

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 463

Short Title: Conservation Tax Credit Modifications. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Luebke; Blust, Brubaker, Carney, Church, Faison, Fisher, Glazier, Harrison, Hill, Rapp, Wainwright, Weiss, and Wilkins.

Referred to: Finance.

March 5, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO MODIFY THE CREDIT FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY DONATIONS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 105-130.34 reads as rewritten:

"§ 105-130.34. Credit for certain real property donations.

(a) Any corporation that makes a qualified donation of an interest in real property located in North Carolina during the taxable year that is useful for (i) public beach access or use, (ii) public access to public waters or trails, (iii) fish and wildlife conservation, ~~or other similar land conservation purposes~~ (iv) forestland or farmland conservation, (v) watershed protection, (vi) conservation of natural areas as that term is defined in G.S. 113A-164.3(3), (vii) conservation of natural or scenic river areas as those terms are used in G.S. 113A-34, (viii) conservation of predominantly natural parkland, or (ix) historic landscape conservation is allowed a credit against the tax imposed by this Part equal to twenty-five percent (25%) of the fair market value of the donated property interest. To be eligible for this credit, the interest in real property must be donated in perpetuity to and accepted by the State, a local government, or a body that is both organized to receive and administer lands for conservation purposes and qualified to receive charitable contributions pursuant to G.S. 105-130.9. Lands required to be dedicated pursuant to local governmental regulation or ordinance and dedications made to increase building density levels permitted under a regulation or ordinance are not eligible for this credit. The credit allowed under this section may not exceed five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000). To support the credit allowed by this section, the taxpayer must file with ~~its~~ the income tax ~~return,~~ return for the taxable year in which the credit is claimed, ~~a certification by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources that the property donated is suitable for one or more of the valid public benefits set forth in this subsection.~~ claimed the following:

1 (1) A certification by the Department of Environment and Natural
2 Resources that the property donated is suitable for one or more of the
3 valid public benefits set forth in this subsection.

4 (2) A self-contained appraisal report or summary appraisal report as
5 defined in Standards Rule 2-2 in the latest edition of the Uniform
6 Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice as promulgated by the
7 Appraisal Foundation for the property. For fee simple absolute
8 donations of real property, a taxpayer may submit documentation of
9 the county's appraised value of the donated property, as adjusted by the
10 sales assessment ratio, in lieu of an appraisal report.

11 (b) The credit allowed by this section may not exceed the amount of tax imposed
12 by this Part for the taxable year reduced by the sum of all credits allowed, except
13 payments of tax made by or on behalf of the taxpayer.

14 (c) Any unused portion of this credit may be carried forward for the next
15 succeeding five years.

16 (d) That portion of a qualifying donation that is the basis for a credit allowed
17 under this section is not eligible for deduction as a charitable contribution under
18 G.S. 105-130.9."

19 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 105-151.12 reads as rewritten:

20 **"§ 105-151.12. Credit for certain real property donations.**

21 ~~A person who~~An individual or pass-through entity that makes a qualified
22 donation of an interest in real property located in North Carolina during the taxable year
23 that is useful for (i) public beach access or use, (ii) public access to public waters or
24 trails, (iii) fish and wildlife conservation, ~~or (iv) other similar land conservation~~
25 purposes(iv) forestland or farmland conservation, (v) watershed protection, (vi)
26 conservation of natural areas as that term is defined in G.S. 113A-164.3(3), (vii)
27 conservation of natural or scenic river areas as those terms are used in G.S. 113A-34,
28 (viii) conservation of predominantly natural parkland, or (ix) historic landscape
29 conservation is allowed a credit against the tax imposed by this Part equal to twenty-five
30 percent (25%) of the fair market value of the donated property interest. To be eligible
31 for this credit, the interest in property must be donated in perpetuity to and accepted by
32 the State, a local government, or a body that is both organized to receive and administer
33 lands for conservation purposes and qualified to receive charitable contributions under
34 the Code. Lands required to be dedicated pursuant to local governmental regulation or
35 ordinance and dedications made to increase building density levels permitted under a
36 regulation or ordinance are not eligible for this credit. ~~The credit allowed under this~~
37 section may not exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000). To support the
38 credit allowed by this section, the taxpayer must file with the income tax return for the
39 taxable year in which the credit is claimed ~~a certification by the Department of~~
40 Environment and Natural Resources that the property donated is suitable for one or
41 more of the valid public benefits set forth in this subsection.the following:

42 (1) A certification by the Department of Environment and Natural
43 Resources that the property donated is suitable for one or more of the
44 valid public benefits set forth in this subsection. The certification for a

1 qualified donation made by a pass-through entity must be filed by the
2 pass-through entity.

3 (2) A self-contained or summary appraisal report as defined in Standards
4 Rule 2-2 in the latest edition of the Uniform Standards of Professional
5 Appraisal Practice as promulgated by the Appraisal Foundation for the
6 property. For fee simple absolute donations of real property, a taxpayer
7 may submit documentation of the county's appraised value of the
8 donated property, as adjusted by the sales assessment ratio, in lieu of
9 an appraisal report.

10 (a1) Individuals. – The aggregate amount of credit allowed to an individual in a
11 taxable year under this section for one or more qualified donations, whether made
12 directly or indirectly as owner of a pass-through entity, may not exceed two hundred
13 fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000). In the case of property owned by a married couple, if
14 both spouses are required to file North Carolina income tax returns, the credit allowed
15 by this section may be claimed only if the spouses file a joint return. If only one spouse
16 is required to file a North Carolina income tax return, that spouse may claim the credit
17 allowed by this section on a separate return.

18 (a2) Pass-Through Entities. – The aggregate amount of credit allowed to a
19 pass-through entity in a taxable year under this section for one or more qualified
20 donations, whether made directly or indirectly as owner of another pass-through entity,
21 may not exceed five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000). Each individual who is an
22 owner of a pass-through entity is allowed as a credit an amount equal to the owner's
23 allocated share of the credit to which the pass-through entity is eligible under this
24 subsection, not to exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000). Each
25 corporation that is an owner of a pass-through entity is allowed as a credit an amount
26 equal to the owner's allocated share of the credit to which the pass-through entity is
27 eligible under this subsection, not to exceed five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000).

28 (b) The credit allowed by this section may not exceed the amount of tax imposed
29 by this Part for the taxable year reduced by the sum of all credits allowed, except
30 payments of tax made by or on behalf of the taxpayer.

31 Any unused portion of this credit may be carried forward for the next succeeding
32 five years.

33 (c) Repealed by Session Laws 1998-212, s. 29A.13(b).

34 ~~(d) In the case of property owned by a married couple, if both spouses are~~
35 ~~required to file North Carolina income tax returns, the credit allowed by this section~~
36 ~~may be claimed only if the spouses file a joint return. If only one spouse is required to~~
37 ~~file a North Carolina income tax return, that spouse may claim the credit allowed by this~~
38 ~~section on a separate return.~~

39 (e) In the case of marshland for which a claim has been filed pursuant to
40 G.S. 113-205, the offer of donation must be made before December 31, 2003 to qualify
41 for the credit allowed by this section.

42 ~~(f) Notwithstanding G.S. 105-269.15, the maximum dollar limit that applies in~~
43 ~~determining the amount of the credit applicable to a partnership that qualifies for the~~
44 ~~credit applies separately to each partner."~~

1 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective for taxable years beginning on or after
2 January 1, 2007.