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By: Senator(s) Robertson, Butler, Frazier, Gollott, Hyde-Smith, Jackson (11th), Jordan, King, Lee (47th), Mettetal, Ross, Walls, White

To: Finance

## COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 2521

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 57-73-21, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE TAX COMMISSION TO EXTEND 3 THE PERIOD OF TIME WITHIN WHICH THE JOBS TAX CREDIT FOR PERMANENT 4 BUSINESS ENTERPRISES MAY BE UTILIZED BY ENTERPRISES THAT ARE UNABLE TO MAINTAIN THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF JOBS AS A DIRECT RESULT 5 OF CERTAIN DISASTERS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE PERIOD OF TIME FOR WHICH 6 7 THE REQUIREMENT MAY BE WAIVED SHALL NOT EXCEED TWO YEARS; AND FOR 8 RELATED PURPOSES. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI: 9 10 SECTION 1. Section 57-73-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows: 11 12 [In cases involving business enterprises that received or 13 applied for the job tax credit authorized by this section prior to January 1, 2005, this section shall read as follows:] 14 15 57-73-21. (1) Annually by December 31, using the most 16 current data available from the University Research Center, 17 Mississippi Department of Employment Security and the United 18 States Department of Commerce, the State Tax Commission shall rank 19 and designate the state's counties as provided in this section. 2.0 The twenty-eight (28) counties in this state having a combination 21 of the highest unemployment rate and lowest per capita income for the most recent thirty-six-month period, with equal weight being 22 23 given to each category, are designated Tier Three areas. The twenty-seven (27) counties in the state with a combination of the 24 25 next highest unemployment rate and next lowest per capita income for the most recent thirty-six-month period, with equal weight 26 27 being given to each category, are designated Tier Two areas. The twenty-seven (27) counties in the state with a combination of the 28 lowest unemployment rate and the highest per capita income for the 29

most recent thirty-six-month period, with equal weight being given

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    to each category, are designated Tier One areas. Counties
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    designated by the Tax Commission qualify for the appropriate tax
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    credit for jobs as provided in subsections (2), (3) and (4) of
                   The designation by the Tax Commission is effective
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    for the tax years of permanent business enterprises which begin
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    after the date of designation. For companies which plan an
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    expansion in their labor forces, the Tax Commission shall
    prescribe certification procedures to ensure that the companies
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    can claim credits in future years without regard to whether or not
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    a particular county is removed from the list of Tier Three or Tier
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    Two areas.
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         (2) Permanent business enterprises primarily engaged in
    manufacturing, processing, warehousing, distribution, wholesaling
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    and research and development, or permanent business enterprises
    designated by rule and regulation of the Mississippi Development
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    Authority as air transportation and maintenance facilities, final
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    destination or resort hotels having a minimum of one hundred fifty
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    (150) guest rooms, recreational facilities that impact tourism,
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    movie industry studios, telecommunications enterprises, data or
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    information processing enterprises or computer software
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    development enterprises or any technology intensive facility or
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    enterprise, in counties designated by the Tax Commission as Tier
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    Three areas are allowed a job tax credit for taxes imposed by
    Section 27-7-5 equal to Two Thousand Dollars ($2,000.00) annually
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    for each net new full-time employee job for five (5) years
    beginning with years two (2) through six (6) after the creation of
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    the job; however, if the permanent business enterprise is located
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    in an area that has been declared by the Governor to be a disaster
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    area and as a direct result of the disaster the permanent business
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    enterprise is unable to maintain the required number of jobs, the
    Chairman of the State Tax Commission may extend this time period
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    for not more two (2) years.
                                 The number of new full-time jobs must
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    be determined by comparing the monthly average number of full-time
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    employees subject to the Mississippi income tax withholding for
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    the taxable year with the corresponding period of the prior
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    taxable year. Only those permanent businesses that increase
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    employment by ten (10) or more in a Tier Three area are eligible
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    for the credit. Credit is not allowed during any of the five (5)
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    years if the net employment increase falls below ten (10).
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    Tax Commission shall adjust the credit allowed each year for the
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    net new employment fluctuations above the minimum level of ten
    (10).
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              Permanent business enterprises primarily engaged in
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    manufacturing, processing, warehousing, distribution, wholesaling
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    and research and development, or permanent business enterprises
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    designated by rule and regulation of the Mississippi Development
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    Authority as air transportation and maintenance facilities, final
    destination or resort hotels having a minimum of one hundred fifty
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    (150) guest rooms, recreational facilities that impact tourism,
    movie industry studios, telecommunications enterprises, data or
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    information processing enterprises or computer software
    development enterprises or any technology intensive facility or
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    enterprise, in counties that have been designated by the Tax
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    Commission as Tier Two areas are allowed a job tax credit for
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    taxes imposed by Section 27-7-5 equal to One Thousand Dollars
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    ($1,000.00) annually for each net new full-time employee job for
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    five (5) years beginning with years two (2) through six (6) after
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    the creation of the job; however, if the permanent business
    enterprise is located in an area that has been declared by the
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    Governor to be a disaster area and as a direct result of the
    disaster the permanent business enterprise is unable to maintain
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    the required number of jobs, the Chairman of the State Tax
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    Commission may extend this time period for not more two (2) years.
    The number of new full-time jobs must be determined by comparing
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    the monthly average number of full-time employees subject to
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    Mississippi income tax withholding for the taxable year with the
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     corresponding period of the prior taxable year. Only those
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     permanent businesses that increase employment by fifteen (15) or
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     more in Tier Two areas are eligible for the credit. The credit is
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     not allowed during any of the five (5) years if the net employment
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     increase falls below fifteen (15). The Tax Commission shall
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     adjust the credit allowed each year for the net new employment
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     fluctuations above the minimum level of fifteen (15).
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          (4) Permanent business enterprises primarily engaged in
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     manufacturing, processing, warehousing, distribution, wholesaling
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     and research and development, or permanent business enterprises
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     designated by rule and regulation of the Mississippi Development
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     Authority as air transportation and maintenance facilities, final
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     destination or resort hotels having a minimum of one hundred fifty
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     (150) guest rooms, recreational facilities that impact tourism,
     movie industry studios, telecommunications enterprises, data or
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     information processing enterprises or computer software
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     development enterprises or any technology intensive facility or
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     enterprise, in counties designated by the Tax Commission as Tier
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     One areas are allowed a job tax credit for taxes imposed by
     Section 27-7-5 equal to Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00) annually
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     for each net new full-time employee job for five (5) years
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     beginning with years two (2) through six (6) after the creation of
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     the job; however, if the permanent business enterprise is located
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     in an area that has been declared by the Governor to be a disaster
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     area and as a direct result of the disaster the permanent business
     enterprise is unable to maintain the required number of jobs, the
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     Chairman of the State Tax Commission may extend this time period
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     for not more two (2) years. The number of new full-time jobs must
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     be determined by comparing the monthly average number of full-time
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     employees subject to Mississippi income tax withholding for the
     taxable year with the corresponding period of the prior taxable
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     year. Only those permanent businesses that increase employment by
     twenty (20) or more in Tier One areas are eligible for the credit.
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The credit is not allowed during any of the five (5) years if the 130 131 net employment increase falls below twenty (20). The Tax 132 Commission shall adjust the credit allowed each year for the net 133 new employment fluctuations above the minimum level of twenty 134 (20). 135 (5) In addition to the credits authorized in subsections 136 (2), (3) and (4), an additional Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) 137 credit for each net new full-time employee or an additional One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) credit for each net new full-time 138 139 employee who is paid a salary, excluding benefits which are not 140 subject to Mississippi income taxation, of at least one hundred twenty-five percent (125%) of the average annual wage of the state 141 142 or an additional Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) credit for each 143 net new full-time employee who is paid a salary, excluding benefits which are not subject to Mississippi income taxation, of 144 145 at least two hundred percent (200%) of the average annual wage of 146 the state, shall be allowed for any company establishing or transferring its national or regional headquarters from within or 147 148 outside the State of Mississippi. A minimum of thirty-five (35) 149 jobs must be created to qualify for the additional credit. 150 State Tax Commission shall establish criteria and prescribe 151 procedures to determine if a company qualifies as a national or 152 regional headquarters for purposes of receiving the credit awarded 153 in this subsection. As used in this subsection, the average 154 annual wage of the state is the most recently published average 155 annual wage as determined by the Mississippi Department of 156 Employment Security. 157 In addition to the credits authorized in subsections (2), (3), (4) and (5), any job requiring research and development 158 159 skills (chemist, engineer, etc.) shall qualify for an additional One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) credit for each net new full-time 160

employee.

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162 (7) In lieu of the tax credits provided in subsections (2) 163 through (6), any commercial or industrial property owner which 164 remediates contaminated property in accordance with Sections 165 49-35-1 through 49-35-25, is allowed a job tax credit for taxes 166 imposed by Section 27-7-5 equal to the amounts provided in 167 subsection (2), (3) or (4) for each net new full-time employee job for five (5) years beginning with years two (2) through six (6) 168 after the creation of the job. The number of new full-time jobs 169 must be determined by comparing the monthly average number of 170 171 full-time employees subject to Mississippi income tax withholding 172 for the taxable year with the corresponding period of the prior taxable year. This subsection shall be administered in the same 173 174 manner as subsections (2), (3) and (4), except the landowner shall not be required to increase employment by the levels provided in 175 176 subsections (2), (3) and (4) to be eligible for the tax credit. 177 Tax credits for five (5) years for the taxes imposed by 178 Section 27-7-5 shall be awarded for additional net new full-time jobs created by business enterprises qualified under subsections 179 180 (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) and (7) of this section. Except as 181 otherwise provided, the Tax Commission shall adjust the credit allowed in the event of employment fluctuations during the 182 183 additional five (5) years of credit. 184 (9) The sale, merger, acquisition, reorganization, 185 bankruptcy or relocation from one county to another county within 186 the state of any business enterprise may not create new 187 eligibility in any succeeding business entity, but any unused job 188 tax credit may be transferred and continued by any transferee of 189 the business enterprise. The Tax Commission shall determine whether or not qualifying net increases or decreases have occurred 190 191 or proper transfers of credit have been made and may require reports, promulgate regulations, and hold hearings as needed for 192 193 substantiation and qualification.

- (10) Any tax credit claimed under this section but not used 194 195 in any taxable year may be carried forward for five (5) years from 196 the close of the tax year in which the qualified jobs were 197 established but the credit established by this section taken in 198 any one (1) tax year must be limited to an amount not greater than 199 fifty percent (50%) of the taxpayer's state income tax liability 200 which is attributable to income derived from operations in the state for that year. If the permanent business enterprise is 201 202 located in an area that has been declared by the Governor to be a 203 disaster area and as a direct result of the disaster the business 204 enterprise is unable to use the existing carryforward, the Chairman of the State Tax Commission may extend the period that 205 206 the credit may be carried forward for a period of time not to 207 exceed two (2) years. No business enterprise for the transportation, (11)handling, storage, processing or disposal of hazardous waste is
- 208 209 210 eligible to receive the tax credits provided in this section.
- (12) The credits allowed under this section shall not be 211 212 used by any business enterprise or corporation other than the 213 business enterprise actually qualifying for the credits.
- (13) The tax credits provided for in this section shall be 214 215 in addition to any tax credits described in Sections 57-51-13(b), 216 57-53-1(1)(a) and 57-54-9(b) and granted pursuant to official 217 action by the Department of Economic Development prior to July 1, 218 1989, to any business enterprise determined prior to July 1, 1989, by the Department of Economic Development to be a qualified 219 business as defined in Section 57-51-5(f) or Section 57-54-5(d) or 220 a qualified company as described in Section 57-53-1, as the case
- may be; however, from and after July 1, 1989, tax credits shall be 222 223 allowed only under either this section or Sections 57-51-13(b),
- 224 57-53-1(1)(a) and Section 57-54-9(b) for each net new full-time employee. 225

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(14) As used in this section, the term "telecommunications 226 227 enterprises" means entities engaged in the creation, display, 228 management, storage, processing, transmission or distribution for 229 compensation of images, text, voice, video or data by wire or by 230 wireless means, or entities engaged in the construction, design, 231 development, manufacture, maintenance or distribution for 232 compensation of devices, products, software or structures used in 233 the above activities. Companies organized to do business as commercial broadcast radio stations, television stations or news 234 235 organizations primarily serving in-state markets shall not be 236 included within the definition of the term "telecommunications 237 enterprises." [In cases involving business enterprises that apply for the 238 239 job tax credit authorized by this section from and after January 1, 2005, this section shall read as follows:] 240 241 57-73-21. (1) Annually by December 31, using the most 242 current data available from the University Research Center, 243 Mississippi Department of Employment Security and the United 244 States Department of Commerce, the State Tax Commission shall rank 245 and designate the state's counties as provided in this section. 246 The twenty-eight (28) counties in this state having a combination 247 of the highest unemployment rate and lowest per capita income for 248 the most recent thirty-six-month period, with equal weight being 249 given to each category, are designated Tier Three areas. 250 twenty-seven (27) counties in the state with a combination of the 251 next highest unemployment rate and next lowest per capita income 252 for the most recent thirty-six-month period, with equal weight 253 being given to each category, are designated Tier Two areas. twenty-seven (27) counties in the state with a combination of the 254 255 lowest unemployment rate and the highest per capita income for the most recent thirty-six-month period, with equal weight being given 256 257 to each category, are designated Tier One areas. Counties 258 designated by the Tax Commission qualify for the appropriate tax

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259 credit for jobs as provided in this section. The designation by the Tax Commission is effective for the tax years of permanent 260 261 business enterprises which begin after the date of designation. 262 For companies which plan an expansion in their labor forces, the Tax Commission shall prescribe certification procedures to ensure 263 264 that the companies can claim credits in future years without 265 regard to whether or not a particular county is removed from the list of Tier Three or Tier Two areas. 266 267 (2) Permanent business enterprises in counties designated by 268 the Tax Commission as Tier Three areas are allowed a job tax 269 credit for taxes imposed by Section 27-7-5 equal to ten percent (10%) of the payroll of the enterprise for net new full-time 270 271 employee jobs for five (5) years beginning with years two (2) 272 through six (6) after the creation of the minimum number of jobs required by this subsection; however, if the permanent business 273 274 enterprise is located in an area that has been declared by the 275 Governor to be a disaster area and as a direct result of the 276 disaster the permanent business enterprise is unable to maintain 277 the required number of jobs, the Chairman of the State Tax 278 Commission may extend this time period for not more two (2) years. 279 The number of new full-time jobs must be determined by comparing 280 the monthly average number of full-time employees subject to the 281 Mississippi income tax withholding for the taxable year with the 282 corresponding period of the prior taxable year. Only those 283 permanent business enterprises that increase employment by ten 284 (10) or more in a Tier Three area are eligible for the credit. 285 Credit is not allowed during any of the five (5) years if the net 286 employment increase falls below ten (10). The Tax Commission shall adjust the credit allowed each year for the net new 287 288 employment fluctuations above the minimum level of ten (10). 289 (3) Permanent business enterprises in counties that have 290 been designated by the Tax Commission as Tier Two areas are 291 allowed a job tax credit for taxes imposed by Section 27-7-5 equal

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to five percent (5%) of the payroll of the enterprise for net new
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     full-time employee jobs for five (5) years beginning with years
     two (2) through six (6) after the creation of the minimum number
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     of jobs required by this subsection; however, if the permanent
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     business enterprise is located in an area that has been declared
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     by the Governor to be a disaster area and as a direct result of
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     the disaster the permanent business enterprise is unable to
     maintain the required number of jobs, the Chairman of the State
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     Tax Commission may extend this time period for not more two (2)
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             The number of new full-time jobs must be determined by
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     comparing the monthly average number of full-time employees
     subject to Mississippi income tax withholding for the taxable year
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     with the corresponding period of the prior taxable year. Only
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     those permanent business enterprises that increase employment by
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     fifteen (15) or more in Tier Two areas are eligible for the
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     credit.
              The credit is not allowed during any of the five (5)
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     years if the net employment increase falls below fifteen (15).
     The Tax Commission shall adjust the credit allowed each year for
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     the net new employment fluctuations above the minimum level of
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     fifteen (15).
          (4) Permanent business enterprises in counties designated by
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     the Tax Commission as Tier One areas are allowed a job tax credit
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     for taxes imposed by Section 27-7-5 equal to two and one-half
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     percent (2.5%) of the payroll of the enterprise for net new
     full-time employee jobs for five (5) years beginning with years
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     two (2) through six (6) after the creation of the minimum number
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     of jobs required by this subsection; however, if the permanent
     business enterprise is located in an area that has been declared
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     by the Governor to be a disaster area and as a direct result of
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     the disaster the permanent business enterprise is unable to
     maintain the required number of jobs, the Chairman of the State
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     Tax Commission may extend this time period for not more two (2)
             The number of new full-time jobs must be determined by
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     years.
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comparing the monthly average number of full-time employees 325 326 subject to Mississippi income tax withholding for the taxable year 327 with the corresponding period of the prior taxable year. Only 328 those permanent business enterprises that increase employment by 329 twenty (20) or more in Tier One areas are eligible for the credit. 330 The credit is not allowed during any of the five (5) years if the 331 net employment increase falls below twenty (20). The Tax Commission shall adjust the credit allowed each year for the net 332 new employment fluctuations above the minimum level of twenty 333 334 (20).335 In addition to the other credits authorized in this section, an additional Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) credit for 336 337 each net new full-time employee or an additional One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) credit for each net new full-time employee who 338 is paid a salary, excluding benefits which are not subject to 339 340 Mississippi income taxation, of at least one hundred twenty-five 341 percent (125%) of the average annual wage of the state or an additional Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) credit for each net 342 343 new full-time employee who is paid a salary, excluding benefits 344 which are not subject to Mississippi income taxation, of at least 345 two hundred percent (200%) of the average annual wage of the 346 state, shall be allowed for any company establishing or 347 transferring its national or regional headquarters from within or 348 outside the State of Mississippi. A minimum of thirty-five (35) 349 jobs must be created to qualify for the additional credit. The 350 State Tax Commission shall establish criteria and prescribe 351 procedures to determine if a company qualifies as a national or 352 regional headquarters for purposes of receiving the credit awarded in this subsection. As used in this subsection, the average 353 354 annual wage of the state is the most recently published average annual wage as determined by the Mississippi Department of 355 356 Employment Security.

357 (6) In addition to the other credits authorized in this
358 section, any job requiring research and development skills
359 (chemist, engineer, etc.) shall qualify for an additional One
360 Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) credit for each net new full-time
361 employee.
362 (7) In lieu of the other tax credits provided in this

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In lieu of the other tax credits provided in this (7) section, any commercial or industrial property owner which remediates contaminated property in accordance with Sections 49-35-1 through 49-35-25, is allowed a job tax credit for taxes imposed by Section 27-7-5 equal to the percentage of payroll provided in subsection (2), (3) or (4) of this section for net new full-time employee jobs for five (5) years beginning with years two (2) through six (6) after the creation of the jobs. number of new full-time jobs must be determined by comparing the monthly average number of full-time employees subject to Mississippi income tax withholding for the taxable year with the corresponding period of the prior taxable year. This subsection shall be administered in the same manner as subsections (2), (3) and (4), except the landowner shall not be required to increase employment by the levels provided in subsections (2), (3) and (4)

(8) (a) Tax credits for five (5) years for the taxes imposed by Section 27-7-5 shall be awarded for increases in the annual payroll for net new full-time jobs created by business enterprises qualified under this section. The Tax Commission shall adjust the credit allowed in the event of payroll fluctuations during the additional five (5) years of credit.

(b) Tax credits for five (5) years for the taxes imposed by Section 27-7-5 shall be awarded for additional net new full-time jobs created by business enterprises qualified under subsections (5) and (6) of this section. The Tax Commission shall adjust the credit allowed in the event of employment fluctuations during the additional five (5) years of credit.

to be eligible for the tax credit.

- (9) The sale, merger, acquisition, reorganization, 390 391 bankruptcy or relocation from one county to another county within 392 the state of any business enterprise may not create new 393 eligibility in any succeeding business entity, but any unused job 394 tax credit may be transferred and continued by any transferee of 395 the business enterprise. The Tax Commission shall determine 396 whether or not qualifying net increases or decreases have occurred or proper transfers of credit have been made and may require 397 398 reports, promulgate regulations, and hold hearings as needed for
  - in any taxable year may be carried forward for five (5) years from the close of the tax year in which the qualified jobs were established but the credit established by this section taken in any one tax year must be limited to an amount not greater than fifty percent (50%) of the taxpayer's state income tax liability which is attributable to income derived from operations in the state for that year. If the permanent business enterprise is located in an area that has been declared by the Governor to be a disaster area and as a direct result of the disaster the business enterprise is unable to use the existing carryforward, the Chairman of the State Tax Commission may extend the period that the credit may be carried forward for a period of time not to exceed two (2) years.
- (11) No business enterprise for the transportation,

  handling, storage, processing or disposal of hazardous waste is

  eligible to receive the tax credits provided in this section.
- 417 (12) The credits allowed under this section shall not be 418 used by any business enterprise or corporation other than the 419 business enterprise actually qualifying for the credits.
  - (13) As used in this section:

substantiation and qualification.

- 421 (a) "Business enterprises" means entities primarily
- 422 engaged in:

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423 Manufacturing, processing, warehousing, (i) 424 distribution, wholesaling and research and development, or 425 (ii) Permanent business enterprises designated by 426 rule and regulation of the Mississippi Development Authority as 427 air transportation and maintenance facilities, final destination 428 or resort hotels having a minimum of one hundred fifty (150) guest 429 rooms, recreational facilities that impact tourism, movie industry 430 studios, telecommunications enterprises, data or information 431 processing enterprises or computer software development 432 enterprises or any technology intensive facility or enterprise. 433 "Telecommunications enterprises" means entities 434 engaged in the creation, display, management, storage, processing, 435 transmission or distribution for compensation of images, text, 436 voice, video or data by wire or by wireless means, or entities engaged in the construction, design, development, manufacture, 437 438 maintenance or distribution for compensation of devices, products, 439 software or structures used in the above activities. Companies 440 organized to do business as commercial broadcast radio stations, 441 television stations or news organizations primarily serving 442 in-state markets shall not be included within the definition of 443 the term "telecommunications enterprises." 444 (14) The tax credits provided for in this section shall be 445 in addition to any tax credits described in Sections 57-51-13(b), 446 57-53-1(1)(a) and 57-54-9(b) and granted pursuant to official 447 action by the Department of Economic Development prior to July 1, 448 1989, to any business enterprise determined prior to July 1, 1989, 449 by the Department of Economic Development to be a qualified 450 business as defined in Section 57-51-5(f) or Section 57-54-5(d) or 451 a qualified company as described in Section 57-53-1, as the case 452 may be; however, from and after July 1, 1989, tax credits shall be 453 allowed only under either this section or Sections 57-51-13(b), 454 57-53-1(1)(a) and Section 57-54-9(b) for each net new full-time 455 employee.

456 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from 457 and after July 1, 2007.