WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 1997

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ENROLLED

HOUSE BILL No. 2870

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

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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 taxpayers 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
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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.

The Legislature finds that production of consumer-ready wood products is very important to the economy of this state and that a sound economy is in the public interest and promotes the general welfare of the people of this state. In order to encourage capital investment in this state, through the manufacture of consumer-ready wood products after the thirtieth day of June, one thousand nine hundred ninety-seven, thereby increasing employment and economic development, there is hereby provided to 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 consumer-ready wood product line of an existing manufacturing facility, that begins operating in this state after the thirtieth day of June, one thousand nine hundred ninety-seven.

§11-13M-2. Definitions.

(a) General. — When used in this article, or in the administration of this article, terms defined in subsection (b) of this section have the meanings ascribed to them by this section, unless a different meaning is clearly required by the context in which the term is used.

(b) Terms defined.

(1) "Affiliate" means and includes all persons, as defined in this section, which are affiliates of each other when either directly or indirectly:
(A) One person controls or has the power to control the other, or

(B) A third party or third parties control or have the power to control two persons, the two thus being affiliates.

In determining whether concerns are independently owned and operated and whether or not an affiliation exists, consideration shall be given to all appropriate factors, including common ownership, common management and contractual relationships.

(2) "Commissioner" or "tax commissioner" means the tax commissioner of the state of West Virginia, or the tax commissioner's delegate.

(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.

(4) "Corporation" includes any corporation, a joint-stock company and any association or other organization which is classified as a corporation under federal income 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
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.

(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.

(8) "Existing manufacturing facility" means a
building which at anytime during the twelve months
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
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.

(10) "Internal Revenue Code" means the Internal
Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, of the United States.

(11) "Manufacturing facility" means any facility
which is used in the manufacturing of tangible personal
property (including processing resulting in a change in
the condition of such property).

(12) "New consumer-ready wood product line"
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.
(17) "Part-time employee" means any employee who normally works twenty-hours or less per week.

(18) "Seasonal employee" means an employee who normally works on a full-time basis less than five months in a year.

(19) "Temporary employee" means an employee performing services under a contractual arrangement with the employer of two years or less duration.

(20) "Person" means and includes an individual, a trust, estate, partnership, association, company or corporation.

(21) "Related entity", "related person", "entity related to" or "person related to" means:

(A) An individual, corporation, partnership, affiliate, association or trust or any combination or group thereof controlled by the taxpayer;

(B) An individual, corporation, partnership, affiliate, association or trust or any combination or group thereof that is in control of the taxpayer;

(C) An individual, corporation, partnership, affiliate, association or trust or any combination or group thereof controlled by an individual, corporation, partnership, affiliate, association or trust or any combination or group thereof that is in control of the taxpayer; or

(D) A member of the same controlled group as the taxpayer. For purposes of this subdivision (21), "control," with respect to a corporation, means ownership, directly or indirectly, of stock possessing fifty percent or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of the stock of the corporation which entitles its owner to vote. "Control," with respect to a trust, means ownership, directly or indirectly, of fifty percent or more of the beneficial interest in the principal or income of the trust. The ownership of stock in a corporation, of a capital or profits interest in a partnership or association or of a beneficial interest in a trust shall be determined in
accordance with the rules for constructive ownership of stock provided in section 267(c) of the Internal Revenue Code: Provided, That paragraph (3) of section 267(c) of the Internal Revenue Code shall not apply.

(22) "Tax year" or "taxable year," means the tax year of the taxpayer for federal income tax purposes.

(23) "Taxpayer" means any person subject to the tax imposed by articles twenty-one, twenty-three or twenty-four of this chapter.

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

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

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

(a) Credit allowable. — The amount of annual credit allowable under this article to an eligible taxpayer shall be two hundred fifty dollars for each new job at a new consumer-ready wood product manufacturing facility located in this state, or at a new consumer-ready product line of an existing manufacturing facility located in this state, that is filled by a full-time employee of the eligible taxpayer during the taxable year, subject to the following:

(1) When the new consumer-ready wood product manufacturing facility, or the new wood product line of an existing consumer-ready wood product manufacturing facility, is in operation for less than twelve months of the taxable year in which it is placed in service, the credit allowed by subsection (a) of this section shall be prorated by the ratio that the number of months in the taxpayer’s taxable year during which the new consumer-ready wood products facility, or the new products line of an existing consumer-ready wood product manufacturing facility, was in service bears to twelve.

(2) When the eligible taxpayer stops manufacturing
consumer-ready wood products at the new consumer-ready wood product manufacturing facility, or at the new wood product line of an existing consumer-ready wood product manufacturing facility, during the taxable year, the credit allowed by subsection (a) of this section shall be prorated by the ratio that the number of months in the taxpayer's taxable year during which the new consumer-ready wood products facility, or the new products line of an existing consumer-ready wood product manufacturing facility, was in operation manufacturing consumer-ready 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 line at an existing consumer-ready wood products manufacturing facility first becomes operational, whether such positions are filled permanent, seasonal, temporary or part-time employees.

(4) The amount of credit allowable each taxable year shall be calculated annually based upon the number of new jobs-filled by full-time employees during the taxable year.

(b) *Expiration of credit.* — This credit shall expire on the first day of July, two thousand and two. When the first day of July in the year two thousand and two falls during the taxable year of the eligible taxpayer, the amount of credit allowable for that taxable year shall be limited to that portion of the amount of credit that would have been allowable had the credit not expired multiplied by the ratio the number of months during taxpayers taxable year ending before the first day of July, two thousand and two, bears to twelve.
§11-13M-5. Application of annual credit allowance.

(a) Application of credit against business franchise tax. — The amount of credit allowed under section four of this article shall first be applied against the eligible taxpayer's liability for the tax imposed by article twenty-three of this chapter that is attributable to a new consumer-ready wood product manufacturing facility located in this state and to a new consumer-ready wood product production line at an existing manufacturing facility located in this state.

(b) Application of remaining credit against income tax. — After application of the allowable credit against the tax imposed by article twenty-three of this chapter, as provided in subsection (a) of this section, any remaining credit may be applied against the taxes imposed by article twenty-one or twenty-four of this chapter to the extent those taxes are attributable to a new consumer-ready wood product manufacturing facility located in this state and to a new consumer-ready wood product production line at an existing manufacturing facility located in this state: Provided, That no credit shall be allowed against employer withholding taxes due under article twenty-one of this 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.

(e) Completion of annual schedule to assert credit. — To assert this credit against tax, the eligible taxpayer shall prepare and file with the annual tax return filed under
articles twenty-one, twenty-three or twenty-four of this chapter, an annual schedule showing the amount of tax paid for the taxable year, and the amount of credit allowed under this article. This annual schedule shall set forth the information and be in the form prescribed by the tax commissioner.

(f) **Payments of estimated tax.** — A taxpayer may consider the amount of credit allowed under this article when determining the taxpayer’s liability under articles twenty-one, twenty-three and twenty-four of this chapter for periodic payments of estimated tax for the taxable year, in accordance with the procedures and requirements prescribed by the tax commissioner. The annual total tax liability and total tax credit allowed under this article are subject to adjustment and reconciliation pursuant to the filing of the annual schedule required by subsection (e) of 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 company classified as a partnership for the taxable year, or to an electing small business corporation, that remains after application the credit against the tax imposed by article twenty-three of this chapter as provided in subsection (a), section five of this article shall be allocated to the individual partners, members or shareholders, as the case may be, in proportion to their ownership interest in the partnership, limited liability company or electing small business corporation. The amount of credit allocated to the individual partners, members or shareholders, as the case may be, may be applied against the taxes imposed by articles twenty-one and twenty-four of this chapter in 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.**

(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.

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

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

(a) Transfer or sale. — When there is a transfer or
sale of the business assets of an eligible taxpayer to a
successor taxpayer which continues to operate 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, the successor taxpayer is entitled to the credit
allowed under this article: Provided, That the successor
taxpayer otherwise remains in compliance with the
requirements of this article for entitlement to the credit.

(b) Allocation of credit between eligible taxpayer
and successor eligible taxpayer. — For any taxable year
during which a transfer, or sale of the business assets of an
eligible taxpayer to a successor taxpayer under this section
occurs, or a merger allowed under this section occurs, the
credit allowed under this article shall be apportioned
between the predecessor eligible taxpayer and the
successor taxpayer based on the number of days during
the taxable year that each taxpayer acted as the legal
employer of individuals filling new jobs for which the
credit allowed under this article is based and the number
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.
§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 article, the amount improperly claimed and which the person was not entitled to take shall be recaptured. 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 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.

(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.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of article ten of this chapter, the time within which a notice of assessment may be issued by the tax commissioner to recover recapture tax shall be five years from the date of filing of
§11-13M-10. Administrative rules.

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


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

§11-13M-12. Effective date.

1 This article shall be effective for taxable years beginning on or after the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred ninety-seven.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originating in the House.

Taken effect ninety days from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within is approved this the __th day of Mary __, 1997.

Governor