LEGISLATIVE ACTION Senate House Comm: RCS 03/30/2021

The Committee on Commerce and Tourism (Gruters) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

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Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Section 220.191, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

220.191 Capital investment tax credit.-

- (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in For purposes of this section, the term:
 - (a) "Commencement of operations" means the beginning of

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active operations by a qualifying business of the principal function for which a qualifying project was constructed.

- (b) "Cumulative capital investment" means the total capital investment in land, buildings, and equipment made in connection with a qualifying project during the period from the beginning of construction of the project to the commencement of operations.
- (c) "Cumulative intellectual property investment" means the total investment for the development of intellectual property during the period from the start date of the project to the completion of the project in buildings or equipment; in wages, salaries, or other compensation paid to employees, including amounts paid through an employee leasing company and any employer-paid taxes and benefits; and in the direct production costs paid to any business, regardless of location.
- (d) "Direct production costs" means direct expenses related to the preproduction, development or filming, and postproduction of intellectual property. The term does not include the distribution and marketing of intellectual property.
- (e)1.(c) "Eligible capital costs" means all expenses incurred by a qualifying business in connection with:
- a. The acquisition, construction, installation, and equipping of a qualifying project during the period from the beginning of construction of the project to the commencement of operations; or
- b. A qualifying project for the development or creation of intellectual property during the period from the start date of the project to the completion of the project.
 - 2. The term includes, including, but is not limited to:

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a.1. The costs of acquiring, constructing, installing, equipping, and financing a qualifying project, including all obligations incurred for labor and obligations to contractors, subcontractors, builders, and materialmen.

b.2. The costs of acquiring land or rights to land and any cost incidental thereto, including recording fees.

c.3. The costs of architectural and engineering services, including test borings, surveys, estimates, plans and specifications, preliminary investigations, environmental mitigation, and supervision of construction, as well as the performance of all duties required by or consequent to the acquisition, construction, installation, and equipping of a qualifying project.

d.4. The costs associated with the installation of fixtures and equipment; surveys, including archaeological and environmental surveys; site tests and inspections; subsurface site work and excavation; removal of structures, roadways, and other surface obstructions; filling, grading, paving, and provisions for drainage, storm water retention, and installation of utilities, including water, sewer, sewage treatment, gas, electricity, communications, and similar facilities; and offsite construction of utility extensions to the boundaries of the property.

e. For the development or creation of intellectual property, the wages, salaries, employer-paid taxes and benefits, or other compensation paid to legal residents of this state, including amounts paid through a loan-out company, an employee leasing company, or a payroll service company; and the direct production costs paid to any business authorized to do business



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

(f) "Employer-paid taxes and benefits" includes social security tax; Medicare tax; federal unemployment and state reemployment assistance taxes; workers' compensation premiums and benefits; vacation pay, holiday pay, and sick pay; payrollhandling fees; mileage; car allowances; housing allowances; and per diem.

(g) (d) "Income generated by or arising out of the qualifying project" means the qualifying project's annual taxable income as determined by generally accepted accounting principles and under s. 220.13.

(h) (e) "Intellectual property" means a copyrightable project for which the eligible capital costs are principally paid directly or indirectly for the development or creation of the project. As used in this paragraph, the term "copyrightable project" includes, but is not limited to, a copyrightable software or multimedia application and its expansion content made available to an end user, which includes, but is not limited to, technological activities relating to updating the project; internal development platforms that support the production of multiple applications; cloud-based services that support the functionality of multiple applications; and copyrightable projects that include, but are not limited to, digital visualization and sound synchronization technologies for digital media, or that are necessary for the production of scripted content intended for theatrical, streaming, or



television distribution.

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- (i) "Jobs" means full-time equivalent positions, as that term is consistent with terms used by the Department of Economic Opportunity and the United States Department of Labor for purposes of reemployment assistance tax administration and employment estimation, resulting directly from a project in this state. The term does not include temporary construction jobs involved in the construction of the project facility.
- (j) "Production infrastructure costs" means the costs of property intended to be used for the development of multiple intellectual property projects. Such investment property includes, but is not limited to, buildings, facilities, studios, soundstages, and any ancillary machinery and equipment used for the development of intellectual property, regardless of whether the property is a fixture or is otherwise affixed to or incorporated into real property. The term does not include the direct production costs related to a specific intellectual property project.
- (k) (f) "Qualifying business" means a business which establishes a qualifying project or strategic priority project in this state and which is certified by the Department of Economic Opportunity to receive tax credits pursuant to this section.
- (1) (g) "Qualifying project" means a facility or project in this state meeting one or more of the following criteria:
- 1. A new or expanding facility in this state which creates at least 100 new jobs in this state and is in one of the highimpact sectors identified by Enterprise Florida, Inc., and certified by the Department of Economic Opportunity pursuant to

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- s. 288.108(6), including, but not limited to, aviation, aerospace, automotive, and silicon technology industries. However, between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2014, the requirement that a facility be in a high-impact sector is waived for any otherwise eligible business from another state which locates all or a portion of its business to a Disproportionally Affected County. For purposes of this section, the term "Disproportionally Affected County" means Bay County, Escambia County, Franklin County, Gulf County, Okaloosa County, Santa Rosa County, Walton County, or Wakulla County.
- 2. A new or expanded facility in this state which is engaged in a target industry designated pursuant to the procedure specified in s. 288.106(2) and which is induced by this credit to create or retain at least 1,000 jobs in this state, provided that at least 100 of those jobs are new, pay an annual average wage of at least 130 percent of the average private sector wage in the area as defined in s. 288.106(2), and make a cumulative capital investment of at least \$100 million. Jobs may be considered retained only if there is significant evidence that the loss of jobs is imminent. Notwithstanding subsection (2), annual credits against the tax imposed by this chapter may not exceed 50 percent of the increased annual corporate income tax liability or the premium tax liability generated by or arising out of a project qualifying under this subparagraph. A facility that qualifies under this subparagraph for an annual credit against the tax imposed by this chapter may take the tax credit for a period not to exceed 5 years.
- 3. A new or expanded headquarters facility in this state which locates in an enterprise zone and brownfield area and is

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induced by this credit to create at least 1,500 jobs which on average pay at least 200 percent of the statewide average annual private sector wage, as published by the Department of Economic Opportunity, and which new or expanded headquarters facility makes a cumulative capital investment in this state of at least \$250 million.

- 4. A project involving the development or creation of intellectual property, provided that the project's jobs in this state pay an annual average wage of at least 150 percent of the average private sector wage in the area as defined in s. 288.106. A project that qualifies under this subparagraph may consist of one or more projects with different start and completion dates.
- (m) "Strategic priority project" means a qualifying project identified in subparagraph (1)4. which demonstrates the potential for measurable value to this state, including, but not limited to, marketing this state as a visitor destination, making improvements to infrastructure supporting future industry use, or providing measurable technology skills development for residents of this state.
- (2) (a) An annual credit against the tax imposed by this chapter shall be granted to any qualifying business in an amount equal to 5 percent of the eligible capital costs generated by a qualifying project, for a period not to exceed 20 years beginning with the commencement of operations of the project. Unless assigned as described in this subsection, the tax credit shall be granted against only the corporate income tax liability or the premium tax liability generated by or arising out of the qualifying project, and the sum of all tax credits provided

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pursuant to this section shall not exceed 100 percent of the eligible capital costs of the project. In no event may any credit granted under this section be carried forward or backward by any qualifying business with respect to a subsequent or prior year. The annual tax credit granted under this section shall not exceed the following percentages of the annual corporate income tax liability or the premium tax liability generated by or arising out of a qualifying project:

- 1. One hundred percent for a qualifying project which results in a cumulative capital investment of at least \$100 million.
- 2. Seventy-five percent for a qualifying project which results in a cumulative capital investment of at least \$50 million but less than \$100 million.
- 3. Fifty percent for a qualifying project which results in a cumulative capital investment of at least \$25 million but less than \$50 million.
- (b) A qualifying project which results in a cumulative capital investment of less than \$25 million is not eligible for the capital investment tax credit. An insurance company claiming a credit against premium tax liability under this program shall not be required to pay any additional retaliatory tax levied pursuant to s. 624.5091 as a result of claiming such credit. Because credits under this section are available to an insurance company, s. 624.5091 does not limit such credit in any manner.
- (c) A qualifying business that establishes a qualifying project that includes locating a new solar panel manufacturing facility in this state that generates a minimum of 400 jobs within 6 months after commencement of operations with an average

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salary of at least \$50,000 may assign or transfer the annual credit, or any portion thereof, granted under this section to any other business. However, the amount of the tax credit that may be transferred in any year shall be the lesser of the qualifying business's state corporate income tax liability for that year, as limited by the percentages applicable under paragraph (a) and as calculated before prior to taking any credit pursuant to this section, or the credit amount granted for that year. A business receiving the transferred or assigned credits may use the credits only in the year received, and the credits may not be carried forward or backward. To perfect the transfer, the transferor shall provide the department with a written transfer statement notifying the department of the transferor's intent to transfer the tax credits to the transferee; the date the transfer is effective; the transferee's name, address, and federal taxpayer identification number; the tax period; and the amount of tax credits to be transferred. The department shall, upon receipt of a transfer statement conforming to the requirements of this paragraph, provide the transferee with a certificate reflecting the tax credit amounts transferred. A copy of the certificate must be attached to each tax return for which the transferee seeks to apply such tax credits.

(d) If the credit granted under subparagraph (a)1. is not fully used in any one year because of insufficient tax liability on the part of the qualifying business, the unused amounts may be used in any one year or years beginning with the 21st year after the commencement of operations of the project and ending the 30th year after the commencement of operations of the



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- (3) (a) 1. Notwithstanding subsection (2), a credit against the tax imposed by this chapter, against state taxes collected or accrued under chapter 212, or against a stated combination of the two taxes must be granted to a qualifying business that establishes a qualifying project identified in subparagraph (1)(1)4. for which the cumulative intellectual property investment of one or more projects is, at the election of the qualifying business, at least:
 - a. Fifty million dollars per year for 3 consecutive years;
 - b. An aggregate of \$150 million over a 3-year period; or
 - c. An aggregate of \$500 million over a 3-year period.
- 2. For sub-subparagraphs 1.a. and b., the tax credit must be granted in an amount equal to 20 percent of the eligible capital costs generated by the qualifying project. The tax credit must be granted against the tax liability of the qualifying business.
- 3. For projects meeting the threshold of sub-subparagraph 1.c., the tax credit must be granted in an amount equal to 26 percent of the eligible wages, salaries, employer paid taxes and benefits, or other compensation paid to any individual, including amounts paid through an employee leasing company, and the direct production costs paid to any business, regardless of the location, generated by the qualifying project. The tax credit must be granted against the tax liability of the qualifying business.
- (b) 1. The credit granted under this subsection may be used in whole or in part by the qualifying business or any corporation that is a member of that qualifying business'

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affiliated group of corporations. Any credit may be used by any of the affiliated corporations to the same extent as it could have been used by the qualifying business. However, any such use may not operate to increase the amount of the credit or extend the period within which the credit must be used.

- 2. The credit granted under this subsection may be transferred to any third party. A qualifying business that elects to transfer the tax credit shall transfer the tax credit within 1 year after the date the tax credit is granted. A business receiving the transferred tax credit may use the credit only in the year received, and the credit may not be carried forward or backward. To perfect the transfer, the transferor shall provide the department with a written transfer statement of the transferor's intent to transfer the tax credits to the transferee; the date the transfer is effective; the transferee's name, address, and federal taxpayer identification number; the tax period to which the transfer applies; and the amount of tax credits to be transferred. The department shall, upon receipt of a transfer statement conforming to the requirements of this subparagraph, provide the transferee with a certificate reflecting the tax credit amounts transferred. A copy of the certificate must be attached to each tax return for which the transferee seeks to apply such tax credits.
- (c) A qualifying business that elects to use the tax credit may use the tax credit in any one year or years beginning with the commencement of the project and ending the second year after the completion of the project.
- (d) Notwithstanding the cumulative intellectual property investment thresholds under subparagraph (a) 1., tax credits must

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be granted as costs described in that subparagraph are certified by the Department of Economic Opportunity.

- (e) 1. In any year in which the qualifying business fails to meet the level of cumulative intellectual property investment required by this subsection for that year:
- a. For purposes of sub-subparagraph (a)1.a., any previously granted tax credit issued pursuant to this subsection in such year must be revoked and rescinded.
- b. For purposes of sub-subparagraph (a) 1.b., any previously granted tax credit issued pursuant to this subsection must be revoked and rescinded.
- c. For purposes of sub-subparagraph (a) 1.c., the portion of any previously granted tax credit that exceeds 20 percent of costs specified in subparagraph (a) 3. which was issued pursuant to this subsection must be revoked and rescinded. However, if the total cumulative intellectual property investment is less than \$150 million, sub-subparagraph b. applies.
- 2. This paragraph may not result in the revocation or rescission of any credits or incentives awarded to a project outside of this subsection.
- 3. If such revoked and rescinded credit has already been claimed on a return, the business must repay the credit plus the interest applicable under s. 213.235 and a 10 percent penalty.
- 4. If such revoked and rescinded credit has already been transferred to another business, the transferor must repay the credit plus interest applicable under s. 231.235 and a 10 percent penalty.
- (4) Notwithstanding subsection (2), an annual credit against the tax imposed by this chapter, against state taxes

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collected or accrued under chapter 212, or against a stated combination of the two taxes must be granted to a qualifying business that establishes a qualifying project that incurs eligible production infrastructure costs in this state exceeding \$100 million during a period not to exceed 10 years, beginning with the commencement of operations of the project. The sum of all tax credits provided pursuant to this subsection may not exceed 100 percent of the eligible production infrastructure costs of the project. Any credit granted under this subsection may not be carried forward or backward by any qualifying business with respect to a subsequent or prior year. The annual tax credit granted under this section may not exceed 100 percent of the sum of the annual corporate income tax liability and the sales and use tax liability of the qualifying business. If the credit granted under this subsection is not fully used in any given year because of insufficient tax liability on the part of the qualifying business, the unused amounts may be used in any given year or years beginning with the 11th year after the commencement of operations of the project and ending the 20th year after the commencement of operations of the project. (5) (a) Notwithstanding subsection (2), a credit against the tax imposed by this chapter, against state taxes collected or accrued under chapter 212, or against a stated combination of the two taxes must be granted to a qualifying business that establishes a strategic priority project as defined in paragraph (1)(i), for which the eligible capital costs are at least \$75 million. The tax credit must be granted in an amount equal to 20 percent of the eligible capital costs generated by the qualifying project. The tax credit must be granted against the

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tax liability of the qualifying business.

- (b) At the time a tax credit is granted under this subsection, a qualifying business granted the credit shall elect to either use or transfer the tax credit.
- 1. A qualifying business that elects to transfer the tax credit shall transfer the tax credit within 1 year after the date the tax credit is granted. A business receiving the transferred tax credit may use the credit only in the year received, and the credit may not be carried forward or backward. To perfect the transfer, the transferor shall provide the department with a written transfer statement of the transferor's intent to transfer the tax credits to the transferee; the effective date of the transfer; the transferee's name, address, and federal taxpayer identification number; the tax period to which the transfer applies; and the amount of tax credits to be transferred. Upon receipt of a transfer statement conforming to the requirements of this subparagraph, the department shall provide the transferee with a certificate reflecting the tax credit amounts transferred. A copy of the certificate must be attached to each tax return for the period for which the transferee seeks to apply such tax credits.
- 2. A qualifying business that elects to use the tax credit may use the tax credit in any one year or years beginning with the commencement of the project and ending the second year after the completion of the project.
- (6) (a) Notwithstanding subsection (2), an annual credit against the tax imposed by this chapter must shall be granted to a qualifying business which establishes a qualifying project pursuant to subparagraph (1)(1)3. $\frac{(1)(g)3.}{(g)}$, in an amount equal

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to the lesser of \$15 million or 5 percent of the eligible capital costs made in connection with a qualifying project, for a period not to exceed 20 years beginning with the commencement of operations of the project. The tax credit must shall be granted against the corporate income tax liability of the qualifying business and as further provided in paragraph (c). The total tax credit provided pursuant to this subsection must shall be equal to no more than 100 percent of the eliqible capital costs of the qualifying project.

- (b) If the credit granted under this subsection is not fully used in any one year because of insufficient tax liability on the part of the qualifying business, the unused amount may be carried forward for a period not to exceed 20 years after the commencement of operations of the project. The carryover credit may be used in a subsequent year when the tax imposed by this chapter for that year exceeds the credit for which the qualifying business is eligible in that year under this subsection after applying the other credits and unused carryovers in the order provided by s. 220.02(8).
- (c) The credit granted under this subsection may be used in whole or in part by the qualifying business or any corporation that is either a member of that qualifying business's affiliated group of corporations, is a related entity taxable as a cooperative under subchapter T of the Internal Revenue Code, or, if the qualifying business is an entity taxable as a cooperative under subchapter T of the Internal Revenue Code, is related to the qualifying business. Any entity related to the qualifying business may continue to file as a member of a Florida-nexus consolidated group pursuant to a prior election made under s.

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220.131(1), Florida Statutes (1985), even if the parent of the group changes due to a direct or indirect acquisition of the former common parent of the group. Any credit can be used by any of the affiliated companies or related entities referenced in this paragraph to the same extent as it could have been used by the qualifying business. However, any such use shall not operate to increase the amount of the credit or extend the period within which the credit must be used.

(7) (4) Before Prior to receiving tax credits pursuant to this section, a qualifying business must achieve and maintain the minimum employment goals beginning with the commencement of operations or the completion date of at a qualifying project and continuing each year thereafter during which tax credits are available pursuant to this section.

(8) (8) (5) Applications must shall be reviewed and certified pursuant to s. 288.061. The Department of Economic Opportunity, upon a recommendation by Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall first certify a business as eligible to receive tax credits pursuant to this section before prior to the commencement of operations or the completion date of a qualifying project, and such certification must shall be transmitted to the Department of Revenue. Upon receipt of the certification, the Department of Revenue shall enter into a written agreement with the qualifying business specifying, at a minimum, the method by which income generated by or arising out of the qualifying project will be determined.

(9) (6) The Department of Economic Opportunity, in consultation with Enterprise Florida, Inc., is authorized to develop the necessary guidelines and application materials for



the certification process described in subsection (8) (5).

(10) (7) It shall be the responsibility of the qualifying business to affirmatively demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Department of Revenue that such business meets the job creation and capital investment requirements of this section.

(11) (8) The Department of Revenue may specify by rule the methods by which a project's pro forma annual taxable income is determined.

Section 2. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section 288.1089, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

288.1089 Innovation Incentive Program. -

- (2) As used in this section, the term:
- (d) "Cumulative investment" means cumulative capital investment and all eligible capital costs, as defined in s. 220.191, Florida Statutes (2020).

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

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======== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =========

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete everything before the enacting clause and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the capital investment tax credit; amending s. 220.191, F.S.; defining and redefining terms; providing a credit against the corporate income tax, the sales and use tax, or a stated combination of the two taxes to a qualifying business that establishes a qualifying project for the creation of intellectual property which meets certain capital

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investment criteria; specifying the calculation of the credit; authorizing use of the credit or portions of the credit by the business members of its affiliated group of corporations; authorizing the transfer of credits, subject to certain conditions; requiring credits to be granted as costs are certified by the Department of Economic Opportunity; providing for revocation and rescission of credits under certain circumstances; providing a credit against the corporate income tax, the sales and use tax, or a stated combination of the two taxes to a qualifying business that incurs eligible production infrastructure costs that exceed a certain threshold; specifying the calculation of the credit; prohibiting the carryover of credits; authorizing use of unused credits after a certain time period; providing a credit against the corporate income tax, the sales and use tax, or a stated combination of the two taxes to a qualifying business that establishes a strategic priority project that meets certain capital investment criteria; specifying the calculation of the credit; authorizing the carryover or transfer of credits, subject to certain conditions; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 288.1089, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "cumulative investment"; providing an effective date.