1	COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
2	FOR
3	Senate Bill No. 389
4	(By Senators Prezioso, D. Facemire, Unger, Foster, Klempa and
5	Minard)
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7	[Originating in the Committee on the Judiciary;
8	reported February 22, 2011.]
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12	A BILL to amend and reenact $\$11-13AA-3$ , $\$11-13AA-4$ , $\$11-13AA-5$ ,
13	\$11-13AA-7, $$11-13AA-11$ and $$11-13AA-12$ of the Code of West
14	Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to modifying the
15	provisions of the West Virginia Commercial Patent Incentives
16	Tax Act generally; defining terms; providing for tax credit
17	carryover and accrual; restricting eligibility for tax credit;
18	providing for disallowance of tax credit; providing for strict
19	construction; making technical corrections to use appropriate
20	terminology; and retroactively adjusting the effective date of
21	the provisions of the act.
22	Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:
23	That \$11-13AA-3, \$11-13AA-4, \$11-13AA-5, \$11-13AA-7,
24	\$11-13AA-11 and $$11-13AA-12$ of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as
25	amended, be amended and reenacted, all to read as follows:
26	ARTICLE 13AA. COMMERCIAL PATENT INCENTIVES TAX ACT.

## 1 §11-13AA-3. Definitions.

- 2 (a) General. -- When used in this article, or in the 3 administration of this article, terms defined in subsection (b) of 4 this section have the meanings ascribed to them by this section, 5 unless a different meaning is clearly required by either the 6 context in which the term is used, or by specific definition, in 7 this article.
- 8 (b) Terms defined. --
- 9 (1) "Agreement" means any agreement or contractual
  10 relationship entered into after the effective date of this section
  11 between a person developing patents in this state and either:
- 12 (A) A corporation established under the laws of this state 13 that meet the requirements of section three, article twelve, 14 chapter eighteen-b of this code; or
- 15 (B) A center for economic development and technological 16 advancement created pursuant to section three, article twelve-a, 17 chapter eighteen-b of this code.
- 18 (2) "Business activity" means all activities engaged in or
  19 caused to be engaged in by a person with the object of gain or
  20 economic benefit, direct or indirect. For purposes of this
  21 definition, the term "gain or economic benefit, direct or indirect"
  22 does not include income realized by any person in the form of
  23 wages, salary or income that is reported on federal form W-2.
- 24 (3) "Commercial use" means selling, licensing, leasing or 25 otherwise making patents available to a third party for a price, 26 fee, royalty, commission or other consideration called by whatever

- 1 name. "Commercial use" also means, in the case of patents
- 2 developed by the developer for the developer's own commercial use,
- 3 the first use of the patents in a manufacturing or other business
- 4 activity of the developer. "Commercial use" does not include any
- 5 selling, licensing, leasing or otherwise making patents available
- 6 to a third party when done by a broker or by any person who does
- 7 not own the patent sold, licensed, leased or otherwise made
- 8 available.
- 9 (4) "Commissioner" and "Tax Commissioner" are used
- 10 interchangeably herein and mean the Tax Commissioner of the State
- 11 of West Virginia or his or her designee.
- 12 (5) "Copyright" means a copyright that is registered with the
- 13 United States Copyright Office or with a similar office of a
- 14 foreign country when the foreign copyright is recognized under
- 15 federal law.
- 16 (6) "Credit year" means the taxable year in which the person
- 17 realizes the net profit attributable to a patent. In the case of
- 18 a license or lease to use patents, "credit year" means each taxable
- 19 year during the term of the license or lease to use patents.
- 20  $\frac{(7)}{(6)}$  "Delegate" in the phrase "or his or her delegate",
- 21 when used in reference to the Tax Commissioner, means any officer
- 22 or employee of the Tax Department of the Department of Revenue duly
- 23 authorized by the Tax Commissioner directly, or indirectly, by one
- 24 or more redelegations of authority to perform the functions
- 25 mentioned or described in this article.
- 26 <u>(7) "Development of a patent," "developing patents" or</u>

- 1 "development" means the act of inventing or discovering any new and
- 2 useful process, machine, article of manufacture, or composition of
- 3 matter, or any new and useful improvement thereto through
- 4 significant investment of money, performance of research, or
- 5 application of design or engineering expertise, which culminates in
- 6 the issuance of a patent, as defined in this article.
- 7 (8) "Developer" means a person engaged in this state in
- 8 developing patents for direct use in a manufacturing process or
- 9 product and who has an agreement, as defined in this section, with
- 10 Marshall University or West Virginia University.
- 11 (9) "Directly used in manufacturing process or product, "and 12 "direct use in manufacturing process or product" with reference to 13 patents mean the use of patents directly in those activities or 14 operations which constitute an integral and essential part of the 15 manufacturing processes and products, as contrasted with and 16 distinguished from those activities or operations which are simply 17 incidental, convenient or remote to the manufacturing activity such 18 as those activities that are incidental. Those activities that are 19 incidental to business activities such as bills, marketing, 20 inventory control, order fulfillment, shipping and tracking are not 21 considered an integral and essential part of the manufacturing 22 process or product means application or incorporation of a patented 23 process, machine, article of manufacture or composition of matter, 24 in manufacturing operations or processes, or in manufactured 25 products, in circumstances where United States or foreign patent 26 <u>laws require that the specific patent for the process, machine,</u>

- 1 article of manufacture or composition of matter be owned by the
- 2 manufacturer, or purchased, leased, licensed or authorized by
- 3 contract to be applied or incorporated in the manufacturing
- 4 operation, processes or product, and where such lawful ownership,
- 5 <u>purchase</u>, <u>lease</u>, <u>licensure</u> or <u>contractual authorization</u> is in
- 6 effect.
- 7 (10) "Manufacturing" means any business activity classified as
- 8 having a sector identifier, consisting of the first two digits of
- 9 the six-digit North American Industry Classification System code
- 10 number of thirty-one, thirty-two or thirty-three.
- 11 (11) "Mask work" means a series of related images, however
- 12 fixed or encoded:
- 13 (A) Having or representing the predetermined, three-
- 14 dimensional pattern of metallic, insulating or semiconductor
- 15 material present or removed from the layers of a semiconductor chip
- 16 product; and
- 17 (B) In which series the relation of the images to one another
- 18 is that each image has the pattern of the surface of one form of
- 19 the semiconductor chip product.
- 20 (12) "Net profits" means West Virginia taxable income as
- 21 determined for purposes of article twenty four of this chapter,
- 22 before application of this credit and after application of all
- 23 credits allowable under this chapter except this credit. In the
- 24 case of taxpayers that are not subject to the tax imposed by
- 25 article twenty-four, "net profits" means West Virginia taxable
- 26 income as determined for purposes of article twenty-one of this

- 1 chapter, before application of this credit and after application of
- 2 all credits allowable under this chapter except this credit. In
- 3 circumstances where net profit is not solely attributable to and
- 4 the exclusive result of the direct use of a patent in a
- 5 manufacturing process or product in this state, the taxpayer shall
- 6 determine net profit solely attributable to and the exclusive
- 7 result of the direct use of a patent in a manufacturing process or
- 8 product in this state, and net profit for purposes of determining
- 9 the amount of credit allowable under this article shall be the net
- 10 profit solely attributable to and the exclusive result of the
- 11 direct use of a patent in a manufacturing process or product in
- 12 this state.
- 13  $\frac{(12)}{(13)}$  "Owner", when used in reference to a pass-through
- 14 entity, means a person who owns an equity interest in the pass-
- 15 through entity.
- 16 (13) (14) "Partnership" includes a syndicate, group, pool,
- 17 joint venture or other unincorporated organization through or by
- 18 means of which any business, financial operation or venture is
- 19 carried on, which is not a sole proprietorship, trust or estate,
- 20 and which is treated as a partnership for federal income tax
- 21 purposes for the taxable year.
- 22 (14) (15) "Pass-through entity" means a partnership, limited
- 23 liability company, small business corporation (S corporation) or
- 24 other entity treated as a partnership for federal income tax
- 25 purposes for the taxable year.

- 1 (15) (16) "Patent" means a United States <u>patent issued</u>
  2 <u>pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §101</u>, et seq. or the <u>Patent Cooperation</u>
  3 <u>Treaty done at Washington</u>, on <u>June 19</u>, 2970 or foreign national
  4 <u>patent grant or United States certificate of invention or</u>
  5 <u>certificate of protection under the Plant Variety Protection Office</u>
  6 of the United States Department of Agriculture and is limited to
  7 patents developed in this state for direct use in a manufacturing
  8 process or product, or both developed for use and directly used in
  9 a manufacturing process or product in this state. For purposes of
  10 this article, patents do not include copyrights, trademarks, mask
  11 works, trade secrets or any intellectual property that is not a
  12 patent.
- (16) (17) "Person" includes a natural person, corporation,
  limited liability company or partnership. A single member
  liability company that is treated as a disregarded entity for
  federal income tax purposes is be treated as a disregarded entity
  for purposes of this article.
- (17) (18) "Purchase" means a transaction under which title to
  19 an item is transferred for consideration, or a license or lease
  20 contract for at least three years is executed, regardless of
  21 whether title to the item is transferred at the end of the lease or
  22 license period.
- (18) (19) "Taxpayer" means any person subject to the tax imposed by article twenty-three or twenty-four of this chapter or to both taxes. In the case of a sole proprietorship that is not 26 subject to either the tax imposed by article twenty-three or

- 1 twenty-four of this chapter, the term "taxpayer" means a natural
- 2 person who owns a disregarded entity and who is subject to the tax
- 3 imposed by article twenty-one of this chapter on his or her income
- 4 from business activity in this state, or any sole proprietor who is
- 5 subject to the tax imposed by article twenty-one of this chapter.
- 6 (19) (20) "Trademark" means any trademark, trade name, service
- 7 mark or other identifying symbol or name that is registered with
- 8 the United States Patent and Trademark Office or with a similar
- 9 office of a foreign country when the foreign registration is
- 10 recognized under federal law.
- 11 (20) "Trade secret" means information, including a
- 12 formula, pattern, compilation, program device, method, technique or
- 13 process, that:
- 14 (A) Derives independent economic value, actual or potential,
- 15 from not being generally known to, and not being readily
- 16 ascertainable by proper means, by other persons who can obtain
- 17 economic value from its disclosure or use; and
- 18 (B) Is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the
- 19 circumstances to maintain its secrecy.

## 20 §11-13AA-4. Tax incentive for developing patents in this state.

- 21 (a) Allowance of credit. -- A person engaging in this state in
- 22 developing patents for direct use in a manufacturing process or
- 23 product and who has an agreement, as defined in section three of
- 24 this article, with Marshall University or West Virginia University
- 25 is allowed a credit, when computing the person's liability for
- 26 business franchise tax imposed by article twenty-three of this

1 chapter and corporation net income tax imposed by article twenty-2 four of this chapter, in the amount allowed under subsection (b) of 3 this section. When the developer is a sole proprietor or a pass-4 through entity, that amount of the credit remaining after first 5 applying it against the tax liability under article twenty-three of 6 this chapter for the taxable year is allowed when computing the tax 7 imposed by article twenty-one of this chapter on income from the 8 person's business activity. No credit is allowed under this 9 article for any activity, investment, assets, or expenditures for 10 which any of the tax credits authorized under articles thirteen-d, 11 thirteen-e, thirteen-q, thirteen-r, thirteen-s, or thirteen-x of 12 this chapter, has been authorized, taken or allowed. No credit is 13 allowed under this article for any activity, investment, assets, or 14 expenditures for which the tax credits authorized under article 15 thirteen, chapter eighteen-b, has been, authorized, taken or 16 allowed.

(b) Amount of credit. -- The amount of credit allowed under this section is equal to twenty percent of the royalties, license fees or other consideration received by the developer during the taxable year from the sale, lease or licensing of a patent developed in this state for direct use in a manufacturing process or product by the person in taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2011: Provided, That the amount of credit allowed under this section is thirty percent, rather than twenty percent, when the person reinvests at least eighty percent of the amount of the credit claimed for the taxable year in depreciable property

- 1 purchased for purposes of developing additional patents in this 2 state in taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2011, or 3 improving upon a patent developed in this state or contributing to 4 a stipend to retain a graduate or post-doctoral student in this 5 state integral to the development of the patents or related 6 technology in taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2011, 7 during the next taxable year of the person, and the person has an 8 agreement, as defined in section three of this article, for the 9 development of a patent.
- 10 (c) Rules for application of credit. -- The amount of credit
  11 computed under this section is allowed in accordance with the
  12 following rules and applied as provided in subsection (d) of this
  13 section:
- (1) No credit is allowed under this section for royalties,
  15 rents, license fees or other consideration received by the
  16 developer of the patent for a patent developed outside this state,
  17 except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection;
- (2) When the person developed the patent for direct use in a 19 manufacturing process or product through that person's activity in 20 this state and through that person's activity in one or more other 21 states, the consideration received by the developer during the 22 taxable year from the sale, lease or license of the patent 23 developed through multistate activity of the developer is 24 multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the direct 25 costs of developing the patent in this state and the denominator of 26 which is the total direct costs of developing the patent. The

- 1 product of this computation establishes the consideration to be 2 used in subsection (b) of this section;
- 3 (3) If a person receives a portion of a royalty that would be
  4 eligible for a tax credit under this section because of a business
  5 association, licensing agreement or otherwise, the person may
  6 receive the tax credit allowable to the portion of royalties that
  7 person receives provided the person has an agreement, as defined in
  8 section three of this article and otherwise meets the requirements
  9 for entitlement to this credit, as set forth in subsection (a) of
  10 this section;
- (4) Unused credit may be carried forward until the earlier of
  the tax year when the credit is used up or used for a period of
  nine the ninth consecutive tax year after the taxable year in which
  the credit allowed by this section accrues to the person the first
  tax year in which the taxpayer is eligible to claim the credit.
  When the person is an owner of a pass-through entity, credit
  accrues to may be taken by the owner beginning in the tax year when
  the tax year when the pass through entity or
- (5) No credit is allowed under this section for consideration 21 received by the developer for patents developed for direct use in 22 a manufacturing process or product before the taxable year 23 beginning January 1, 2011. For purposes of this subdivision, a 24 patent was developed for direct use in a manufacturing process or 25 product before January 1, 2011, if before that date it was sold, 26 leased or licensed to a third party prior to January 1, 2011, or

- 1 before that day it was reduced to practice for purely commercial
- 2 purposes by the developer or a person related to the developer, as
- 3 defined in subsection (b), Section 267 of the Internal Revenue Code
- 4 of 1986, as amended; and as defined in section nine, article
- 5 twenty-one of this chapter or section three, article twenty-four of
- 6 this chapter; and
- 7 (6) No credit is allowed under this section for consideration
- 8 received by the developer from a person related to the developer,
- 9 <u>as defined in subsection (b), Section 267 of the Internal Revenue</u>
- 10 Code of 1986, as amended for patents developed for direct use in a
- 11 manufacturing process or product; and
- (6) (7) No credit is allowed under this section beginning with
- 13 the eleventh taxable year after the patent was first directly used
- 14 in a manufacturing process or product.
- 15 (d) Application of credit. -- The amount of the credit
- 16 computed under this section is allowed as a credit against tax as
- 17 provided in this subsection, but the credit may not reduce the tax
- 18 below zero.
- 19 (1) Business franchise tax.-- The amount of the allowable
- 20 credit shall first be taken as a credit against the tax liability
- 21 of the developer for the taxable year under article twenty-three of
- 22 this chapter.
- 23 (2) Corporation net income tax. -- The amount of the allowable
- 24 credit remaining, if any, after first applying the credit against
- 25 the tax imposed by article twenty-three of this chapter shall then

- 1 be taken as a credit when computing the liability of the developer 2 for the taxable year under article twenty-four of this chapter.
- 3 (3) Personal income tax on business income. --
- 4 (A) When the developer is a sole proprietor, the amount of the 5 allowable credit is taken as a credit when computing the liability 6 of the developer for the taxable year on business income under 7 article twenty-one of this chapter.
- (B) When the developer is a pass-through entity, the amount of allowable credit remaining, if any, after first applying the credit against the tax imposed by article twenty-three of this chapter for the taxable year is allowed as a credit against the tax imposed for the taxable year on the West Virginia source income of the pass-through entity under article twenty-one of this chapter and the amount of the credit is distributed to the owners of the pass-through entity in the same manner as items of partnership income, gain loss or deduction are distributed or allocated for the taxable year.
- 18 §11-13AA-5. Tax credit for use of a patent in a manufacturing

  19 process or product in this state that was developed

  20 in this state.
- 21 (a) Allowance of credit. -- A person directly using a patent 22 developed in this state in a manufacturing process or product in 23 this state is allowed a credit against the person's liability for 24 business franchise tax imposed by article twenty-three of this 25 chapter and corporation net income tax imposed by article twenty-

- $1\ \mbox{four of this chapter,}$  the amount computed under subsection (b) of
- 2 this section. When the user of a patent is a sole proprietor or a
- 3 pass-through entity, that amount of credit allowed against income
- 4 taxes shall be against the tax imposed by article twenty-one of
- 5 this chapter.
- 6 (b) Amount of credit. -- The amount of credit allowed under
- 7 this section is equal to twenty percent of the net profit
- 8 attributable to the patent: Provided, That the amount of credit
- 9 allowed under this section is equal to thirty percent of the net
- 10 profit attributable to the patent when the person claiming the
- 11 credit reinvests in capital improvements to add product lines to or
- 12 increase productivity in this state during the next taxable year an
- 13 amount equal to at least eighty percent of the tax credit amount
- 14 used for the taxable year.
- 15 (c) Rules for application of credit. -- The amount of credit
- 16 computed under this section is allowed in accordance with the
- 17 following rules and applied as provided in subsection (d) of this
- 18 section:
- 19 (1) The credit allowed by this section is applied after all
- 20 other credits allowed by this chapter have been applied against the
- 21 person's business franchise tax and West Virginia income tax
- 22 liabilities for the taxable year under this chapter;
- 23 (2) Unused credit may be carried forward until the earlier of
- 24 the tax year when the credit is used up or used for a period of
- 25 nine the ninth consecutive tax year after the taxable year in which
- 26 the credit allowed by this section accrues to the person the first

- 1 tax year in which the taxpayer is eligible to claim the credit.
- 2 When the person is an owner of a pass-through entity, credit
- 3 accrues to may be taken by the owner beginning in the tax year when
- 4 it accrues to credit may be taken by the pass-through entity or
- 5 when the pass through entity gains entitlement to the credit;
- 6 (3) Any credit not used within the ten-year period described
- 7 in subdivision (2) of this subsection is forfeited beginning with
- 8 the eleventh taxable year after the taxable year in which the
- 9 <del>credit accrued to the person</del> first tax year in which the taxpayer
- 10 is eligible to claim the credit;
- 11 (4) No credit is allowed under this section for using a patent
- 12 in this state when the person began using the patent before January
- 13 1, 2011;
- 14 (5) No credit is allowed under this section for using a patent
- 15 in this state for which the taxpayer is allowed credit under
- 16 another article of this chapter.
- 17 (6) No credit is allowed under this section for any patent
- 18 acquired from, by or between, leased from, by or between, licensed
- 19 from, by or between, or otherwise authorized to be used from, by or
- 20 between related persons, as defined in subsection (b), Section 267
- 21 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.
- 22 (7) Amounts received from, by or between related persons, as
- 23 defined in subsection (b), Section 267 of the Internal Revenue Code
- 24 of 1986, as amended, are disallowed when calculating net profit
- 25 attributable to a patent.

- 1 (d) Application of credit. -- The amount of the credit 2 computed under this section is allowed as a credit against tax as 3 provided in this subsection, but the credit may not reduce the tax 4 below zero.
- 5 (1) Business franchise tax. -- The amount of the allowable 6 credit shall first be taken as a credit against the tax liability 7 of the person allowed the credit for the taxable year under article 8 twenty-three of this chapter.
- 9 (2) Corporation net income tax. -- The amount of the allowable 10 credit remaining, if any, after first applying the credit against 11 the tax imposed by article twenty-three of this chapter shall then 12 be taken as a credit when computing the liability of the 13 corporation for the taxable year under article twenty-four of this 14 chapter.
- 15 (3) Personal income tax on business income. --
- (A) When the person allowed the credit is a sole proprietor, the amount of the allowable credit is taken as a credit when computing the liability of the person allowed the credit for the taxable year on business income under article twenty-one of this chapter.
- (B) When the person allowed the credit is a pass-through 22 entity, the amount of allowable credit remaining, if any, after 23 first applying the credit against the tax imposed by article 24 twenty-three of this chapter for the taxable year is allowed as a 25 credit against the tax imposed for the taxable year on the West 26 Virginia source income of the pass-through entity under article

- 1 twenty-one of this chapter and the amount of the credit is
- 2 distributed to the owners of the pass-through entity in the same
- 3 manner as items of partnership income, gain loss or deduction are
- 4 distributed or allocated for the taxable year.

## 5 \$11-13AA-7. Identification of a patent and required records.

- 6 (a) Required records. -- Every developer of a patent in this
- 7 state for direct use in a manufacturing process or product and
- 8 every person who uses a patent directly in a manufacturing process
- 9 or product in this state who claims a credit under this article
- 10 shall maintain sufficient records to establish the following facts
- 11 for each item of a patent for which a credit is allowed under this
- 12 article:
- 13 (1) Its identity;
- 14 (2) The amount of net profit attributable to the patent;
- 15 (3) The month and taxable year in which the patent was first
- 16 used, placed in service or directly used in the person's
- 17 manufacturing process or product in this state;
- 18 (4) The amount of credit taken; and
- 19 (5) The date the patent was disposed of or otherwise ceased to
- 20 be directly used in the person's manufacturing process or product
- 21 in this state.
- 22 (b) Enhanced deduction of credit. -- Any person who claims the
- 23 enhanced credit under section four or five of this article shall
- 24 maintain sufficient records to clearly establish entitlement to
- 25 claim the amount of the enhanced credit. At a minimum those
- 26 records shall identify:

- 1 (1) Each and every item of depreciable property purchased for 2 purposes of claiming the enhanced credit;
- 3 (2) The date the depreciable property identified in 4 subdivision (1) of this subsection was purchased, its cost and its 5 estimated useful life determined using strait straight-line method 6 of depreciation;
- 7 (3) The date the depreciable property identified in 8 subdivision (1) of this subsection was placed in service or used in 9 the person's business activity in this state;
- 10 (4) The date the depreciable property identified in 11 subdivision (1) of this subsection was taken out of service or use 12 in the person's business activity in this state and the reason why 13 the property was taken out of service or use; and
- 14 (5) Other information that the Tax Commissioner may reasonably
  15 require by rule promulgated as provided in section eleven of this
  16 article.
- (c) New jobs. -- Every person who claims a credit under this article shall also maintain sufficient records to establish the 19 number and types of new jobs, if any created, the wages and 20 benefits paid to employees filling the new jobs and the duration of 21 each job.
- 22 (d) Exception. -- This section does not apply to an owner of 23 a pass-through entity that develops or uses a patent for which a 24 credit is allowed under this article.
- 25 §11-13AA-11. Interpretation and construction.

- 1 (a) No inference, implication or presumption of legislative 2 construction or intent may be drawn or made by reason of the 3 location or grouping of any particular section, provision or 4 portion of this article; and no legal effect may be given to any 5 descriptive matter or heading relating to any section, subsection 6 or paragraph of this article.
- 7 (b) The provisions of this article shall be reasonably 8 strictly construed in order to effectuate the legislative intent 9 recited in section two of this article.

## 10 §11-13AA-12. Effective date.

The provisions of this article <u>retroactively</u> become effective on <u>July January</u> 1, 2011, and apply only to a patent developed in this state <u>after the taxable years</u> in tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2011, and to a patent purchased, leased or licensed for use on or after that date for direct use in the taxpayer's manufacturing process or product in this state.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to make technical changes to correct some infirmities related to incorrect terminology, unworkable effective dates, and to disallow some related transactions within the Commercial Patent Incentives Tax Act.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.