Q3, F1 6lr0169 CF 6lr0145

By: The Speaker (By Request - Administration) and Delegates Adams, Afzali, Anderton, Arentz, Aumann, Beitzel, Buckel, Carozza, Cassilly, Ciliberti, Cluster, Flanagan, Folden, Ghrist, Glass, Grammer, Hornberger, S. Howard, Impallaria, Jacobs, Kipke, Kittleman, Krebs, Long, Malone, Mautz, McComas, McConkey, McDonough, McKay, McMillan, Metzgar, Miele, W. Miller, Morgan, O'Donnell, Otto, Parrott, Reilly, Rose, Saab, Shoemaker, Simonaire, Szeliga, Vogt, West, B. Wilson, and Wivell

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2016

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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Maryland Education Credit

FOR the purpose of allowing a credit against the State income tax for contributions made to certain student assistance organizations; requiring the Department of Economic Competitiveness and Commerce to administer the tax credit; requiring an entity to submit an application to be a student assistance organization by a certain date each year; requiring a student assistance organization to meet certain qualifications; requiring a business entity to submit a certain application within a certain time period and to make a contribution to a student assistance organization and to provide certain notice within a certain time period; requiring the Department to adopt certain regulations; requiring the Department to approve certain applications within a certain time period and in a certain manner; requiring the Department to rescind certain tax credit certificates if certain notice is not provided within a certain time period; providing limits on the amount of certain tax credits and the aggregate amount of tax credits that may be approved by the Department in a calendar year; establishing the Maryland Education Tax Credit Reserve Fund; authorizing the Governor to include an appropriation to the Fund in the annual budget bill and providing the intent of the General Assembly that the appropriation may not exceed a certain amount each year; requiring the Comptroller to transfer certain amounts from the Fund to the General Fund under certain circumstances; providing that certain unused tax credits may not be carried forward; requiring the Department to publish and update a certain list in a certain manner each year and report certain information on the credit each year; requiring a certain addition modification under the Maryland income tax if a certain tax credit is claimed; defining certain terms;



$\frac{1}{2}$	providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to a State income tax credit for contributions made to certain student assistance organizations.
3 4 5 6 7 8	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, Article – Economic Development Section 2.5–109(a)(4) Annotated Code of Maryland (2008 Volume and 2015 Supplement) (As enacted by Chapter 58 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2015)
9 10 11 12 13	BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments, Article – Tax – General Section 10–205(a) and 10–306(a) Annotated Code of Maryland (2010 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
14 15 16 17 18	BY adding to Article – Tax – General Section 10–205(l), 10–306(g), and 10–737 Annotated Code of Maryland (2010 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
19 20	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
21	Article – Economic Development
22	2.5-109.
23	(a) In this section, "economic development program" means:
24 25	(4) each of the tax credit programs administered by the Department, including:
26	(i) the Film Production Activity Tax Credit;
27	(ii) the Job Creation Tax Credit;
28	(iii) the One Maryland Economic Development Tax Credit;
29	(iv) the Biotechnology Investment Incentive Tax Credit;
30	(v) the Research and Development Tax Credit;
31 32	(vi) the Security Clearance Administrative Expenses and Construction and Equipment Costs Tax Credit; [and]

1	(vii) the Cybersecurity Investment Tax Credit; AND
2	(VIII) THE MARYLAND EDUCATION TAX CREDIT.
3	Article - Tax - General
4	10–205.
5 6 7	(a) In addition to the modification under § 10–204 of this subtitle, the amounts under this section are added to the federal adjusted gross income of a resident to determine Maryland adjusted gross income.
8 9 10	(L) The addition under subsection (a) of this section includes the amount of a contribution made to a student assistance organization for which a credit is claimed under § $10-737$ of this title.
1	10–306.
$\frac{12}{13}$	(a) In addition to the modification under § 10–305 of this subtitle, the amounts under this section are added to the federal taxable income of a corporation to determine Maryland modified income.
15 16 17	(G) THE ADDITION UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION INCLUDES THE AMOUNT OF A CONTRIBUTION MADE TO A STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION FOR WHICH A CREDIT IS CLAIMED UNDER § $10-737$ OF THIS TITLE.
18	10-737.
19 20	(A) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.
21	(2) "BUSINESS ENTITY" MEANS:
22 23	(I) A PERSON CONDUCTING OR OPERATING A TRADE OR BUSINESS IN MARYLAND; OR
24 25	(II) AN ORGANIZATION OPERATING IN MARYLAND THAT IS EXEMPT FROM TAXATION UNDER § $501({\rm C})(3)$ OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.
26	(3) "CONTRIBUTION" MEANS A MONETARY DONATION.
27 28	(4) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS AND COMMERCE.

"ELIGIBLE SCHOOL" MEANS:

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1 2	(I) A PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM, AN ELEMENTARY PUBLIC SCHOOL, OR A SECONDARY PUBLIC SCHOOL; OR
3 4	(II) A NONPUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM, AN ELEMENTARY NONPUBLIC SCHOOL, OR A SECONDARY NONPUBLIC SCHOOL THAT:
5 6	1. HOLDS A CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL FROM OR IS REGISTERED WITH THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION;
7 8 9 10 11	2. DOES NOT CHARGE TUITION THAT IS GREATER THAN THE STATEWIDE AVERAGE PER PUPIL EXPENDITURE BY THE LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES CALCULATED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WITH EXCEPTIONS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS DETERMINED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO BE APPROPRIATE;
12 13	3. ADMINISTERS A NATIONALLY ACKNOWLEDGED ACHIEVEMENT TEST TO THE STUDENTS; AND
14 15	4. COMPLIES WITH TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964, AS AMENDED.
16 17 18	(6) "PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM" MEANS A PREKINDERGARTEN EDUCATION PROGRAM THAT HAS OBTAINED A LICENSE, LETTER OF COMPLIANCE, OR CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL FROM THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.
19 20 21	(7) (I) "QUALIFIED EDUCATION EXPENSES" MEANS QUALIFIED ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION EXPENSES AS DEFINED IN § 530(B)(3)(A) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.
22 23	(II) "QUALIFIED EDUCATION EXPENSES" INCLUDES EXPENSES FOR:
24	1. ACADEMIC TUTORING;
25	2. BOOKS, SUPPLIES, AND OTHER EQUIPMENT;
26 27	3. COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY, EQUIPMENT, OR INTERNET ACCESS;
28	4. SPECIAL NEEDS SERVICES;

TRANSPORTATION;

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1	6. TUITION AND FEES; OR
2 3	7. UNIFORMS THAT ARE REQUIRED BY AN ELIGIBLE SCHOOL.
4	(8) "STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION" MEANS AN ENTITY THAT:
5 6	(I) IS EXEMPT FROM TAXATION UNDER § 501(C)(3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE;
7 8 9	(II) PROVIDES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR QUALIFIED EDUCATION EXPENSES TO STUDENTS ATTENDING ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS IN THE STATE; AND
10	(III) MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (C)(1) OF THIS SECTION.
12 13 14 15	(B) (1) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, a business entity may claim a credit against the State income tax in an amount equal to 60% of a contribution made to a student assistance organization.
16 17	(2) A CREDIT CLAIMED BY A BUSINESS ENTITY UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT EXCEED \$200,000 IN EACH TAXABLE YEAR.
18	(C) (1) TO QUALIFY AS A STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION, AN ENTITY SHALL:
20 21	(I) APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR;
22 23	(II) PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR QUALIFIED EDUCATION EXPENSES TO STUDENTS ATTENDING ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS;
24 25	(III) PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO AT LEAST FOUR DIFFERENT ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS IN EACH CALENDAR YEAR;
26	(IV) CONTRIBUTE OR IRREVOCABLY ENCUMBER AT LEAST 90%

28 APPROVED FOR TAX CREDITS UNDER THIS SECTION TOWARD FINANCIAL 29 ASSISTANCE FOR QUALIFIED EDUCATION EXPENSES TO STUDENTS AT ELIGIBLE 30 SCHOOLS AS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION;

OF ANNUAL CASH RECEIPTS RECEIVED AS THE RESULT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

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1	(V) PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR QUALIFIED
2	EDUCATION EXPENSES ON A PRIORITY BASIS FIRST TO STUDENT APPLICANTS WHO
3	ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEALS BASED ON ELIGIBILITY
4	REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
5	AGRICULTURE AND THEN TO OTHER STUDENT APPLICANTS BASED ON FINANCIAL
6	NEED;
7	(VI) SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT THE APPLICATION AND
8	REVIEW PROCESS FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR QUALIFIED
9	EDUCATION EXPENSES BASED ON DEMONSTRATED FINANCIAL NEED; AND
10	(VII) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1 EACH YEAR, SUBMIT
11	VERIFICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT ALL REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY
12	UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH HAVE BEEN MET IN THE PRIOR CALENDAR YEAR.
10	(9) IN MARIE A DRIVING A WINDER AND A DATE OF A DATE (1) OF WAYING
13	(2) IN THE APPLICATION REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS
14	SUBSECTION, A STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION SHALL STATE IF THE
15 16	ORGANIZATION WILL PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR QUALIFIED EDUCATION EXPENSES TO:
10	EAF ENSES TO.
17	(I) STUDENTS AT ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS THAT ARE PUBLIC; OR
18	(II) STUDENTS AT ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS THAT ARE NONPUBLIC.
19	(D) (1) AT LEAST 45 DAYS PRIOR TO MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO A
20	STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION, A BUSINESS ENTITY SHALL APPLY TO THE
21	DEPARTMENT FOR AN INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE.
4 1	DEFINITION IN INTITUE TOX ONEDIT CENTILIONIE.
22	(2) THE APPLICATION FOR AN INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE
23	SHALL IDENTIFY IF THE STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION PROVIDES
24	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR QUALIFIED EDUCATION EXPENSES TO:
	•
25	(I) STUDENTS AT ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS THAT ARE PUBLIC; OR
26	(II) STUDENTS AT ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS THAT ARE NONPUBLIC.
27	(E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:
28	(1) ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION, INCLUDING

THE METHOD FOR REPORTING BY STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS TO

ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SECTION;

- 1 (2) APPROVE ALL APPLICATIONS FOR TAX CREDITS UNDER THIS 2 SECTION ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS;
- 3 (3) WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER RECEIPT, APPROVE OR REJECT AN 4 ENTITY'S APPLICATION TO BECOME A STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION;
- 5 (4) WITHIN 45 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING AN APPLICATION, ISSUE AN
- 6 INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE AS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION STATING THE
- 7 MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF THE TAX CREDIT FOR WHICH A BUSINESS ENTITY IS ELIGIBLE
- 8 OR PROVIDE NOTICE OF REJECTION OF THE APPLICATION THAT CONTAINS AN
- 9 EXPLANATION OF THE REASON FOR REJECTION;
- 10 (5) WITHIN 45 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING NOTICE OF A CONTRIBUTION
- 11 MADE TO A STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION, ISSUE A FINAL TAX CREDIT
- 12 CERTIFICATE AS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION; AND
- 13 **(6)** PUBLISH AN ANNUAL LIST OF ALL STUDENT ASSISTANCE 14 ORGANIZATIONS APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT.
- 15 (F) (1) AFTER THE DEPARTMENT HAS ISSUED AN INITIAL TAX CREDIT
- 16 CERTIFICATE UNDER THIS SECTION, THE BUSINESS ENTITY SHALL HAVE 90 DAYS TO
- 17 MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO A STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION UNDER THIS
- 18 SECTION.
- 19 (2) WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO A STUDENT
- 20 ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION, A BUSINESS ENTITY SHALL PROVIDE NOTICE TO THE
- 21 DEPARTMENT OF THE AMOUNT OF THE CONTRIBUTION.
- 22 (3) If A BUSINESS ENTITY FAILS TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO A
- 23 STUDENT ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING AN
- 24 INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL RESCIND THE INITIAL
- 25 TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE.
- 26 (G) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, "RESERVE FUND" MEANS THE MARYLAND
- 27 EDUCATION TAX CREDIT RESERVE FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF
- 28 THIS SUBSECTION.
- 29 (2) (I) THERE IS A MARYLAND EDUCATION TAX CREDIT RESERVE
- 30 Fund that is a special continuing, nonlapsing fund that is not subject
- 31 TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

- 1 (II) THE MONEY IN THE RESERVE FUND SHALL BE INVESTED 2 AND REINVESTED BY THE STATE TREASURER, AND INTEREST AND EARNINGS SHALL
- 3 BE CREDITED TO THE GENERAL FUND.
- 4 (3) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (7) OF THIS 5 SUBSECTION, THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT ISSUE INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATES
- 5 SUBSECTION, THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT ISSUE INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATES 6 FOR CREDIT AMOUNTS IN THE AGGREGATE TOTALING MORE THAN THE AMOUNT
- 7 APPROPRIATED TO THE RESERVE FUND FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR IN THE STATE
- 8 BUDGET AS APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
- 9 (II) IF THE AGGREGATE CREDIT AMOUNTS UNDER INITIAL TAX
- 10 CREDIT CERTIFICATES ISSUED IN A FISCAL YEAR TOTAL LESS THAN THE AMOUNT
- 11 APPROPRIATED TO THE RESERVE FUND FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR, ANY EXCESS
- 12 AMOUNT SHALL REMAIN IN THE RESERVE FUND AND MAY BE ISSUED UNDER INITIAL
- 13 TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATES FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.
- 14 (III) IF THE AGGREGATE CREDIT AMOUNTS UNDER INITIAL TAX
- 15 CREDIT CERTIFICATES APPROVED FOR ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS THAT ARE PUBLIC
- 16 SCHOOLS IN A CALENDAR YEAR TOTAL LESS THAN 40% OF THE AMOUNT
- 17 APPROPRIATED TO THE RESERVE FUND FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR, THE EXCESS MAY
- 18 BE USED TO APPROVE INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATES FOR ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS
- 19 THAT ARE NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS DURING THE NEXT CALENDAR YEAR.
- 20 (IV) FOR ANY FISCAL YEAR, IF FUNDS ARE TRANSFERRED FROM
- 21 THE RESERVE FUND UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF ANY PROVISION OF LAW OTHER
- 22 THAN UNDER PARAGRAPH (6) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE MAXIMUM CREDIT
- 23 AMOUNTS IN THE AGGREGATE FOR WHICH THE DEPARTMENT MAY ISSUE INITIAL
- 24 TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATES SHALL BE REDUCED BY THE AMOUNT TRANSFERRED.
- 25 (4) (I) FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE GOVERNOR MAY INCLUDE IN
- 26 THE BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION TO THE RESERVE FUND.
- 27 (II) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE
- 28 APPROPRIATION UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH MAY NOT EXCEED:
- 29 **1. \$5,000,000** FOR FISCAL YEAR **2017**;
- 30 **2.** \$10,000,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018; AND
- 31 **3.** \$15,000,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019 AND EACH
- 32 FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER.

- 1 (5) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF § 7–213 OF THE STATE
- 2 FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE, THE GOVERNOR MAY NOT REDUCE AN
- 3 APPROPRIATION TO THE RESERVE FUND IN THE STATE BUDGET AS APPROVED BY
- 4 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
- 5 (6) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN THIS PARAGRAPH, MONEY
- 6 APPROPRIATED IN THE RESERVE FUND SHALL REMAIN IN THE RESERVE FUND.
- 7 (II) 1. WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER THE END OF EACH CALENDAR
- 8 QUARTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOTIFY THE COMPTROLLER AS TO EACH FINAL
- 9 TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE ISSUED DURING THE PREVIOUS QUARTER OF:
- 10 A. THE MAXIMUM CREDIT AMOUNT STATED IN THE
- 11 INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE; AND
- 12 B. THE FINAL CERTIFIED TAX CREDIT AMOUNT.
- 2. On notification that a final tax credit has
- 14 BEEN ISSUED, THE COMPTROLLER SHALL TRANSFER AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE
- 15 CREDIT AMOUNT STATED IN THE INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE FROM THE
- 16 RESERVE FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND.
- 17 (7) IF AN INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE HAS BEEN RESCINDED BY
- 18 THE DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT MAY APPROVE ADDITIONAL INITIAL TAX
- 19 CREDIT CERTIFICATES FOR OTHER BUSINESS ENTITIES THAT MAY NOT EXCEED THE
- 20 AMOUNT OF TAX CREDITS APPROVED IN THE INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATES
- 21 THAT WERE RESCINDED.
- 22 (8) IN EACH CALENDAR YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT APPROVE
- 23 INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATES THAT:
- 24 (I) EXCEED 60% OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED TO
- 25 THE RESERVE FUND FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR IN THE STATE BUDGET AS APPROVED
- 26 BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO STUDENT ASSISTANCE
- 27 ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR QUALIFIED
- 28 EDUCATION EXPENSES TO STUDENTS AT ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS THAT ARE NONPUBLIC;
- 29 **OR**
- 30 (II) EXCEED 40% OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED TO
- 31 THE RESERVE FUND FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR IN THE STATE BUDGET AS APPROVED
- 32 BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO STUDENT ASSISTANCE
- 33 ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR QUALIFIED
- 34 EDUCATION EXPENSES TO STUDENTS AT ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS THAT ARE PUBLIC.

- 1 (H) ANY UNUSED AMOUNT OF THE CREDIT MAY NOT BE CARRIED OVER TO 2 ANY OTHER TAXABLE YEAR.
- 3 (I) (1) IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2.5–109 OF THE ECONOMIC 4 DEVELOPMENT ARTICLE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT ON THE TAX CREDITS 5 APPROVED UNDER THIS SECTION.
- 6 (2) THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS 7 SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE FOR EACH BUSINESS ENTITY APPROVED TO RECEIVE 8 A FINAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE IN THE PRIOR CALENDAR YEAR:
- 9 (I) THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE STUDENT ASSISTANCE 10 ORGANIZATION RECEIVING THE CONTRIBUTION; AND
- 11 (II) THE AMOUNT OF THE APPROVED FINAL CREDIT 12 CERTIFICATE.
- SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2016, and shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015.