**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 12‑6‑3535, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO TAX CREDITS FOR MAKING QUALIFIED REHABILITATION EXPENDITURES FOR CERTIFIED HISTORIC STRUCTURES, SO AS TO CLARIFY THE TAXES AND LICENSE FEES AGAINST WHICH THE TAX CREDIT MAY BE TAKEN, TO PROVIDE FOR A NEW TWENTY‑FIVE PERCENT TAX CREDIT, TO PROVIDE FOR THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND LIMITATIONS OF THE NEW TAX CREDIT, TO DEFINE “STATE‑OWNED ABANDONED BUILDING” FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE SECTION, TO PROVIDE FOR THE TIME PERIOD DURING WHICH A TAX CREDIT MAY BE CLAIMED FOR WORK PERFORMED IN CONNECTION WITH A STATE‑OWNED ABANDONED BUILDING, AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE TAX CREDIT MAY BE ASSIGNED; TO AMEND SECTION 12‑67‑120, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS, SO AS TO PROVIDE A DEFINITION FOR “STATE‑OWNED ABANDONED BUILDING” FOR THE PURPOSES OF CHAPTER 67, TITLE 12; TO AMEND SECTION 12‑67‑140, RELATING TO ELIGIBILITY FOR CREDIT, SO AS TO INCLUDE INSURANCE PREMIUM TAXES AS ONE OF THE TAXES AGAINST WHICH A CREDIT CAN BE CLAIMED, TO PROVIDE FOR THE TIME PERIOD IN WHICH A TAX CREDIT MAY BE TAKEN, TO PROVIDE FOR AN EXEMPTION TO THE VALUE LIMITATIONS OF THE TAX CREDIT FOR WORK DONE IN CONNECTION WITH A STATE‑OWNED ABANDONED BUILDING, AND TO REMOVE A LIMITATION RELATED TO THE AMOUNT A TAXPAYER’S TAX LIABILITY MAY BE REDUCED; BY ADDING SECTION 12‑67‑160 SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR HOW A TAXPAYER MAY APPLY TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATION OF SITE AND WHAT THE CERTIFICATION MUST INCLUDE; AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT TO TERMINATE AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2019, AND PROVIDE THAT CREDIT EARNED BEFORE TERMINATION MAY CONTINUE TO BE CLAIMED.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 12‑6‑3535 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 12‑6‑3535. (A) A taxpayer who is allowed a federal income tax credit pursuant to Section 47 of the Internal Revenue Code for making qualified rehabilitation expenditures for a certified historic structure located in this State is allowed to claim a credit against income taxes and license fees imposed by this title, including income taxes imposed pursuant to Chapter 6 and Chapter 11, corporate license fees imposed pursuant to Chapter 20, and insurance premium taxes, including retaliatory tax, imposed by Chapter 7, Title 38, or a combination of them. A claimant of a tax credit is not required to pay any retaliatory tax levied pursuant to Chapter 7, Title 38 as a result of claiming the tax credit. For the purposes of this section, ‘qualified rehabilitation expenditures’ and ‘certified historic structure are defined as provided in the Internal Revenue Code Section 47 and the applicable treasury regulations. Except as provided in subsection (A)(1), ~~The~~ the amount of the credit is ten percent of the expenditures that qualify for the federal credit. To claim the credit allowed by this subsection, a taxpayer filing a paper return must attach a copy of the section of the federal income tax return showing the credit claimed, along with other information that the Department of Revenue determines is necessary for the calculation of the credit provided by this subsection.

(1) A taxpayer may elect a twenty‑five percent tax credit in lieu of the ten percent tax credit.

(2) A taxpayer electing a twenty‑five percent tax credit may not claim a credit that exceeds one million dollars for each certified historic structure. The limitation provided for in this item does not apply to credits claimed for qualified rehabilitation expenditures related to any state‑owned abandoned building.

(B) A taxpayer who is not eligible for a federal income tax credit under Section 47 of the Internal Revenue Code and who makes rehabilitation expenses for a certified historic residential structure located in this State is allowed to claim a credit against the tax imposed by this chapter. The amount of the credit is twenty‑five percent of the rehabilitation expenses. To claim the credit allowed by this subsection, a taxpayer filing a paper return must attach a copy of the certification obtained from the State Historic Preservation Officer verifying that the historic structure has been rehabilitated in accordance with this subsection, along with all information that the Department of Revenue determines is necessary for the calculation of the credit provided by this subsection. A taxpayer filing an electronic return shall keep a copy of the certification with his tax records.

For the purposes of subsections (B) through (F):

(1) ‘Certified historic residential structure’ means an owner‑occupied residence that is:

(a) listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places;

(b) considered by the State Historic Preservation Officer to contribute to the historic significance of a National Register Historic District;

(c) considered by the State Historic Preservation Officer to meet the criteria for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places; or

(d) an outbuilding of an otherwise eligible property considered by the State Historic Preservation Officer to contribute to the historic significance of the property.

(2) ‘Certified rehabilitation’ means repairs or alterations consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation and certified as such by the State Historic Preservation Officer before commencement of the work. The review by the State Historic Preservation Officer shall include all repairs, alterations, rehabilitation, and new construction on the certified historic residential structure and the property on which it is located. To qualify for the credit, the taxpayer shall receive documentation from the State Historic Preservation Officer verifying that the completed project was rehabilitated in accordance with the standards for rehabilitation. The rehabilitation expenses must, within a thirty‑six‑month period, exceed fifteen thousand dollars. A taxpayer shall not take more than one credit on the same certified historic residential structure within ten years.

(3) ‘Rehabilitation expenses’ means expenses incurred by the taxpayer in the certified rehabilitation of a certified historic residential structure that are paid before the credit is claimed including preservation and rehabilitation work done to the exterior of a certified historic residential structure, repair and stabilization of historic structural systems, restoration of historic plaster, energy efficiency measures except insulation in frame walls, repairs or rehabilitation of heating, air‑conditioning, or ventilating systems, repairs or rehabilitation of electrical or plumbing systems exclusive of new electrical appliances and electrical or plumbing fixtures, and architectural and engineering fees.

‘Rehabilitation expenses’ do not include the cost of acquiring or marketing the property, the cost of new construction beyond the volume of the existing certified historic residential structure, the value of an owner’s personal labor, or the cost of personal property.

(4) ‘State Historic Preservation Officer’ means the Director of the Department of Archives and History or the director’s designee who administers the historic preservation programs within the State.

(5) ‘Owner‑occupied residence’ means a building or portion of a building in which the taxpayer has an ownership interest, in whole or in part, in fee, by life estate, or as the income beneficiary of a property trust, that is, after being placed in service, the residence of the taxpayer and is not:

(a) actively used in a trade or business;

(b) held for the production of income; or

(c) held for sales or disposition in the ordinary course of the taxpayer’s trade or business.

(6) ‘State‑owned abandoned building’ has the same meaning as provided in Section 12‑67‑120(8).

(C)(1) ~~The~~ Except for a credit claimed in connection with the rehabilitation of a state‑owned abandoned building, the entire credit may not be taken for the taxable year in which the property is placed in service but must be taken in equal installments over a five‑year period beginning with the year in which the property is placed in service. If the credit is claimed in connection with the rehabilitation of a state‑owned abandoned building, the entire credit may not be taken for the taxable year in which the property is placed in service, but, rather must be taken in equal installments over a two‑year period beginning with the year in which the property is placed in service. ‘Placed in service’ means the rehabilitation is completed and allows for the intended use. Any unused portion of any credit installment may be carried forward for the succeeding five years.

(2) The credit earned pursuant to this section by an ‘S’ corporation owing corporate level income tax must be used first at the entity level. Remaining credit passes through to each shareholder in a percentage equal to each shareholder’s percentage of stock ownership. The credit earned pursuant to this section by a general partnership, limited partnership, limited liability company, or other pass‑through entity ~~taxed as a partnership~~ must be passed through to its partners and may be allocated among partners, including without limitation, an allocation of the entire credit to one partner, in a manner agreed by the partners ~~that is consistent with Subchapter K of the Internal Revenue Code~~. As used in this item the term ‘partner’ means a partner, member, or owner of an interest in the pass‑through entity, as applicable. If the taxpayer makes a pass‑through election under Section 50(d) of the Internal Revenue Code, the taxpayer may elect to pass the credit claimed pursuant to this section to the tenant of the eligible structure or to retain the credit.

(D) Additional work done by the taxpayer while the credit is being claimed, for a period of up to five years, must be consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation. During this period the State Historic Preservation Officer may review additional work to the certified historic structure or certified historic residential structure and has the right to inspect certified historic structures and certified historic residential structures. If additional work is not consistent with the Standards for Rehabilitation, the taxpayer and Department of Revenue must be notified in writing and any unused portion of the credit, including carry forward, is forfeited.

(E) The South Carolina Department of Archives and History shall develop an application and may promulgate regulations, including the establishment of fees, needed to administer the certification process. The Department of Revenue may promulgate regulations, including the establishment of fees, to administer the tax credit.

(F) A taxpayer may appeal a decision of the State Historic Preservation Officer to a committee of the State Review Board appointed by the chairperson.”

SECTION 2. Section 12‑67‑120 of the 1976 Code, as added by Act 57 of 2013, is amended by adding an item at the end to read:

“(8) ‘State‑owned abandoned building’ means an abandoned building and its ancillary service buildings or a project consisting of one or more abandoned buildings, the aggregate size of which is greater than fifty thousand square feet, that has been abandoned for more than five years, and, prior to the taxpayer’s acquisition of such building, was most recently owned by the State, or an agency, instrumentality, or political subdivision of the State. For purposes of this definition, the taxpayer shall include any entity affiliated with the under common control, common ownership, or both.”

SECTION 3. Section 12‑67‑140(A) and (B) of the 1976 Code, as added by Act 57 of 2013, is amended to read:

“(A) Subject to the terms and conditions of this chapter, a taxpayer who rehabilitates an abandoned building is eligible for either:

(1) a credit against income taxes imposed pursuant to Chapter 6 and Chapter 11 of this title, corporate license fees pursuant to Chapter 20 of this title, ~~or~~ taxes on associations pursuant to Chapter 13 of this title, or insurance premium taxes, including retaliatory taxes, imposed by Chapter 7, Title 38, or a combination ~~thereof~~ of them; or

(2) a credit against real property taxes levied by local taxing entities.

(B) A claimant of a tax credit is not required to pay any retaliatory tax levied pursuant to Chapter 7, Title 38 as a result of claiming the credit.

(C) If the taxpayer elects to receive the credit pursuant to subsection (A)(1), the following provisions apply:

(1) The taxpayer shall file with the department a Notice of Intent to Rehabilitate before incurring its first rehabilitation expenses at the building site. Failure to provide the Notice of Intent to Rehabilitate results in qualification of only those rehabilitation expenses incurred after the notice is provided.

(2) The amount of the credit is equal to twenty‑five percent of the actual rehabilitation expenses incurred at the building site if the actual rehabilitation expenses incurred in rehabilitating the building site are between eighty percent and one hundred twenty‑five percent of the estimated rehabilitation expenses set forth in the Notice of Intent to Rehabilitate. If the actual rehabilitation expenses exceed one hundred twenty‑five percent of the estimated expenses set forth in the Notice of Intent to Rehabilitate, the taxpayer qualifies for the credit based on one hundred twenty‑five percent of the estimated expenses as opposed to the actual expenses it incurred in rehabilitating the building site. If the actual rehabilitation expenses are below eighty percent of the estimated rehabilitation expenses, the credit is not allowed.

(3)(a) ~~The~~ Except for a credit claimed in connection with the rehabilitation of a state‑owned abandoned building, the entire credit is earned in the taxable year in which the applicable phase or portion of the building site is placed in service but must be taken in equal installments over a five‑year period beginning with the tax year in which the applicable phase or portion of the building site is placed in service. If the credit is earned in connection with the rehabilitation of a state‑owned abandoned building, the entire credit is earned in the taxable year in which the applicable phase or portion of the building site is placed in service but must be claimed in equal installments over a two‑year period beginning with the tax year in which the applicable phase or portion of the building site is placed in service. Unused credit may be carried forward for the succeeding five years.

(b) The entire credit earned pursuant to this subsection may not exceed five hundred thousand dollars for any taxpayer in a tax year for each abandoned building site. The limitation provided in this subitem applies to each unit or parcel deemed to be an abandoned building site. With respect to any state‑owned abandoned building, the limitation provided in this subsection must be one million dollars instead of five hundred thousand dollars.

(4) If the taxpayer qualifies for both the credit allowed by this section and the credit allowed pursuant to the Textiles Communities Revitalization Act or the Retail Facilities Revitalization Act, the taxpayer only may claim one of the three credits. However, the taxpayer is not disqualified from claiming any other tax credit in conjunction with the credit allowed by this section.

(5) ~~The credit allowed by this subsection is limited in use to fifty percent of either:~~

~~(a)~~ ~~the taxpayer’s income tax liability for the taxable year if the taxpayer claims the credit allowed by this section as a credit against income tax imposed pursuant to Chapter 6 or Chapter 11 of this title, or taxes on associations pursuant to Chapter 13 of this title, or both; or~~

~~(b)~~ ~~the taxpayer’s corporate license fees for the taxable year if the taxpayer claims the credit allowed by this section as a credit against license fees imposed pursuant to Chapter 20.~~

~~(6)~~(a) If the taxpayer leases the building site, or part of the building site, the taxpayer may transfer any applicable remaining credit associated with the rehabilitation expenses incurred with respect to that part of the site to the lessee of the site. If a taxpayer sells the building site, or any phase or portion of the building site, the taxpayer may transfer all or part of the remaining credit, associated with the rehabilitation expenses incurred with respect to that phase or portion of the site, to the purchaser of the applicable portion of the building site.

(b) To the extent that the taxpayer transfers the credit, the taxpayer shall notify the department of the transfer in the manner the department prescribes.

~~(7)~~(6) To the extent that the taxpayer is a partnership or a limited liability company taxed as a partnership, the credit may be passed through to the partners or members and may be allocated among any of its partners or members including, without limitation, an allocation of the entire credit to one partner or member, without regard to any provision of the Internal Revenue Code or regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, that may be interpreted as contrary to the allocation, including, without limitation, the treatment of the allocation as a disguised sale.”

SECTION 4. Chapter 67, Title 12 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 12‑67‑160. (A) The taxpayer may apply to the municipality or county in which the abandoned building is located for a certification of the abandoned building site made by ordinance or binding resolution of the governing body of the municipality or county. The certification must including findings that the:

(1) abandoned building site was an abandoned building as defined in Section 12‑67‑120(1); and

(2) geographic area of the abandoned building site is consistent with Section 12‑67‑120(2).

(B) The taxpayer may apply to the municipality or county in which the state‑owned abandoned building is located for a certification of the state‑owned abandoned building site made by ordinance or binding resolution of the governing body of the municipality or county. The certification must include findings that the:

(1) state‑owned abandoned building site was a state‑owned abandoned building as defined in Section 12‑67‑120(8); and

(2) geographic area of the state‑owned abandoned building site is consistent with Section 12‑67‑120(8).

(C) The taxpayer conclusively may rely upon the certification in determining the credit allowed; provided, however, that if the taxpayer is relying upon the certification, the taxpayer shall include a copy of the certification on the first return for which the credit is claimed.”

SECTION 5. The provisions of this act terminate after December 31, 2019, however, any credit earned before the termination may continue to be claimed.

SECTION 6. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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