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WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION, 1997

ENROLLED

HOUSE BILL No. <u>2870</u>

By Delegate	Beach, Kelley, Proudfoot, Boggs, Buchanan, Damron and Dempsey	
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Passed	April 12,	1997
n Effect	Ninety Days From	Passage
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COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

H. B. 2870

(By Delegates Beach, Kelley, Proudfoot, Boggs, Buchanan, Damron and Dempsey)

[Passed April 12, 1997; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend chapter eleven of the code of West Virginia. one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated article thirteen-m, all relating generally to allowing a tax credit to eligible taxpavers equal to two hundred fifty dollars for each new job filled by a full-time employee of the eligible taxpayer working in a new consumer-ready wood product manufacturing facility in this state, or at a new consumer-ready wood product line of an existing manufacturing facility, that begins manufacturing after the thirtieth day of June, one thousand nine hundred ninety-seven; stating legislative purpose; defining terms; allowing credit against business franchise tax and against income taxes; providing rules for determining amount of allowable credit and for application of amount of allowable credit against certain taxes; providing for proration of credit among partners, members of limited liability companies and shareholders in electing small business corporations; requiring annual computation of number of new jobs filled by full-time employees; making credit available to successors; providing for credit recapture upon certain events along with interest, additions to tax and a waivable money penalty; specifying time limitations for

certain actions; authorizing promulgation of administrative rules; providing rule of construction; specifying effective date; and providing for expiration of credit.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That chapter eleven of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new article, designated article thirteen-m, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 13M. TAX CREDIT FOR NEW VALUE-ADDED WOOD MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS.

§11-13M-1. Legislative purpose.

- 1 The Legislature finds that production of consumer-
- 2 ready wood products is very important to the economy of
- 3 this state and that a sound economy is in the public
- 4 interest and promotes the general welfare of the people of
- 5 this state. In order to encourage capital investment in this
- 6 state, through the manufacture of consumer-ready wood
- 7 products after the thirtieth day of June, one thousand nine
- 8 hundred ninety-seven, thereby increasing employment
- 9 and economic development, there is hereby provided to 10 eligible taxpayers a credit for each new job filled by a
- full-time hourly employee who works in a new consumer-
- ready wood product manufacturing facility, or in a new
- 12 ready wood product manufacturing facility, or in a new consumer-ready wood product line of an existing
- manufacturing facility, that begins operating in this state
- 15 after the thirtieth day of June, one thousand nine hundred
- 16 ninety-seven.

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§11-13M-2. Definitions.

- 1 (a) General. When used in this article, or in the
- 2 administration of this article, terms defined in subsection
- 3 (b) of this section have the meanings ascribed to them by
- 4 this section, unless a different meaning is clearly required
- 5 by the context in which the term is used.
 - (b) Terms defined.
- 7 (1) "Affiliate" means and includes all persons, as
- 8 defined in this section, which are affiliates of each other
- 9 when either directly or indirectly:

- 10 (A) One person controls or has the power to control 11 the other, or
- 12 (B) A third party or third parties control or have the 13 power to control two persons, the two thus being affiliates. 14 In determining whether concerns are independently 15 owned and operated and whether or not an affiliation 16 exists, consideration shall be given to all appropriate 17 factors, including common ownership, common 18 management and contractual relationships.
- 19 (2) "Commissioner" or "tax commissioner" means 20 the tax commissioner of the state of West Virginia, or the 21 tax commissioner's delegate.

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- (3) "Consumer-ready wood products" means value-added wood products that are ready for sale to consumers at the end of the manufacturing process. Consumer-ready wood includes any value-added wood product that does not require further manufacturing before it may ordinarily be used or consumed by the purchaser of the product, except that consumer-ready wood product does not include any product that is not manufactured primarily from wood, any product that is not commercially marketed as a wood product for sale primarily to consumers of the product, or paper or paper products.
- 34 (4) "Corporation" includes any corporation, a joint-35 stock company and any association or other organization 36 which is classified as a corporation under federal income 37 tax law.
 - (5) "Delegate", when used in reference to the tax commissioner, means any officer or employee of the tax division of the department of tax and revenue duly authorized by the tax commissioner directly, or indirectly by one or more redelegations of authority, to perform the functions mentioned or described in this article.
 - (6) "Eligible taxpayer" means a person who after the thirtieth day of June, one thousand nine hundred ninety-seven, begins manufacturing a consumer-ready wood product at a new manufacturing facility located in

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- this state, or begins manufacturing a new consumer-ready wood product line at an existing manufacturing facility located in this state, which results in the creation of new jobs filled by full-time employees.
- 52 (7) "Employer" means the person for whom an individual preforms or preformed any service, of whatever nature, as the employee of such person, except that if the person for whom the individual performs or performed the service does not have control of the payment of wages for such services, the term "employer" means the person having control of the payment of such wages.
- 60 building which at anytime during the twelve months 61 preceding the month in which manufacturer of a consumer-ready-wood product begins was used by the taxpayer, or by a related person, to manufacture tangible 64 personal property.
 - (9) "Full-time employee" means a permanent hourly employee of an eligible taxpayer, who is a West Virginia domiciled resident, and works in a new consumer-ready wood product manufacturing facility in this state, or in a new consumer-ready wood product line of an existing manufacturing facility in this state, more than eighteen hundred hours during the entire twelve-month period ending on the last day of the taxable year of the eligible employer, whether these hours are hours worked at the manufacturing facility, or include hours of employer paid vacation leave or other employer paid leave. Full-time employee does not include an employee who is a part-time, seasonal or temporary employee.
- 78 (10) "Internal Revenue Code" means the Internal 79 Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, of the United States.
- 80 (11) "Manufacturing facility" means any facility 81 which is used in the manufacturing of tangible personal 82 property (including processing resulting in a change in 83 the condition of such property).
- 84 (12) "New consumer-ready wood product line" 85 means the manufacture of a consumer-ready wood

product in an existing manufacturing facility in this state that first begins manufacturing the new consumer-ready wood product line after the thirtieth day of June, one thousand nine hundred ninety-seven.

- (13) "New consumer-ready wood product manufacturing facility" means a building that is primarily used by the eligible taxpayer to manufacture a consumer-ready wood product that is first placed in service and used for that purpose by the eligible taxpayer after the thirtieth day of June, one thousand nine hundred ninety seven. If the facility was used by the taxpayer, or by a related person, to manufacture tangible personal property at any time during the twelve months preceding the month in which the facility is first used by the taxpayer to manufacture a consumer-ready wood product, the building is not a new consumer-ready wood product manufacturing facility.
- (14) "New job" means a job at a new consumer-ready wood product manufacturing facility located in this state, or at a new consumer-ready wood product line at an existing manufacturing facility located in this state, which did not exist in this state with any employer as of the first day of the second calendar month preceding the calendar month in which the new consumer-ready wood product manufacturing facility begins to manufacture consumer-ready wood products, or in which the new consumer-ready wood product line begins to manufacture consumer-ready wood products in an existing manufacturing facility located in this state, that is filled by a full-time employee of the eligible taxpayer.
 - (15) "Partnership" means and includes a syndicate, group, pool, joint venture or other unincorporated organization through or by means of which any business, financial operation, or venture is carried on, which is classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes for the taxable year.
 - (16) "Partner" includes a member in a syndicate, group, pool, joint venture or organization classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes for the taxable year.

- 126 (17) "Part-time employee" means any employee 127 who normally works twenty-hours or less per week.
- 128 (18) "Seasonal employee" means an employee who 129 normally works on a full-time basis less than five months
- 130 in a year.
- 131 (19) "Temporary employee" means an employee 132 performing services under a contractual arrangement with 133 the employer of two years or less duration.
- 134 (20) "Person" means and includes an individual, a 135 trust, estate, partnership, association, company or 136 corporation.
- 137 (21) "Related entity", "related person", "entity 138 related to" or "person related to" means:
- 139 (A) An individual, corporation, partnership, affiliate, 140 association or trust or any combination or group thereof 141 controlled by the taxpayer;
- 142 (B) An individual, corporation, partnership, affiliate, 143 association or trust or any combination or group thereof 144 that is in control of the taxpayer;
- 145 (C) An individual, corporation, partnership, affiliate, 146 association or trust or any combination or group thereof 147 controlled by an individual, corporation, partnership, 148 affiliate, association or trust or any combination or group 149 thereof that is in control of the taxpayer; or
- 150 (D) A member of the same controlled group as the 151 taxpayer. For purposes of this subdivision (21), 152 "control," with respect to a corporation, means 153 ownership, directly or indirectly, of stock possessing fifty 154 percent or more of the total combined voting power of all 155 classes of the stock of the corporation which entitles its 156 owner to vote. "Control," with respect to a trust, means 157 ownership, directly or indirectly, of fifty percent or more 158 of the beneficial interest in the principal or income of the 159 trust. The ownership of stock in a corporation, of a capital 160 or profits interest in a partnership or association or of a beneficial interest in a trust shall be determined in 161

- 162 accordance with the rules for constructive ownership of
- 163 stock provided in section 267(c) of the Internal Revenue
- 164 Code: Provided, That paragraph (3) of section 267(c) of
- 165 the Internal Revenue Code shall not apply.
- 166 (22) "Tax year" or "taxable year," means the tax 167 year of the taxpayer for federal income tax purposes.
- 168 (23) "Taxpayer" means any person subject to the
- 169 tax imposed by articles twenty-one, twenty-three or
- 170 twenty-four of this chapter.

§11-13M-3. Eligibility for tax credits; creation of the credit.

- 1 There shall be allowed to every eligible taxpayer a
- 2 credit against the taxes imposed in articles twenty-one,
- 3 twenty-three and twenty-four of this chapter. The amount
- 4 of this credit shall be determined and applied as provided
- 5 in this article.

§11-13M-4. Amount of credit allowed; expiration of the credit.

- 1 (a) *Credit allowable*. The amount of annual credit 2 allowable under this article to an eligible taxpayer shall be
- 3 two hundred fifty dollars for each new job at a new
- 4 consumer-ready wood product manufacturing facility
- 5 located in this state, or at a new consumer-ready product
- 6 line of an existing manufacturing facility located in this
- 7 state, that is filled by a full-time employee of the eligible
- 8 taxpayer during the taxable year, subject to the following:
- 9 (1) When the new consumer-ready wood product
- manufacturing facility, or the new wood product line of an existing consumer-ready wood product manufacturing
- 12 facility, is in operation for less than twelve months of the
- 13 taxable year in which it is placed in service, the credit
- 14 allowed by subsection (a) of this section shall be prorated
- 15 by the ratio that the number of months in the taxpayer's
- taxable year during which the new consumer-ready wood
- 17 products facility, or the new products line of an existing
- 18 consumer-ready wood product manufacturing facility, was
- 19 in service bears to twelve.
- 20 (2) When the eligible taxpayer stops manufacturing

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- 21 consumer-ready wood products at the new consumer-2.2. ready wood product manufacturing facility, or at the new 23 wood product line of an existing consumer-ready wood 24 product manufacturing facility, during the taxable year, 2.5 the credit allowed by subsection (a) of this section shall be 26 prorated by the ratio that the number of months in the 27 taxpayer's taxable year during which the new consumer-28 ready wood products facility, or the new products line of 29 an existing consumer-ready wood product manufacturing 30 facility, was in operation manufacturing consumer-ready 31 wood product bears to twelve.
 - (3) When determining the number of full-time employees who fill new jobs at the new consumer-ready wood product manufacturing facility located in this state, or who fill new jobs at a new consumer-ready wood product line of an existing manufacturing facility located in this state, the eligible taxpayer shall not include any position occupied by any employee of the eligible taxpayer, or of a related person, which existed in this state as of the first day of the second calendar month preceding the calendar month in which the new consumer-ready wood product manufacturing facility, or a new consumer-ready wood product smanufacturing facility first becomes operational, whether such positions are filled permanent, seasonal, temporary or part-time employees.
- 47 (4) The amount of credit allowable each taxable year 48 shall be calculated annually based upon the number of 49 new jobs filled by full-time employees during the taxable 50 year.
- 51 (b) Expiration of credit. — This credit shall expire 52 on the first day of July, two thousand and two. When the 53 first day of July in the year two thousand and two falls during the taxable year of the eligible taxpayer, the 54 55 amount of credit allowable for that taxable year shall be 56 limited to that portion of the amount of credit that would 57 have been allowable had the credit not expired multiplied 58 by the ratio the number of months during taxpayers 59 taxable year ending before the first day of July, two 60 thousand and two, bears to twelve.

§11-13M-5. Application of annual credit allowance.

- 1 (a) Application of credit against business franchise 2 tax. — The amount of credit allowed under section four 3 of this article shall first be applied against the eligible 4 taxpayer's liability for the tax imposed by article twenty-5 three of this chapter that is attributable to a new consumer-6 ready wood product manufacturing facility located in this state and to a new consumer-ready wood product 8 production line at an existing manufacturing facility 9 located in this state.
- 10 (b) Application of remaining credit against income 11 tax. — After application of the allowable credit against the 12 tax imposed by article twenty-three of this chapter, as 13 provided in subsection (a) of this section, any remaining 14 credit may be applied against the taxes imposed by article 15 twenty-one or twenty-four of this chapter to the extent 16 those taxes are attributable to a new consumer-ready wood 17 product manufacturing facility located in this state and to 18 a new consumer-ready wood product production line at an 19 existing manufacturing facility located in this state: 20 Provided, That no credit shall be allowed against employer 21 withholding taxes due under article twenty-one of this 22 chapter.
- (c) Excess credit forfeited. If after application of subsections (a) and (b) of this section, any credit remains for the taxable year, the amount remaining and not used is forfeited. Unused credit may not be carried back to any prior taxable year and shall not carry forward to any subsequent taxable year.
- (d) Application of this credit when other credits apply. The credit allowed under this article shall be applied after application of all other applicable tax credits allowed for the taxable year against the taxes imposed by articles twenty-one, twenty-three or twenty-four of this chapter.
- 35 (e) Completion of annual schedule to assert credit. 36 To assert this credit against tax, the eligible taxpayer shall 37 prepare and file with the annual tax return filed under

- 38 articles twenty-one, twenty-three or twenty-four of this
- 39 chapter, an annual schedule showing the amount of tax
- 40 paid for the taxable year, and the amount of credit allowed
- under this article. This annual schedule shall set forth the 41
- 42 information and be in the form prescribed by the tax
- 43 commissioner.
- 44 (f) Payments of estimated tax. — A taxpayer may
- 45 consider the amount of credit allowed under this article
- 46 when determining the taxpayer's liability under articles
- 47 twenty-one, twenty-three and twenty-four of this chapter
- 48 for periodic payments of estimated tax for the taxable
- 49 year, in accordance with the procedures and requirements
- 50 prescribed by the tax commissioner. The annual total tax
- 51 liability and total tax credit allowed under this article are
- 52 subject to adjustment and reconciliation pursuant to the
- 53 filing of the annual schedule required by subsection (e) of
- 54 this section.

§11-13M-6. Proration of credit among partners, members of limited liability companies, or shareholders in small business corporations.

- The amount of credit allowed under this article for
- the taxable year to a partnership or limited liability
- 3 company classified as a partnership for the taxable year,
- 4 or to an electing small business corporation, that remains
- 5 after application the credit against the tax imposed by
- 6 article twenty-three of this chapter as provided in
- 7 subsection (a), section five of this article shall be allocated
- 8 to the individual partners, members or shareholders, as the
- 9 case may be, in proportion to their ownership interest in
- the partnership, limited liability company or electing small 10
- 11 business corporation. The amount of credit allocated to
- 12 the individual partners, members or shareholders, as the
- case may be, may be applied against the taxes imposed by
- 14 articles twenty-one and twenty-four of this chapter in
- 15 accordance with the rule set forth in subsection (b), section
- five of this article.

§11-13M-7. Annual computation of the number of new jobs held by full-time employees.

1 (a) The eligible taxpayer shall annually determine the number of new jobs held by full-time permanent employees of the eligible taxpayer in the taxable year by calculating the average number of full-time employees holding jobs for each month of the taxable year by averaging the beginning and ending monthly employment of full-time employees, then totaling the monthly averages and dividing that total by twelve.

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- (b) The eligible taxpayer shall also annually determine the number of new jobs filled during the taxable year by full-time employees of the eligible taxpayer employed at a new consumer-ready wood product manufacturing facility, or at a new consumer-ready wood product line at an existing manufacturing facility, located in this state that is owned or operated by the eligible taxpayer, by calculating the average number of new jobs held by full-time employees for each month of the taxable year by averaging the beginning and ending monthly employment of full-time employees holding new jobs, then totaling the monthly averages and dividing that total by twelve.
- (c) Preexisting jobs carried over from a corporation or other entity merged with the taxpayer, and not reflective of a true increase in the number of new jobs in West Virginia, or preexisting jobs formerly in place with a contract service provider which are taken over or supplanted by the internal operations of the taxpayer, or any other increase in the count of jobs in place with a taxpayer which is not reflective of new jobs, as defined in section two of this article, shall not count as new jobs for purposes of the credit allowed under this article.
- (d) The tax commissioner may prescribe by rule alternative methods for determining the number of jobs held by full-time permanent employees in the taxable year upon a finding by the tax commissioner that an alternative method is appropriate for ascertaining an accurate and realistic determination of new jobs held by full-time employees in the taxable year. For purposes of prescribing alternative methods, the tax commissioner may require the deduction or inclusion of jobs in place with contract service providers that provide or at any time

- 42 provided any service to any eligible taxpayer or to any
- 43 member of the affiliated group related to any eligible
- 44 taxpayer or to any one or more entities related to the
- 45 eligible taxpayer: Provided, That deduction, or inclusion
- 46 of those jobs shall only pertain to jobs held by employees
- 47 of the contract service provider that are attributable or that
- 48 were formerly attributable to the service provided by the
- 49 contract service provider to the taxpayer. The tax
- 50 commissioner may require any deconsolidation of any
- 51 filing entity, or may require an alternative method based
- 52 on separate accounting, unitary combination, combination
- of the affiliated group or combination of the taxpayer and 53
- 54 one or more entities related to the taxpayer, or any other
- 55 method determined by the tax commissioner to be
- 56 appropriate for ascertaining an accurate and realistic
- 57 determination of new jobs held by full-time employees in
- 58 the taxable year.

§11-13M-8. Availability of credit to successors.

- (a) Transfer or sale. When there is a transfer or 2 sale of the business assets of an eligible taxpayer to a 3 successor taxpayer which continues to operate the new
- consumer-ready wood product manufacturing facility
- 5 located in this state, or the new consumer-ready wood
- product line of an existing manufacturing facility located
- 7 in this state, the successor taxpayer is entitled to the credit
- 8 allowed under this article: Provided, That the successor
- 9 taxpayer otherwise remains in compliance with the requirements of this article for entitlement to the credit. 10
- 11 (b) Allocation of credit between eligible taxpayer
- 12 and successor eligible taxpayer. — For any taxable year
- during which a transfer, or sale of the business assets of an 13
- 14 eligible taxpayer to a successor taxpayer under this section
- 15 occurs, or a merger allowed under this section occurs, the
- 16 credit allowed under this article shall be apportioned
- 17 between the predecessor eligible taxpayer and the 18
- successor taxpayer based on the number of days during
- 19 the taxable year that each taxpayer acted as the legal 20 employer of individuals filling new jobs for which the
- 21 credit allowed under this article is based and the number
- 22 of days during the taxable year that each taxpayer owned

- the new consumer-ready wood product manufacturing facility located in this state, or the new consumer-ready wood product line of an existing manufacturing facility located in this state.
 - (c) Stock purchases. When a corporation which is an eligible taxpayer entitled to the credit allowed under this article is purchased through a stock purchase by a new owner, and the corporation remains a legal entity so as to retain its corporate identity, the entitlement of that corporation to the credit allowed under this article will not be affected by the ownership change.

(d) Mergers.

- (1) When a corporation or other entity which is an eligible taxpayer entitled to the credit allowed under this article is merged with another corporation, or entity, the surviving corporation, or entity, shall be entitled to the credit to which the predecessor eligible taxpayer was originally entitled only if the surviving corporation, or entity, otherwise complies with the provisions of this article.
- (2) The amount of credit available in any taxable year during which a merger occurs shall be apportioned between the predecessor eligible taxpayer and the successor eligible taxpayer based on the number of days during the taxable year that each taxpayer acted as the legal employer of employees holding the new jobs upon which the credit allowed under this article is based and the number of days during the taxable year that each owned the transferred business assets: *Provided*, That when the taxable year of the predecessor eligible taxpayer and the taxable year of the successor eligible taxpayer are different, the apportionment shall be made in accordance with legislative rules prescribed by the tax commissioner.
- (e) No provision of this section or of this article shall be construed to allow sales or other transfers of the tax credit allowed under this article. The credit allowed under this article may be transferred only in circumstances where there is a valid successorship as described under this section.

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§11-13M-9. Credit recapture; interest; penalties; additions to tax: statute of limitations.

(a) If it appears upon audit or otherwise that any person has improperly claimed the credit allowed by this 3 article, the amount improperly claimed and which the person was not entitled to take shall be recaptured. 4 Amended returns shall be filed for any taxable year for which the credit was improperly taken. Any additional taxes due under this chapter shall be remitted with the amended return or returns filed with the tax commissioner, along with interest, as provided in section seventeen, article 10 ten of this chapter, and a ten percent penalty plus such 11 other penalties and additions to tax as may be applicable 12 under the provisions of article ten of this chapter.

(b) Recapture for jobs loss. —

- (1) In any tax year the number of individuals employed in full-time positions by the eligible taxpayer decrease by more than ten percent, credit recapture shall apply, and the taxpayer shall return to the state an amount of tax determined by multiplying five hundred dollars by the number of full-time jobs lost which exceed ten percent. An amended return shall be filed for the tax year for which credit recapture is required. Any additional taxes due under this chapter shall be remitted with the amended return filed with the tax commissioner, along with interest, as provided in section seventeen, article ten of this chapter, and a ten percent penalty plus such other penalties and additions to tax as may be applicable under the provisions of article ten of this chapter.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of article ten of this chapter, penalties and additions to tax imposed under article ten of this chapter and the ten percent penalty imposed under this section may be waived, in whole or in part, at the discretion of the tax commissioner. However, interest may not be waived.
- 34 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of article ten of 35 this chapter, the time within which a notice of assessment may be issued by the tax commissioner to recover 36 37 recapture tax shall be five years from the date of filing of

- 38 any tax return on which this credit was taken or five years
- 39 from the date of payment of any tax liability calculated
- 40 pursuant to the assertion of the credit allowed under this
- 41 article, whichever is later.

§11-13M-10. Administrative rules.

- 1 The tax commission may prescribe such rules as may
- 2 be necessary to carry out the purposes of this article,
- 3 including, but not limited to, rules relating to applicability
- 4 of credit, method of claiming of credit, credit recapture,
- 5 documentation necessary to claim credit and rules
- 6 preventing abuse of this article by related persons or by
- 7 change in the form of doing business. All rules
- 8 promulgated under this article shall be promulgated in
- 9 accordance with article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this
- 10 code.

§11-13M-11. Construction of article.

- 1 The provisions of this article shall be reasonably
- 2 construed. The burden of proof is on the person claiming
- 3 the credit allowed by this article to establish by clear and
- 4 convincing evidence that the person is entitled to the
- 5 amount of credit asserted for the taxable year.

§11-13M-12. Effective date.

- 1 This article shall be effective for taxable years
- 2 beginning on or after the first day of July, one thousand
- 3 nine hundred ninety-seven.

Enr. Com. Sub. for H. B. 2870] 16

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.
Chainnan Senate Committee
Chairman House Committee
Originating in the House.
Takes effect ninety days from passage. Clerk of the Senate
Speaker of the House of Delegates President of the Senate Speaker of the House of Delegates
The within is append this the Standard of May , 1997. GOVERNOR GOVERNOR BEGOLO 326-0

PRESENTED TO THE

Date 4/29/97

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