

Senate Bill No. 604

(By Senators Kirkendoll, Green, Miller, Facemire, Cann, Edgell,
D. Hall, Stollings, Unger, Plymale and Jenkins)

[Introduced February 17, 2014; referred to the Committee on
Economic Development; and then to the Committee on Finance.]

**FISCAL
NOTE**

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by
adding thereto a new article, designated §11-13DD-1,
§11-13DD-2, §11-13DD-3, §11-13DD-4 and §11-13DD-5, all
relating to providing a tax credit to coal producers who sell
coal to taxpayers who increase their consumption of West
Virginia coal in this state for the purpose of increasing coal
production and coal-related employment in West Virginia.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended
by adding thereto a new article, designated §11-13DD-1, §11-13DD-2,
§11-13DD-3, §11-13DD-4 and §11-13DD-5, all to read as follows:

ARTICLE 13DD. WEST VIRGINIA COAL EMPLOYMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT.

§11-13DD-1. Legislative findings.

The Legislature finds that this state and this region are

1 blessed with large quantities of mineable coal that is suitable for
2 use as fuel to generate electricity and for other industrial uses;
3 that other coal producing states in the region offer incentives to
4 businesses to consume coal produced in those states; that there are
5 sound economic reasons for locating electric power generating
6 facilities and other industrial facilities that consume coal in the
7 coal fields; and that many West Virginia miners work in mines
8 located in this state and that the state will benefit by
9 encouraging additional production of West Virginia coal.
10 Therefore, encouraging greater utilization of coal produced by West
11 Virginia miners and consumed at West Virginia power plants and
12 industrial facilities, is in the public interest and promotes the
13 general welfare of the people of this state, in that it will
14 increase employment opportunities for West Virginia residents.

15 **§11-13DD-2. Definitions.**

16 (1) *Base year.* - The term "base year" means the calendar year
17 ending on December 31, 2013.

18 (2) *Eligible coal.* - The term "eligible coal" means coal
19 produced from a mine located in this state and upon which the
20 severance tax imposed by subsection three-b, article thirteen-a of
21 this chapter was paid.

22 (3) *Eligible taxpayer.* - The term "eligible taxpayer" means
23 any person subject to the severance tax imposed by subsection
24 three-b, article thirteen-a of this chapter that during the tax

1 year produces and sells eligible coal that is consumed at a power
2 plant or industrial facility located in this state and certified as
3 qualified coal by the purchaser.

4 (4) *Qualified coal.* - The term "qualified coal" means the
5 number of tons of eligible coal consumed at a power plant or
6 industrial facility located in this state during the tax year, in
7 excess of the number of tons of eligible coal consumed at that
8 power plant or industrial facility during the base year.

9 (5) Other terms used in this article have the meanings
10 ascribed to them in section four, article ten of this chapter or
11 section one, article thirteen of this chapter, unless the context
12 in which it is used in this article clearly requires another
13 meaning.

14 **§11-13DD-3. Credit allowed; amount of credit; effective date.**

15 (a) An eligible taxpayer is allowed a credit, as determined
16 under subsection (b) of this section against its liability for
17 taxes imposed by this state as provided in subsection (c) of this
18 section.

19 (b) *Amount of credit.* - The credit allowed by this subsection
20 is an amount equal to \$3 per ton multiplied by the number of tons
21 of qualified coal produced by the eligible taxpayer during the tax
22 year: *Provided,* That if the amount of severance tax imposed by
23 section three-b, article thirteen-a of this chapter, and paid by
24 the producer of the qualified coal was less than \$3 per ton, then

1 the amount of credit allowed to the eligible taxpayer by this
2 section is an amount equal to the amount of severance tax paid per
3 ton on the qualified coal multiplied by the number of tons of
4 qualified coal consumed by the eligible taxpayer during the tax
5 year.

6 (c) *Application of the current year credit allowance.* - An
7 eligible taxpayer that produces qualified coal may apply the credit
8 allowed under this article solely to reduce its liability for
9 severance tax imposed by subsection three-b, article thirteen-a of
10 this chapter: *Provided*, That the reduced liability for severance
11 tax imposed by subsection three-b, article thirteen-a of this
12 chapter, is deducted from the price of qualified coal as certified
13 by a person purchasing eligible coal for consumption at a power
14 plant or industrial facility during the tax year. If the person
15 purchasing coal is a regulated utility in this state, the Public
16 Service Commission is directed to pass the reduced liability for
17 severance tax to end use consumers.

18 (d) *Unused credit.* - If any credit remains after application
19 of subsection (c) of this section, the remaining amount of the
20 credit is carried forward to each ensuing tax year until used as
21 provided in subsection (c) of this section or until the expiration
22 of the third taxable year subsequent to the tax year. If any
23 unused credit remains after the third subsequent year, the amount
24 is forfeited.

1 (e) *Effective date.* - The credit allowed by this section
2 applies to tax liabilities for calendar years beginning after
3 December 31, 2013.

4 **§11-13DD-4. Certification by purchasers of qualified coal.**

5 (a) A person purchasing eligible coal for consumption at a
6 power plant or industrial facility located in this state during the
7 tax year shall, if timely requested by the eligible taxpayer
8 producing and selling the coal, certify the number of tons of
9 qualified coal that was purchased from the eligible taxpayer during
10 the tax year. The certification for the tax year shall be provided
11 to the eligible taxpayer no later than thirty days following the
12 end of the calendar year.

13 (b) All certifications shall be provided to the eligible
14 taxpayer in the form prescribed by the Tax Commissioner and provide
15 the information the commissioner considers necessary for
16 determining compliance with this article. An employee who signs
17 the certification on behalf of a proprietorship, corporation,
18 partnership or a group or combination acting as a unit is presumed
19 to have authority to make and sign the certification on behalf of
20 his or her employer.

21 **§11-13DD-5. Credit recapture; interest; penalties; additions to**
22 **tax; statute of limitations.**

23 If it appears upon audit or otherwise that an eligible

1 taxpayer has improperly claimed the credit allowed by this article,
2 the amount improperly claimed and which the eligible taxpayer was
3 not entitled to take shall be recaptured. Amended returns shall be
4 filed for any tax year for which the credit was improperly taken.
5 Any additional taxes due under this chapter shall be remitted with
6 the amended return or returns filed with the Tax Commissioner,
7 along with interest, as provided in section seventeen, article ten
8 of this chapter, and a ten percent penalty, which may be waived by
9 the Tax Commissioner if the taxpayer shows that the overclaimed
10 amount was due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect,
11 and other penalties and additions to tax that are applicable
12 pursuant to the provisions of article ten of this chapter.
13 Notwithstanding the provisions of article ten of this chapter, the
14 statute of limitations for the issuance of an assessment of tax by
15 the Tax Commissioner is five years from the date of the filing of
16 any tax return on which this credit was taken or five years from
17 the date of payment of any tax liability calculated pursuant to the
18 assertion of this credit, whichever is later.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide a tax credit to coal producers who sell coal to taxpayers who increase their consumption of West Virginia coal in this state for the purpose of increasing coal production and coal related employment in West Virginia.

This article is new; therefore, strike-throughs and underscoring have been omitted.