- (4) Notwithstanding s. 420.9075, Florida Statutes, for purposes of the Florida Homebuyer Opportunity Program, the following exceptions shall apply:
- (a) The maximum income limit shall be an adjusted gross income of \$75,000 for single taxpayer households or \$150,000 for joint-filing taxpayer households, which is equal to that permitted by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009;
- (b) There is no requirement to reserve 30 percent of the funds for awards to very-low-income persons or 30 percent of the funds for awards to low-income persons;
- (c) There is no requirement to expend 75 percent of funds for construction, rehabilitation, or emergency repair; and
- (d) The principal balance of the loans provided may not exceed 10 percent of the purchase price or \$8,000, whichever is less.
- (5) Funds shall be expended under a newly created strategy in the local housing assistance plan to implement the Florida Homebuyer Opportunity Program.
- (6) The homebuyer shall be expected to use their federal income tax refund to fully repay the loan. If the county or eligible municipality receives repayment from the homebuyer within 18 months after the closing date of the loan, the county or eligible municipality shall waive all interest charges. A homebuyer who fails to fully repay the loan within the earlier of 18 months or 10 days after the receipt of their federal income tax refund, shall be subject to repayment terms provided in the local housing assistance plan, including penalties for not using his or her refund for repayment. Penalties may not exceed 10 percent of the loan amount and shall be included in



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the loan agreement with the homebuyer.

- (7) All funds repaid to a county or eligible municipality shall be considered "program income" as defined in s. 420.9071(24), Florida Statutes.
- (8) In order to maximize the effect of the funding, the counties and eligible municipalities are encouraged to work with private lenders to provide additional funds to support the initiative. However, in all instances, the counties and eligible municipalities shall make and hold the subordinate loan.
 - (9) This section expires July 1, 2011 2010.

Section 35. The sum of \$10 million is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Florida Institute for the Commercialization of Public Research for the 2010-2011 fiscal year to fund the Phase I Florida Research Commercialization Matching Grants authorized in s. 288.9552, Florida Statutes.

Section 36. Subject to an appropriation by the Legislature, funds shall be made available to the Board of Governors of the State University System from the General Revenue Fund solely to provide early-stage seed-capital funding to proposals applying for the State University Research Commercialization Assistance Grant Program created by s. 2 of chapter 2007-189, Laws of Florida. Funds must be disbursed by the Board of Governors pursuant to grant agreements and contracts by the Florida Technology, Research, and Scholarship Board.

Section 37. The Legislature finds that this act fulfills an important state interest.

Section 38. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of



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this act which	<u>can be given</u>	effect without t	the invalid	provision
or application,	and to this	end the provision	ons of this	act are
severable.				

Section 39. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.