GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA EXTRA SESSION 2004

SENATE DRS35518-LY-211A (10/5)

D

Short Title:	Computer Manufacturing Tax Incentives.	(Public)
Sponsors:	Senators Hoyle, Garrou, Hagan, Dorsett, Clodfelter, and Purcell.	
Referred to:		

1		A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2	AN ACT TO I	PROVIDE A TAX CREDIT FOR CERTAIN MAJOR COMPUTER
3	MANUFAC	TURING FACILITIES AND TO ENHANCE CERTAIN EXISTING
4	TAX INCEN	TIVES FOR THOSE FACILITIES.
5	The General As	sembly of North Carolina enacts:
6		TON 1. Chapter 105 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a
7	new Article to re	· · ·
8		"Article 3G.
9	" <u>Ta</u>	ax Incentives for Major Computer Manufacturing Facilities.
10	" <u>§ 105-129.60.</u>	Legislative findings.
11	The General	Assembly finds that:
12	<u>(1)</u>	It is the policy of the State to stimulate economic activity and to create
13		and maintain sustainable jobs for the citizens of the State in
14		strategically important industries.
15	<u>(2)</u>	Both short-term and long-term economic trends at the regional, State,
16		national, and international levels have made the successful
17		implementation of the State's economic development policies and
18		programs both more critical and more challenging; in particular,
19		national trade policies and the resulting impact on domestic
20		competitiveness have made the retention of manufacturing jobs more
21		difficult at a time of transition in the national, State, and regional
22		economies.
23	<u>(3)</u>	Manufacturing employment in the State has been disproportionately
24		affected by trade policies and global economic trends, resulting in the
25		loss of jobs by many in the State's capable industrial workforce.
26	<u>(4)</u>	Computer manufacturing and distribution has been an important
27		industry for the State and has prospered in this State due to our strong

1and productive workforce, focused worker training programs, resear2capabilities, tradition of innovation, and concentration of companies.3(5)The computer manufacturing and distribution industry will remain
 2 <u>capabilities, tradition of innovation, and concentration of companies.</u> 3 (5) <u>The computer manufacturing and distribution industry will remain</u>
3 (5) The computer manufacturing and distribution industry will remain
4 <u>vital part of the world's, nation's, and State's future economy as socie</u>
5 <u>becomes more dependent on advanced computer technology.</u>
6 (6) It is the intent of the State to encourage the sustainability of the
7 industry cluster in this State and to encourage the maintenance and
8 growth of computer manufacturing and distribution employment in t
9 State through tax policies, investments in training capacity, and oth
policies and programs.
1 (7) <u>The State must be an innovative leader in creating policies and programs.</u>
12 programs that encourage the maintenance of manufacturing jobs in the
3 <u>country and State and in the development of efforts to suppo</u>
14 manufacturers during the transitional period as they adapt to rapid
5 <u>changing global conditions.</u>
6 " <u>§ 105-129.61. Definitions.</u>
7 <u>The following definitions apply in this Article:</u>
(1) <u>Computer manufacturing. – Defined in G.S. 105-164.14.</u>
9 (2) Facility. – A single building or structure or a group of buildings
20 <u>structures that are located on a single parcel of land or on contiguo</u>
parcels of land under common ownership and any other related re
* · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
27 <u>and new permanent part-time jobs converted into full-time</u> 28 <u>equivalences created by the taxpayer at the facility with respect</u>
which the credit is claimed, either directly or indirectly through
30related entity or strategic partner, as of December 31 as compared31the employment level of the taxpayer as of December 31 in the year
which the taxpayer begins construction of the facility with respect which the credit is claimed or as of the date the Secretary makes t
written determination required under G.S. 105-129.62, whichever earlier. Jobs transferred from one area in the State to another area
······································
39 <u>indirectly at least eighty percent (80%) of the control and value.</u>
(6) <u>Strategic partner. – A business that is engaged in activities at t</u>
facility that directly contribute to the manufacture and distribution
¹² <u>computers and computer peripherals and with whom the taxpayer h</u>
43 contracted to provide those activities at the facility in direct support
44 <u>its manufacturing and distribution activities.</u>

	General Assembly	y of North Carolina	Extra Session 2004
1	<u>(7)</u> S	Successor in business. – A corporation t	hat through amalgamation.
2		nerger, acquisition, consolidation, or othe	
3		nvested with the rights and assumes the	-
4		orporation and continues the computer ma	*
5		vusiness.	
6		Jnit output. – The total number of	computers and computer
7		eripherals produced, assembled, or ma	2 ž
8	-	uring the taxable year.	<i>,</i>
9	" <u>§ 105-129.62.</u> El	ligibility.	
10	(a) Determi	nation by Secretary of Commerce A	taxpayer is eligible for the
11	credit allowed un	der this Article with respect to a facilit	y in this State only if the
12	Secretary of Com	nmerce makes a written determination the	hat the taxpayer has or is
13	expected to have a	an increased employment level at the faci	lity of at least 1,200 within
14	five years after the	e time that the facility is first used as a co	omputer manufacturing and
15	distribution facility	y and that the taxpayer, either directly or	indirectly through a related
16	entity or strategic	partner, has invested or is expected to i	invest at least one hundred
17	million dollars (\$1	100,000,000) in private funds to construct	a computer manufacturing
18		cility over a five-year period. For the purp	
19		include costs of acquiring and improving la	
20		pairs to existing buildings, and costs of equivalent	uipping or reequipping the
21	<u>facility.</u>		
22		Insurance. – A taxpayer is eligible for th	
23		ect to a facility in this State only if the t	- · · · ·
24		d strategic partners whose employees are	÷ •
25		nent level provide health insurance for all	•
26	•	ect to which the credit is claimed each	•
27		credit. For the purposes of this subsection	
28		s at least fifty percent (50%) of the premiu	-
29	-	eeds the minimum provisions of the basic l	
30	•	the Small Employer Carrier Committee pur	
31	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	a taxpayer claims a credit or carryforwar	
32		axpayer must provide with the tax return	
33 24	· · ·	and the taxpayer's related entities and	
34 35		cluded in the taxpayer's increased emp	-
35 36	—	urance for all the full-time jobs at the fac	
30 37		ned. If the taxpayer, or a related entity employees are included in the increased	
38		provide health insurance for the jobs duri	- ·
39		provide nearth insurance for the jobs during payer may not take any remaining carryfo	• • •
40	-	mental Impact. – A taxpayer is eligible f	
40 41		espect to a facility in this State only if as c	
42		credit or carryforward is claimed the ta	
43	•	d strategic partners whose employees are	
44		ment level have no pending adminis	
•••			<u></u>

enforcement actions based on alleged significant violations of any program 1 2 implemented by an agency of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, 3 and have had no final determination of responsibility for any significant administrative, 4 civil, or criminal violation of any program implemented by an agency of the Department 5 of Environment and Natural Resources within the last five years. For the taxpaver's 6 related entities and strategic partners, this subsection applies only to the activities of the 7 related entity or strategic partner at the facility with respect to which a credit is claimed. A significant violation is a violation or alleged violation that does not satisfy any of the 8 9 conditions of G.S. 143-215.6B(d). Upon request, the Secretary of Environment and 10 Natural Resources must notify the Department of Revenue of whether a person currently has any of these pending actions or has had any of these final determinations 11 12 within the last five years. Safety and Health Programs. – A taxpayer is eligible for the credit allowed 13 (d) 14 under this section with respect to a facility in this State only if as of the last day of the 15 taxable year for which a credit or carryforward is claimed the taxpayer and the taxpayer's related entities and strategic partners whose employees are included in the 16 17 taxpayer's increased employment level have no citations under the Occupational Safety 18 and Health Act at the facility with respect to which the credit is claimed that have become a final order within the past three years for willful serious violations or for 19 20 failing to abate serious violations. For the purposes of this subsection, 'serious violation' 21 has the same meaning as in G.S. 95-127. Upon request, the Secretary of Labor must notify the Department of Revenue of whether a person has had these citations become 22 23 final orders within the past three years. 24 Overdue Tax Debts. - A taxpayer is eligible for the credit allowed under this (e) section with respect to a facility only if as of the last day of the taxable year for which a 25 credit or carryforward is claimed the taxpayer and the taxpayer's related entities and 26 strategic partners whose employees are included in the taxpayer's increased employment 27 level have no overdue tax debts that have not been satisfied or otherwise resolved. 28 29 Relationship With Related Entities and Strategic Partners. – A taxpayer must (f)30 obtain the written consent of related entities and strategic partners to include jobs created by those entities in the taxpayer's increased employment level. If a taxpayer fails 31 32 to obtain this written consent, the taxpayer may not include jobs created by the 33 applicable business in its increased employment level. This consent, once granted, is irrevocable. A job may not be included in the increased employment level of more than 34 35 one entity. The taxpayer is responsible for providing all information needed to verify eligibility for the credit, including information relating to the related entities or strategic 36 partners of the taxpayer. 37 38 "§ 105-129.63. Determination by the Secretary of Commerce. The taxpayer must apply to the Secretary of Commerce for the determination 39 required under G.S. 105-129.62. The application must be made under oath and must 40 provide any information the Secretary requires in order to make the determination. The 41 42 determination by the Secretary of Commerce is a factual determination. The Secretary 43 must make this determination in any case in which the taxpayer can demonstrate 44 performance or can provide a credible plan for performance.

1	If the taxpayer fails to create the required number of new jobs or to make the
2	required investment, the information provided by the taxpayer on the application proves
3	to have been false at the time it was given, and the person making the application knew
4	or should have known that the information was false, the taxpayer forfeits any credits
5	claimed under this Article with respect to the facility. A taxpayer that forfeits a credit
6	under this section is liable for all past taxes avoided as a result of the credit plus interest
7	at the rate established under G.S. 105-241.1(i), computed from the date the taxes would
8	have been due if the credit had not been allowed. The past taxes and interest are due 30
8 9	days after the date the credit is forfeited; a taxpayer that fails to pay the past taxes and
9 10	interest by the due date is subject to the penalties provided in G.S. 105-236.
10	"§ 105-129.64. Credit for major computer manufacturing facilities.
11	(a) <u>General Credit. – A taxpayer that meets the eligibility requirements of</u>
12	<u>G.S. 105-129.62 is eligible for a credit against the taxes imposed by Articles 3 and 4 of</u>
13	this Chapter. For taxable years beginning with the 2006 taxable year, the amount of the
15	credit allowable in a year is determined based on the taxable year, the unit output of the
16	facility, the production factor, and the increased employment level at the facility in the
17	current taxable year and previous taxable years.
18	(b) 2005 Taxable Year. – For taxable years beginning on or after January 1,
19	2005, but before January 1, 2006, the amount of the credit is equal to ten million dollars
20	(\$10,000,000) if the taxpayer, either directly or through a related entity, has invested at
21	least twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) in private funds by the end of the taxable
22	year to construct a computer manufacturing and distribution facility in this State.
23	(c) 2006-2009 Taxable Years. – For taxable years beginning on or after January
24	1, 2006, but before January 1, 2010, the maximum amount of the credit is ten million
25	dollars (\$10,000,000). The amount of the credit that may be claimed is determined by
26	multiplying the employment level adjustment factor by the lesser of ten million dollars
27	(\$10,000,000) and the product of the unit output of the facility and the applicable
28	production factor listed in subsection (f) of this section. For the purposes of this
29	subsection, the employment level adjustment factor is the lesser of one and the number
30	derived by dividing the taxpayer's increased employment level for the year by the
31	applicable target increased employment level provided in the table below:
32	Year Target Increased Employment Level
33	<u>2006</u> <u>600</u>
34	<u>2007</u> <u>1,000</u>
35	<u>2008</u> <u>1,100</u>
36	<u>2009</u> <u>1,500</u>
37	(d) 2010-2014 Taxable Years. – For taxable years beginning on or after January
38	1, 2010, but before January 1, 2015, the maximum amount of the credit is fifteen
39	million dollars (\$15,000,000) if the taxpayer has in any year attained an increased
40	employment level of 1,500. Otherwise the maximum amount of the credit is ten million
41	dollars (\$10,000,000). The amount of the credit is determined as follows:
42	(1) If the taxpayer has ever attained an increased employment level of at
43	least 1,500, the amount of the credit that may be claimed is the lesser
44	of fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) and the amount determined by

	General Assem	bly of North Carolina	Extra Session 2004
1		multiplying the unit output of the facility by	the applicable production
2		factor listed in subsection (f) of this section. I	
3		employment level has decreased by more t	
4		from that of the previous taxable year, the a	amount of the credit that
5		may be claimed must be reduced by n	
6		determined under this subdivision by a fra	
7		which is the taxpayer's increased employment	ent level for the taxable
8		year and the denominator of which is 1,500.	
9	<u>(2)</u>	If the taxpayer has never attained an increase	
10		least 1,500, the amount of the credit that ma	•
11		the employment level adjustment factor multi-	· ·
12 13		million dollars (\$10,000,000) and the product	-
13 14		facility and the applicable production factor this section. For the purposes of this subdivisi	
14		adjustment factor is the lesser of one and	- ·
16		dividing the taxpayer's increased employme	• •
17		1,500.	the level for the year by
18	(e) 2015-	2019 Taxable Years. – For taxable years begin	nning on or after January
19		efore January 1, 2020, the maximum amount	
20		(\$20,000,000) if the taxpayer has in any ye	•
21		vel of 2,500. If the taxpayer has in any ye	
22	employment lev	vel of at least 1,500, but in no year has attained	an increased employment
23	level of at leas	t 2,500, the maximum amount of the credit	is fifteen million dollars
24		Otherwise the maximum amount of the cred	
25		The amount of the credit is determined as follow	
26	<u>(1)</u>	If the taxpayer has ever attained an increased	* *
27		least 2,500 and the taxpayer's increased en	
28 29		current year is at least 1,500, the amount of twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) and th	
29 30		multiplying the unit output of the facility by	*
30 31		factor listed in subsection (f) of this section.	
32	<u>(2)</u>	If the taxpayer has ever attained an increased	d employment level of at
33	<u></u>	least 1,500 but has never attained an increase	
34		least 2,500, or if the taxpayer has even	1
35		employment level of at least 2,500 and the tax	xpayer's current increased
36		employment level is less than 1,500, the amo	unt of the credit that may
37		be claimed is the lesser of fifteen million dollar	ars (\$15,000,000) and the
38		amount determined by multiplying the unit ou	utput of the facility by the
39		applicable production factor listed in subsect	
40		the taxpayer's increased employment level ha	•
41		forty percent (40%) from that of the previou	•
42		increased employment level of the previous	
43		(ii) the increased employment level of the cu	
44		the amount of the credit that may be claim	nea must be reduced by

1		multiplying the amount determined under this subdivision by
1 2		multiplying the amount determined under this subdivision by a
		fraction, the numerator of which is the taxpayer's increased
3		employment level for the taxable year and the denominator of which is
4		<u>1,500.</u>
5	<u>(3)</u>	If the taxpayer has never attained an increased employment level of at
6		least 1,500, the amount of the credit that may be claimed is equal to
7		the employment level adjustment factor multiplied by the lesser of ten
8		million dollars (\$10,000,000) and the product of the unit output of the
9		facility and the applicable production factor listed in subsection (f) of
10		this section. For the purposes of this subdivision, the employment level
11		adjustment factor is the lesser of one and the number derived by
12		dividing the taxpayer's employment level for the year by 1,500.
13	(f) Produce	ction Factor. – For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2006,
14	but before Janua	ry 1, 2007, the production factor is fifteen dollars (\$15.00). For all other
15	taxable years, the	e production factor is six dollars and twenty-five cents (\$6.25).
16	(g) Expira	ation. – If the taxpayer fails to attain an increased employment level of
17	<u>at least 1,200, e</u>	ither directly or in conjunction with its strategic partners and related
18	entities, within	five years after beginning construction of the facility with respect to
19		s claimed or the taxpayer fails to invest at least one hundred million
20		0,000) in private funds to construct a computer manufacturing and
21		lity over a five-year period, the taxpayer may not take any further
22		is Article with respect to that facility. Failure to attain an increased
23		el of 1,200 within the five years or to invest at least one hundred million
24		00,000) in private funds to construct the facility does not result in
25	forfeiture of cr	edits previously taken under this section unless the provisions of
26	<u>G.S. 105-129.63</u>	apply.
27	" <u>§ 105-129.65.</u>	Allocation; cap; makeup; and carryforward.
28	(a) Alloca	ntion. – The credit allowed by this Article may be taken against the
29	franchise taxes l	evied under Article 3 of this Chapter and the income taxes levied under
30		s Chapter. When the taxpayer claims a credit under this Article, the
31		lect the percentage of the credit to be applied against the taxes levied
32		of this Chapter with any remaining percentage to be applied against the
33		er Article 4 of this Chapter. This election is not binding for the year in
34		or for any carryforwards of that credit. A taxpayer may elect a different
35		ch year in which the taxpayer qualifies for a credit.
36		- The amount of credit claimed in a taxable year under this Article may
37		lesser of the amount determined under G.S. 105-129.64 and the total
38		posed under Articles 3 and 4 of this Chapter, reduced by the sum of all
39		wed against those taxes, except tax payments made by or on behalf of
40		edits that may eliminate only a portion of the taxpayer's liability must be
41	. .	dits that may eliminate all of a taxpayer's liability, which in turn must
42		any credits that are refundable. This limitation applies to the cumulative
43		redit allowed in any tax year, including carryforwards claimed by the
44		his Article for previous tax years.
	<u>unpayer under t</u>	ins intere for previous tax years.

1	(c) Makeu	p. – In any year in which the amount of the credit calculated based on			
2		the applicable cap under G.S. 105-129.64, the excess credit may be			
3	<u>credited to a make up account. Amounts credited to the make up account may remain in</u>				
4		seven years or until they are used as provided in this subsection,			
5		lier. In any year in which the amount of the credit calculated based on			
6		n the applicable cap under G.S. 105-129.64, the taxpayer may increase			
7	-	d for that taxable year to the cap amount, as adjusted by any applicable			
8		el adjustment factor, by using excess credit available in the make up			
9		essor in business may take the amounts available in a make up account			
10	of a predecessor	corporation as if they were excess credits available in a make up			
11	account of the su	ccessor in business.			
12	(d) <u>Carryf</u>	orward. – Any unused portion of a credit allowed under this Article			
13	may be carried for	orward for the next succeeding 25 years. A successor in business may			
14	take the carryfor	wards of a predecessor corporation as if they were carryforwards of a			
15		the successor in business.			
16	" <u>§ 105-129.66.</u> §				
17		s repealed for business activities occurring in taxable years beginning			
18	on or after Januar				
19		ION 2. G.S.105-129.4 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:			
20		Computer Facilities. – A taxpayer that is otherwise eligible for a tax			
21		Article and who satisfies the conditions of G.S. 105-129.62 is eligible			
22	•	mputer facility enhancements provided for credits under this Article.			
23	· · ·	ater facility enhancements are the following:			
24	<u>(1)</u>	The wage standard requirement does not apply to the activities of the			
25		taxpayer at the major computer facility.			
26	<u>(2)</u>	For the credit for creating jobs under G.S. 105-129.8, the amount of			
27		the credit is increased by four thousand dollars (\$4,000) per job for			
28		jobs at the major computer facility.			
29	<u>(3)</u>	For the credit for investment in machinery and equipment under			
30		G.S. 105-129.9, the applicable percentage is seven percent (7%) and			
31		the applicable threshold is zero dollars (\$0.00) regardless of the			
32		enterprise tier designation of the county in which the major computer			
33		facility is located.			
34	<u>(4)</u>	For the credit for worker training under G.S. 105-129.11, the			
35		maximum amount of the credit per worker trained is one thousand			
36		dollars (\$1,000) regardless of the enterprise tier designation of the			
37		county in which the major computer facility is located.			
38	<u>(5)</u>	For the credit for substantial investment in other property under			
39		G.S. 105-129.12A, the taxpayer is eligible for the credit regardless of			
40		the enterprise tier designation of the county in which the major			
41		<u>computer facility is located.</u> "			
42		ION 3. G.S. 105-164.14(j)(2) and (3) read as rewritten:			
43		Eligibility. – A facility is eligible under this subsection if it meets both			
44		of the following conditions:			

1		a.	It is primarily engaged in one of the industries listed in this
2		1.	subsection.
3		b.	The Secretary of Commerce has certified that the owner of the
4			facility will invest at least the required amount of private funds
5			to construct the facility in this State. For the purpose of this
6			subsection, costs of construction may include costs of acquiring
7			and improving land for the facility and costs of equipment for
8			the facility. If the facility is located in an enterprise tier one,
9			two, or three area as defined in G.S. 105-129.3, the required
10			amount is fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000). For all other
11			facilities, the required amount is one hundred million dollars
12			(\$100,000,000). In the case of a computer manufacturing
13			facility, the owner may invest these funds either directly or
14			indirectly through a related entity or strategic partner as those
15			terms are defined in G.S. 105-129.61. In the case of a computer
16			manufacturing facility, the term 'facility' has the same meaning
17			<u>as under G.S. 105-129.61.</u>
18	(3)	Indus	tries. – This subsection applies to the following industries:
19		a.	Aircraft manufacturing. Aircraft manufacturing means
20			manufacturing or assembling complete aircraft.
21		b.	Bioprocessing. Bioprocessing means biomanufacturing or
22			processing that includes the culture of cells to make commercial
23			products, the purification of biomolecules from cells, or the use
24			of these molecules in manufacturing.
25		d.	Computer manufacturing. Computer manufacturing means
26			manufacturing or assembling electronic computers, such as
27			personal computers, workstations, laptops, and computer
28			servers. The term includes the assembly or integration of
29			processors, coprocessors, memory, storage, and input/output
30			devices into a user-programmable final product. The term does
31			not include includes manufacturing or assembling computer
32			peripheral equipment, such as storage devices, printers,
33			monitors, input/output devices, and terminals.terminals only if
34			the manufacture or assembly of this peripheral equipment
35			occurs at a facility or campus at which the taxpayer also
36			manufactures or assembles electronic computers.
37		g.	Motor vehicle manufacturing. Motor vehicle manufacturing
38		8.	means any of the following:
39			1. Manufacturing complete automobiles and light-duty
40			motor vehicles.
40 41			
41 42			
			complete heavy-duty trucks, buses, heavy-duty motor
43			homes, and other special purpose heavy-duty motor
44			vehicles for highway use.

1		3.	Manufacturing complete military armored vehicles,
2			nonarmored military universal carriers, combat tanks,
3			and specialized components for combat tanks.
4	j.		aceutical and medicine manufacturing and distribution of
5			aceuticals and medicines. Pharmaceutical and medicine
6		-	acturing means any of the following:
7			Manufacturing biological and medicinal products. For
8			the purpose of this sub-subdivision, a biological product
9			is a preparation that is synthesized from living organisms
10			or their products and used medically as a diagnostic,
11			preventive, or therapeutic agent. For the purpose of this
12			sub-subdivision, bacteria, viruses, and their parts are
13			considered living organisms.
14		2.	Processing botanical drugs and herbs by grading,
15			grinding, and milling.
16		3.	Isolating active medicinal principals from botanical
17			drugs and herbs.
18		4.	Manufacturing pharmaceutical products intended for
19			internal and external consumption in forms such as
20			ampoules, tablets, capsules, vials, ointments, powders,
21			solutions, and suspensions.
22			onductor manufacturing. Semiconductor manufacturing
23			development and production of semiconductor material,
24			s, or components."
25		• G.S.	105-259(b) is amended by adding a new subdivision to
26	read:		
27			ed. – An officer, an employee, or an agent of the State
28			ion in the course of service to or employment by the State
29	-		on to any other person unless the disclosure is made for
30	one of the following pur	rposes:	
31	····	• • • • • •	
32			h a related entity or strategic partner information relating
33			provided by a taxpayer claiming a credit under Article 3G
34 25		Chapte	
35 26			on 3 of this act becomes effective January 1, 2005, and
36 27			fter that date. The remainder of this act is effective for
37		•	on or after November 1, 2004, and for taxable years
38	beginning on or after Jan	nuary I	, 2003.