

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005**

**H**

**1**

**HOUSE BILL 947**

Short Title: Business Growth and Investment Act of 2005. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Owens, Gibson, Daughtridge (Primary Sponsors);  
LaRoque, Steen, Wray, Goforth, and Glazier.

Referred to: Commerce, if favorable, Finance.

March 29, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT TO REPLACE THE TAX CREDITS GENERALLY AVAILABLE UNDER  
THE WILLIAM S. LEE QUALITY JOBS AND BUSINESS EXPANSION ACT  
WITH MORE NARROWLY FOCUSED CREDITS FOR JOB CREATION AND  
BUSINESS INVESTMENT; AND TO EXTEND THE JOB DEVELOPMENT  
INVESTMENT GRANT PROGRAM.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**PART I. REPLACE BILL LEE ACT**

**SECTION 1.** Chapter 105 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Article to read:

"Article 3H.

"Tax Credits for Growing Businesses.

**"§ 105-129.70. Legislative findings.**

The General Assembly finds that:

- (1) It is the policy of the State of North Carolina to stimulate economic activity and to create new jobs for the citizens of the State by encouraging and promoting the expansion of existing business and industry within the State and by recruiting and attracting new business and industry to the State.
- (2) Both short-term and long-term economic trends at the State, national, and international levels have made the successful implementation of the State's economic development policy and programs both more critical and more challenging; and the decline in the State's traditional industries, and the resulting adverse impact upon the State and its citizens, have been exacerbated in recent years by adverse national and State economic trends that contribute to the reduction in the State's industrial base and that inhibit the State's ability to sustain or attract new and expanding businesses.

- 1           (3)    The economic condition of the State is not static and recent changes in  
2           the State's economic condition have created economic distress that  
3           requires a reevaluation of certain existing State programs and the  
4           enactment of a new program as provided in this Article that is  
5           designed to stimulate new economic activity and to create new jobs  
6           within the State.
- 7           (4)    The enactment of this Article is necessary to stimulate the economy  
8           and create new jobs in North Carolina; and this Article will promote  
9           the general welfare and confer, as its primary purpose and effect,  
10          benefits on citizens throughout the State through the creation of new  
11          jobs, an enlargement of the overall tax base, an expansion and  
12          diversification of the State's industrial base, and an increase in revenue  
13          to the State and its political subdivisions.
- 14          (5)    The purpose of this Article is to stimulate economic activity and to  
15          create new jobs within the State.
- 16          (6)    The State is in need of a focused tax credit program that encourages  
17          and facilitates economic growth and development within the State.
- 18          (7)    The resources of the State are not evenly distributed throughout the  
19          State and different communities have different abilities and needs in  
20          attracting and maintaining new and expanding business and industry.

21    **§ 105-129.71. Definitions.**

22    The following definitions apply in this Article:

- 23          (1)    Aircraft maintenance and repair. – The provision of specialized  
24          maintenance or repair services for commercial aircraft or the  
25          rebuilding of commercial aircraft.
- 26          (2)    Air courier services. – The furnishing of air delivery of individually  
27          addressed letters and packages for compensation, in interstate  
28          commerce, except by the United States Postal Service.
- 29          (3)    Business property. – Tangible personal property used in a business that  
30          is capitalized under the Code.
- 31          (4)    Cost. – In the case of property owned by the taxpayer, cost is  
32          determined pursuant to regulations adopted under section 1012 of the  
33          Code. In the case of property the taxpayer leases from another, cost is  
34          value as determined pursuant to G.S. 105-130.4(j)(2).
- 35          (5)    Customer service call center. – The provision of support service by a  
36          business to its customers by telephone to support products or services  
37          of the business.
- 38          (6)    Development tier. –The classification assigned to an area pursuant to  
39          G.S. 105-129.73.
- 40          (7)    Electronic shopping and mail order houses. – An industry in electronic  
41          shopping and mail order houses industry group 4541 as defined by  
42          NAICS.
- 43          (8)    Establishment. – Defined in 29 C.F.R § 1904.46, as it existed on  
44          January 1, 2002.

- 1           (9) Full-time job. – A position that requires at least 1,600 hours of work  
2           per year and is intended to be held by one employee during the entire  
3           year. A full-time employee is an employee who holds a full-time job.
- 4           (10) Information technology and services. – An industry in one of the  
5           following:
- 6           a. Internet service providers, web search portals, and data  
7           processing subsector 518 as defined by NAICS.
- 8           b. Software publishers industry group 5112 as defined by NAICS.
- 9           c. Computer systems design and related services industry group  
10           5415 as defined by NAICS.
- 11          (11) Manufacturing. – An industry in manufacturing sectors 31 through 33,  
12          as defined by NAICS, but not including quick printing or retail  
13          bakeries.
- 14          (12) Motorsports racing team. – A professional or semiprofessional racing  
15          team primarily engaged in the research and development, design,  
16          manufacture, repair, maintenance, and operation of motor vehicles  
17          used in live motorsports racing events before a paying audience.
- 18          (13) NAICS. – The North American Industry Classification System adopted  
19          by the United States Office of Management and Budget as of  
20          December 31, 2002.
- 21          (14) New job. – A full-time job that represents a net increase in the number  
22          of the taxpayer's employees statewide. A new employee is an  
23          employee who holds a new job. The term does not include a job  
24          currently located in this State that is transferred to the business from a  
25          related member of the business.
- 26          (15) Overdue tax debt. – Defined in G.S. 105-243.1.
- 27          (16) Purchase. – Defined in section 179 of the Code.
- 28          (17) Related entity. – Defined in G.S. 105-130.7A.
- 29          (18) Research and development. – An industry in scientific research and  
30          development services industry group 5417 as defined by NAICS.
- 31          (19) Warehousing. – An industry in warehousing and storage subsector 493  
32          as defined by NAICS.
- 33          (20) Wholesale trade. – An industry in wholesale trade sector 42 as defined  
34          by NAICS.

35 **"§ 105-129.72. Sunset; studies.**

36          (a) Sunset. – This Article is repealed effective for business activities that occur  
37          on or after January 1, 2010.

38          (b) Equity Study. – The Department of Commerce shall study the effect of the  
39          tax incentives provided in this Article on tax equity. This study shall include the  
40          following:

- 41           (1) Reexamining the formula in G.S. 105-129.73(b) used to define  
42           development tiers, to include consideration of alternative measures for  
43           more equitable treatment of counties in similar economic  
44           circumstances.

- 1           (2) Considering whether the assignment of tiers and the applicable  
2 thresholds are equitable for smaller counties, for example those under  
3 50,000 in population.
- 4           (3) Compiling any available data on whether expanding North Carolina  
5 businesses receive fewer benefits than out-of-State businesses that  
6 locate to North Carolina.
- 7       (c) Impact Study. – The Department of Commerce shall study the effectiveness  
8 of the tax incentives provided in this Article. This study shall include:
- 9           (1) Studying the distribution of tax incentives across new and expanding  
10 businesses and industries.
- 11          (2) Examining data on economic recruitment for the period from 2004  
12 through the most recent year for which data are available by county, by  
13 industry type, by size of investment, and by number of jobs, and other  
14 relevant information to determine the pattern of business locations and  
15 expansions before and after the enactment of this Article.
- 16          (3) Measuring the direct costs and benefits of the tax incentives.
- 17          (4) Compiling available information on the current use of incentives by  
18 other states and whether that use is increasing or declining.
- 19       (d) Report. – The Department of Commerce shall report the results of these  
20 studies and its recommendations to the General Assembly biennially with the first report  
21 due by April 1, 2007.

22 **"§ 105-129.73. Development tier designation.**

- 23       (a) Tiers Defined. – A development tier one area is a county whose development  
24 factor is one of the 40 highest in the State. A development tier two area is a county  
25 whose development factor is one of the next 40 highest in the State. A development tier  
26 three area is a county that is not in a lower-numbered development tier.
- 27       (b) Annual Designation. – Each year, on or before November 30, the Secretary of  
28 Commerce shall assign to each county in the State a development factor that is the sum  
29 of the following:
- 30           (1) The county's rank in a ranking of counties by average rate of  
31 unemployment from lowest to highest, for the preceding 12 months.
- 32           (2) The county's rank in a ranking of counties by median household  
33 income from highest to lowest, for the preceding 12 months.
- 34           (3) The county's rank in a ranking of counties by percentage growth in  
35 population from highest to lowest, for the preceding 36 months.
- 36           (4) The county's rank in a ranking of counties by assessed property value  
37 per capita, from highest to lowest, for the most recent taxable year.

38 The Secretary of Commerce shall then rank all the counties within the State  
39 according to their development factor from highest to lowest, identify all the areas of  
40 the State by development tier, and publish this information. A development tier  
41 designation is effective only for the calendar year following the designation.

- 42       (c) Data. – In measuring rates of unemployment and median household income,  
43 the Secretary shall use the latest available data published by a State or federal agency  
44 generally recognized as having expertise concerning the data. In measuring population

1 and population growth, the Secretary shall use the most recent estimates of population  
2 certified by the State Budget Officer. In measuring assessed property value, the  
3 Secretary shall use the tax records prepared in each county.

4 (d) Exception for Development Tier One Areas. – Notwithstanding the  
5 provisions of this section, a county designated as a development tier one area may not  
6 be redesignated as a higher-numbered development tier area until it has been in its  
7 development tier area for at least two consecutive years.

8 **"§ 105-129.74. Eligibility; forfeiture.**

9 (a) Eligible Business. – A taxpayer is eligible for a credit under this Article only  
10 with respect to activities occurring at an establishment whose primary activity is listed  
11 in this subsection. The primary activity of an establishment is determined based on the  
12 establishment's principal product or group of products produced or distributed, or  
13 services rendered

14 (1) Aircraft maintenance and repair.

15 (2) Air courier services.

16 (3) Customer service call centers, if at least sixty percent (60%) of the  
17 center's calls are incoming.

18 (4) Electronic shopping and mail order houses.

19 (5) Information technology and services.

20 (6) Manufacturing.

21 (7) Motorsports racing team.

22 (8) Research and development.

23 (9) Warehousing

24 (10) Wholesale trade.

25 (b) Wage Standard. – A taxpayer is eligible for a credit under this Article in a  
26 development tier two or three area if the taxpayer satisfies a wage standard. Jobs satisfy  
27 the wage standard if they pay an average weekly wage that is at least equal to the lesser  
28 of one hundred ten percent (110%) of the average wage for all insured private  
29 employers in the State and one hundred percent (100%) of the average wage for all  
30 insured private employers in the county. The Department of Commerce must annually  
31 publish the wage standard for each county.

32 In making the wage calculation, the taxpayer must include any jobs that were filled  
33 for at least 1,600 hours during the calendar year the taxpayer engages in the activity that  
34 qualifies for the credit even if those jobs are not filled at the time the taxpayer claims  
35 the credit. For a taxpayer with a taxable year other than a calendar year, the taxpayer  
36 must use the wage standard for the calendar year in which the taxable year begins. Only  
37 full-time jobs are included when making the wage calculation.

38 (c) Health Insurance. – A taxpayer is eligible for a credit under this Article if the  
39 taxpayer provides health insurance for all of the full-time jobs at the location with  
40 respect to which the credit is claimed when the taxpayer engages in the activity that  
41 qualifies for the credit. For the purposes of this subsection, a taxpayer provides health  
42 insurance if it pays at least fifty percent (50%) of the premiums for health care coverage  
43 that equals or exceeds the minimum provisions of the basic health care plan of coverage  
44 recommended by the Small Employer Carrier Committee pursuant to G.S. 58-50-125.

1        Each year that a taxpayer claims a credit or carryforward of a credit allowed under  
2 this Article, the taxpayer must provide with the tax return the taxpayer's certification  
3 that the taxpayer continues to provide health insurance for all the jobs at the location  
4 with respect to which the credit was claimed. If the taxpayer ceases to provide health  
5 insurance for the jobs during a taxable year, the credit expires and the taxpayer may not  
6 take any remaining installment or carryforward of the credit.

7        (d) Environmental Impact. – A taxpayer is eligible for a credit allowed under this  
8 Article only if the taxpayer certifies that, at the time the taxpayer claims the credit, the  
9 taxpayer has no pending administrative, civil, or criminal enforcement action based on  
10 alleged significant violations of any program implemented by an agency of the  
11 Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and has had no final determination  
12 of responsibility for any significant administrative, civil, or criminal violation of any  
13 program implemented by an agency of the Department of Environment and Natural  
14 Resources within the last five years. A significant violation is a violation or alleged  
15 violation that does not satisfy any of the conditions of G.S. 143-215.6B(d). The  
16 Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources must notify the Department of  
17 Revenue annually of every person that currently has any of these pending actions and  
18 every person that has had any of these final determinations within the last five years.

19        (e) Safety and Health Programs. – A taxpayer is eligible for a credit allowed  
20 under this Article only if the taxpayer certifies that, as of the time the taxpayer claims  
21 the credit, at the business location with respect to which the credit is claimed, the  
22 taxpayer has no citations under the Occupational Safety and Health Act that have  
23 become a final order within the past three years for willful serious violations or for  
24 failing to abate serious violations. For the purposes of this subsection, "serious  
25 violation" has the same meaning as in G.S. 95-127. The Commissioner of Labor must  
26 notify the Department of Revenue annually of all employers who have had these  
27 citations become final orders within the past three years.

28        (f) Overdue Tax Debts. – A taxpayer is not eligible for a credit allowed under  
29 this Article if, at the time the taxpayer claims the credit or an installment or  
30 carryforward of the credit, the taxpayer has received a notice of an overdue tax debt and  
31 that overdue tax debt has not been satisfied or otherwise resolved.

32        (g) Forfeiture. – A taxpayer forfeits a credit allowed under this Article if the  
33 taxpayer was not eligible for the credit for the calendar year in which the taxpayer  
34 engaged in the activity for which the credit was claimed. In addition, a taxpayer forfeits  
35 a credit for investment in real property under G.S. 105-129.80 if the taxpayer fails to  
36 timely create the number of required new jobs or to timely make the required level of  
37 investment required under G.S. 105-129.80(b). A taxpayer that forfeits a credit under  
38 this Article is liable for all past taxes avoided as a result of the credit plus interest at the  
39 rate established under G.S. 105-241.1(i), computed from the date the taxes would have  
40 been due if the credit had not been allowed. The past taxes and interest are due 30 days  
41 after the date the credit is forfeited; a taxpayer that fails to pay the past taxes and  
42 interest by the due date is subject to the penalties provided in G.S. 105-236.

43        (h) Change in Ownership of Business. – As used in this subsection, the term  
44 'business' means a taxpayer or an establishment. The sale, merger, consolidation,

1 conversion, acquisition, or bankruptcy of a business, or any transaction by which an  
2 existing business reformulates itself as another business, does not create new eligibility  
3 in a succeeding business with respect to credits for which the predecessor was not  
4 eligible under this Article. A successor business may, however, take any credit or  
5 carried-over portion of a credit that its predecessor could have taken if it had a tax  
6 liability. The acquisition of a business is a new investment that creates new eligibility in  
7 the acquiring taxpayer under this Article if either of the following conditions is met:

8 (1) The business closed before it was acquired.

9 (2) The business was required to file a notice of plant closing or mass  
10 layoff under the federal Worker Adjustment and Retraining  
11 Notification Act, 29 U.S.C. § 2101, before it was acquired.

12 (i) Advisory Ruling. – A taxpayer may request in writing from the Secretary of  
13 Revenue specific advice regarding eligibility for a credit under this Article.  
14 G.S. 105-264 governs the effect of this advice. A taxpayer may not legally rely upon  
15 advice offered by any other State or local government official or employee acting in an  
16 official capacity regarding eligibility for a credit under this Article.

17 (j) Planned Expansion. – A taxpayer that signs a letter of commitment with the  
18 Department of Commerce, after the Department has calculated the development tier  
19 designations for the next year but before the beginning of that taxable year, to undertake  
20 specific activities at a specific site within the next taxable year may calculate the credit  
21 for which it qualifies based on the location's development tier designation in the year in  
22 which the letter of commitment was signed by the taxpayer.

23 **§ 105-129.75. Tax election; cap; carryforwards; limitations.**

24 (a) Tax Election. – The credits provided in this Article are allowed against the  
25 franchise tax levied in Article 3 of this Chapter, the income taxes levied in Article 4 of  
26 this Chapter, and the gross premiums tax levied in Article 8B of this Chapter. The  
27 taxpayer may divide a credit between the taxes against which it is allowed.  
28 Carryforwards of a credit may be divided between the taxes against which it is allowed  
29 without regard to the original election.

30 (b) Cap. – The credits allowed under this Article may not exceed fifty percent  
31 (50%) of the cumulative amount of taxes against which they are claimed for the taxable  
32 year, reduced by the sum of all other credits allowed against those taxes, except tax  
33 payments made by or on behalf of the taxpayer. This limitation applies to the  
34 cumulative amount of credit, including carryforwards, claimed by the taxpayer under  
35 this Article against the taxes for the taxable year. Credits that may eliminate only a  
36 portion of the taxpayer's liability must be taken before credits that may eliminate all of a  
37 taxpayer's liability, which in turn must be taken before any credits that are refundable.

38 (c) Carryforward. – Any unused portion of a credit under this Article may be  
39 carried forward for the succeeding five years.

40 (d) Statute of Limitations. – Notwithstanding Article 9 of this Chapter, a taxpayer  
41 must claim a credit under this Article within six months after the date set by statute for  
42 the filing of the return, including any extensions of that date.

43 **§ 105-129.76. Fees and reports.**

1       (a) Fee. – When filing a return for a taxable year in which the taxpayer engaged  
2 in activity for which the taxpayer is eligible for a credit under this Article, the taxpayer  
3 must pay the Department of Revenue a fee of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each  
4 credit the taxpayer claims or intends to claim. The fee is due at the time the return is due  
5 for the taxable year in which the taxpayer engaged in the activity for which the taxpayer  
6 is eligible for a credit. No credit is allowed under this Article for a taxable year until all  
7 outstanding fees have been paid. The Secretary of Revenue shall retain three-fourths of  
8 the proceeds of the fee imposed in this section for the costs of administering and  
9 auditing the credits allowed in this Article. The Secretary of Revenue shall credit the  
10 remaining proceeds of the fee imposed in this section to the Department of Commerce  
11 for the costs of administering this Article. The proceeds of the fee are receipts of the  
12 Department to which they are credited.

13       (b) Reports. – The Department of Revenue shall publish by April 1 of each year  
14 the following information itemized by credit and by taxpayer for the 12-month period  
15 ending the preceding December 31:

16           (1) The number of claims for each credit allowed in this Article.

17           (2) The number and development tier area of new jobs with respect to  
18 which credits were claimed.

19           (3) The cost and development tier area of business property with respect to  
20 which credits were claimed.

21           (4) The cost and development tier area of real property investment with  
22 respect to which credits were claimed.

23 **"§ 105-129.77. Substantiation.**

24       (a) Records. – To claim a credit allowed by this Article, the taxpayer must  
25 provide any information required by the Secretary of Revenue. Every taxpayer claiming  
26 a credit under this Article shall maintain and make available for inspection by the  
27 Secretary of Revenue any records the Secretary considers necessary to determine and  
28 verify the amount of the credit to which the taxpayer is entitled. The burden of proving  
29 eligibility for the credit and the amount of the credit shall rest upon the taxpayer, and no  
30 credit shall be allowed to a taxpayer that fails to maintain adequate records or to make  
31 them available for inspection.

32       (b) Documentation. – Each taxpayer must provide with the tax return qualifying  
33 information for each credit claimed under this Article. The qualifying information must  
34 be in the form prescribed by the Secretary and must be signed and affirmed by the  
35 individual who signs the taxpayer's tax return. The information required by this  
36 subsection is information demonstrating that the taxpayer has met the conditions for  
37 qualifying for a credit and any carryforwards, and includes the following:

38           (1) The physical location of the jobs and investment with respect to which  
39 the credit is claimed, including the street address and the development  
40 tier designation of the location.

41           (2) The type of business with respect to which the credit is claimed and  
42 the average weekly wage at the facility with respect to which the credit  
43 is claimed.



(3) Any other qualifying information related to a specific credit allowed under this Article.

**"§ 105-129.78. Credit for creating jobs.**

(a) Credit. – A taxpayer that meets the eligibility requirements set out in G.S. 105-129.74 and satisfies the threshold requirement for new job creation in this State under subsection (b) of this section during the taxable year is allowed a credit for creating those new jobs. The amount of the credit for each new job created is set out in the table below and is based on the development tier designation of the county in which the job is located.

<u>Area Development Tier</u>	<u>Amount of Credit</u>
<u>Tier One</u>	<u>\$12,500</u>
<u>Tier Two</u>	<u>5,000</u>
<u>Tier Three</u>	<u>500</u>

(b) Threshold. – The applicable threshold is the appropriate amount set out in the following table based on the development tier designation of the county where the new jobs are created during the taxable year. If the taxpayer creates new jobs at more than one eligible establishment in a county during the taxable year, the threshold applies to the aggregate number of new jobs created at all eligible establishments within the county during that year. If the taxpayer creates new jobs at eligible establishments in different counties during the taxable year, the threshold applies separately to the aggregate number of new jobs created at eligible establishments in each county.

<u>Area Development Tier</u>	<u>Threshold</u>
<u>Tier One</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Tier Two</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Tier Three</u>	<u>50</u>

(c) Calculation. – A job is located in a county if more than fifty percent (50%) of the employee's duties are performed in the county. The number of new jobs a taxpayer creates during the taxable year is determined by subtracting the average number of full-time employees the taxpayer had in this State during the 12-month period preceding the beginning of the taxable year from the average number of full-time employees the taxpayer has in this State during the taxable year.

(d) Installments. – The credit may not be taken in the taxable year in which the new jobs are created. Instead, the credit must be taken in equal installments over the four years following the taxable year in which the new jobs were created and is conditional upon the continued maintenance of those jobs by the taxpayer. If, in one of the four years in which the installment of a credit accrues, a job is no longer filled, the credit with respect to that job expires and the taxpayer may not take any remaining installment of the credit with respect to that job. If, in one of the years in which the installment of a credit accrues, the number of the taxpayer's full-time employees falls below the sum of the applicable threshold and the number of full-time employees the taxpayer had in the year before the year in which the taxpayer qualified for the credit, the credits with respect to all of the new jobs expire and the taxpayer may not take any remaining installments of the credits. When a credit expires under this subsection, the

1 taxpayer may, however, take the portion of an installment that accrued in a previous  
 2 year and was carried forward to the extent permitted under G.S. 105-129.75.

3 (e) Transferred Jobs. – Jobs transferred from one area in the State to another area  
 4 in the State are not considered new jobs for purposes of this section. Jobs transferred to  
 5 the taxpayer from a related member of the taxpayer are not considered new jobs for  
 6 purposes of this section. If, in one of the four years in which the installment of a credit  
 7 accrues, the jobs with respect to which the credit was claimed are moved to an area in a  
 8 higher-numbered development tier, the remaining installments of the credit are allowed  
 9 only to the extent they would have been allowed if the jobs were initially created in the  
 10 area to which they were moved. If, in one of the years in which the installment of a  
 11 credit accrues, the jobs are moved to an area in a lower-numbered development tier, the  
 12 remaining installments of the credit must be calculated as if the jobs had been created  
 13 initially in the area to which they were moved.

14 (f) Wage Standard. – For the purposes of this section, a taxpayer satisfies the  
 15 wage standard requirement of G.S. 105-129.74 only if the taxpayer satisfies the  
 16 requirement with respect to both the new jobs, considered collectively, for which a  
 17 credit is claimed and all of the jobs at the establishment, considered collectively, with  
 18 respect to which a credit is claimed.

19 (g) No Double Credit. – A taxpayer may not claim a credit under this section  
 20 with respect to jobs for which a taxpayer claims a credit under G.S. 105-129.8.

21 **§ 105-129.79. Credit for investing in business property.**

22 (a) General Credit. – A taxpayer that has purchased or leased business property  
 23 and placed it in service in this State during the taxable year and that has satisfied the  
 24 threshold requirements of subsection (c) of this section is allowed a credit equal to the  
 25 applicable percentage of the eligible investment amount. Business property is eligible if  
 26 it is not leased to another party. The credit may not be taken for the taxable year in  
 27 which the business property is placed in service but shall be taken in equal installments  
 28 over the four years following the taxable year in which it is placed in service. The  
 29 applicable percentage is as follows:

<u>Area Development Tier</u>	<u>Applicable Percentage</u>
Tier One	7%
Tier Two	5%
Tier Three	4%

34 (b) Eligible Investment Amount. – The eligible investment amount is the lesser  
 35 of (i) the cost of the eligible business property and (ii) the amount by which the cost of  
 36 all of the taxpayer's eligible business property that is in service in this State on the last  
 37 day of the taxable year exceeds the cost of all of the taxpayer's eligible business  
 38 property that was in service in this State on the last day of the base year. The base year  
 39 is that year, of the three immediately preceding taxable years, in which the taxpayer had  
 40 the most eligible business property in service in this State.

41 (c) Threshold. – The applicable threshold is the appropriate amount set out in the  
 42 following table based on the development tier where the eligible business property is  
 43 placed in service during the taxable year. If the taxpayer places eligible business  
 44 property in service at more than one establishment in a county during the taxable year,

1 the threshold applies to the aggregate amount of eligible business property placed in  
 2 service during the taxable year at all establishments in the county. If the taxpayer places  
 3 eligible business property in service at establishments in different counties, the  
 4 threshold applies separately to the aggregate amount of eligible business property  
 5 placed in service in each county.

<u>Area Development Tier</u>	<u>Threshold</u>
Tier One	\$ -0-
Tier Two	1,000,000
Tier Three	10,000,000

10 (d) Expiration. – As used in this subsection, the term "disposed of" means  
 11 disposed of, taken out of service, or moved out of State. If, in one of the four years in  
 12 which the installment of a credit accrues, the business property with respect to which  
 13 the credit was claimed is disposed of, the credit expires and the taxpayer may not take  
 14 any remaining installment of the credit for that business property unless the cost of that  
 15 business property is offset in the same taxable year by the taxpayer's new investment in  
 16 eligible business property placed in service in the same county, as provided in this  
 17 subsection. If, during the taxable year the taxpayer disposed of the business property for  
 18 which installments remain, there has been a net reduction in the cost of all the taxpayer's  
 19 eligible business property that are in service in the same county as the business property  
 20 that was disposed of, and the amount of this reduction is greater than twenty percent  
 21 (20%) of the cost of the business property that was disposed of, then the taxpayer  
 22 forfeits the remaining installments of the credit for the business property that was  
 23 disposed of. If the amount of the net reduction is equal to twenty percent (20%) or less  
 24 of the cost of the business property that was disposed of, or if there is no net reduction,  
 25 then the taxpayer does not forfeit the remaining installments of the expired credit. In  
 26 determining the amount of any net reduction during the taxable year, the cost of  
 27 business property the taxpayer placed in service during the taxable year and for which  
 28 the taxpayer claims a credit under Article 3A or Article 3B of this Chapter may not be  
 29 included in the cost of all the taxpayer's eligible business property that is in service. If in  
 30 a single taxable year business property with respect to two or more credits in the same  
 31 county are disposed of, the net reduction in the cost of all the taxpayer's eligible  
 32 business property that is in service in the same county is compared to the total cost of all  
 33 the business property for which credits expired in order to determine whether the  
 34 remaining installments of the credits are forfeited.

35 The expiration of a credit does not prevent the taxpayer from taking the portion of an  
 36 installment that accrued in a previous year and was carried forward to the extent  
 37 permitted under G.S. 105-129.75.

38 If, in one of the four years in which the installment of a credit accrues, the business  
 39 property with respect to which the credit was claimed is moved to a county in a  
 40 higher-numbered development tier, the remaining installments of the credit are allowed  
 41 only to the extent they would have been allowed if the business property had been  
 42 placed in service initially in the county to which it was moved. If, in one of the four  
 43 years in which the installment of a credit accrues, the business property with respect to  
 44 which a credit was claimed is moved to a county in a lower-numbered development tier,

1 the remaining installments of the credit must be calculated as if the business property  
2 had been placed in service initially in the county to which it was moved.

3 (e) Wage Standard. – For the purposes of this section, a taxpayer satisfies the  
4 wage standard requirement of G.S. 105-129.74 only if the taxpayer satisfies the  
5 requirement with respect to all of the jobs at the establishment, considered collectively,  
6 with respect to which a credit is claimed.

7 (f) No Double Credit. – A taxpayer may not claim a credit under this section  
8 with respect to business property for which the taxpayer claims a credit under  
9 G.S. 105-129.9 or G.S. 105-129.9A.

10 **"§ 105-129.80. Credit for investment in real property.**

11 (a) Credit. – If a taxpayer that has purchased or leased real property in a  
12 development tier one area begins to use the property in an eligible business during the  
13 taxable year, the taxpayer is allowed a credit equal to thirty percent (30%) of the eligible  
14 investment amount if all of the eligibility requirements of G.S. 105-129.74 and of  
15 subsection (b) of this section are met. For the purposes of this section, property is  
16 located in a development tier one area if the area the property is located in was a  
17 development tier one area at the time the taxpayer made a written application for the  
18 determination required under subsection (b) of this section. The eligible investment  
19 amount is the lesser of (i) the cost of the property and (ii) the amount by which the cost  
20 of all of the real property the taxpayer is using in this State in an eligible business on the  
21 last day of the taxable year exceeds the cost of all of the real property the taxpayer was  
22 using in this State in an eligible business on the last day of the base year. The base year  
23 is that year, of the three immediately preceding taxable years, in which the taxpayer was  
24 using the most real property in this State in an eligible business. In the case of property  
25 that is leased, the cost of the property is not determined as provided in G.S. 105-129.71  
26 but is considered to be the taxpayer's lease payments over a seven-year period, plus any  
27 expenditures made by the taxpayer to improve the property before it is used by the  
28 taxpayer if the expenditures are not reimbursed or credited by the lessor. The entire  
29 credit may not be taken for the taxable year in which the property is first used in an  
30 eligible business but shall be taken in equal installments over the seven years following  
31 the taxable year in which the property is first used in an eligible business. When part of  
32 the property is first used in an eligible business in one year and part is first used in an  
33 eligible business in a later year, separate credits may be claimed for the amount of  
34 property first used in an eligible business in each year. The basis in any real property for  
35 which a credit is allowed under this section shall be reduced by the amount of credit  
36 allowable.

37 (b) Determination by the Secretary of Commerce. – A taxpayer is eligible for the  
38 credit allowed under this section with respect to a location only if the Secretary of  
39 Commerce makes a written determination that the taxpayer is expected to purchase or  
40 lease and use in an eligible business at that location within a three-year period at least  
41 ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) of real property and that the location that is the subject  
42 of the credit will create at least 200 new jobs within two years of the time that the  
43 property is first used in an eligible business. If the taxpayer fails to timely make the

1 required level of investment or fails to timely create the required number of new jobs,  
2 the taxpayer forfeits the credit as provided in G.S. 105-129.74.

3 (c) Mixed Use Property. – If the taxpayer uses only part of the property in an  
4 eligible business, the amount of the credit allowed under this section is reduced by  
5 multiplying it by a fraction, the numerator of which is the square footage of the property  
6 used in an eligible business and the denominator of which is the total square footage of  
7 the property.

8 (d) Expiration. – If, in one of the seven years in which the installment of a credit  
9 accrues, the property with respect to which the credit was claimed is no longer used in  
10 an eligible business, the credit expires and the taxpayer may not take any remaining  
11 installment of the credit. If, in one of the seven years in which the installment of a credit  
12 accrues, part of the property with respect to which the credit was claimed is no longer  
13 used in an eligible business, the remaining installments of the credit shall be reduced by  
14 multiplying it by the fraction described in subsection (c) of this section. If, in one of the  
15 years in which the installment of a credit accrues and by which the taxpayer is required  
16 to have created 200 new jobs at the property, the total number of employees the  
17 taxpayer employs at the property with respect to which the credit is claimed is less than  
18 200, the credit expires and the taxpayer may not take any remaining installment of the  
19 credit.

20 In each of these cases, the taxpayer may nonetheless take the portion of an  
21 installment that accrued in a previous year and was carried forward to the extent  
22 permitted under G.S. 105-129.75.

23 (e) Wage Standard. – For the purposes of this section, a taxpayer satisfies the  
24 wage standard requirement of G.S. 105-129.74 only if the taxpayer satisfies the  
25 requirement with respect to all of the jobs at the establishment, considered collectively,  
26 with respect to which a credit is claimed.

27 (f) No Double Credit. – A taxpayer may not claim a credit under this section  
28 with respect to real property for which a credit is claimed under G.S. 105-129.12 or  
29 G.S. 105-129.12A."

30 **SECTION 1.2.** This part is effective for taxable years beginning on or after  
31 January 1, 2006, and applies to business activities occurring on or after that date.  
32

## 33 **PART II. EXTEND JDIG**

34 **SECTION 2.1.** G.S. 143B-437.62 reads as rewritten:

### 35 **"§ 143B-437.62. Expiration.**

36 The authority of the Committee to enter into new agreements expires January 1,  
37 ~~2006-2008.~~"

38 **SECTION 2.2.** This part is effective when it becomes law.  
39

## 40 **PART III. EFFECTIVE DATE**

41 **SECTION 3.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it  
42 becomes law.