WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2018 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4503

By Delegates Moore, Maynard, Ward, Martin,
Paynter, Hanshaw, Hollen, Storch and Upson
[Introduced February 12, 2018; Referred
to the Committee on Small Business,
Entrepreneurship and Economic Development then
Finance.]

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article,
designated §31-15D-1, §31-15D-2, §31-15D-3, §31-15D-4, §31-15D-5 and §31-15D-6;
and to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §33-3-14e, all
relating to establishing a West Virginia business growth in low-income communities tax
credit; providing title; defining terms; establishing amount of credit allowed; transferability;
certification of qualified equity investment; recapture of tax credits; notice of
noncompliance; letter rulings; new capital requirement; and reporting.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia.

CHAPTER 31. CORPORATIONS.

ARTICLE 15D. WEST VIRGINIA BUSINESS GROWTH IN LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES TAX CREDIT.

§31-15D-1. Title.

- 1 The provisions of this article shall be known as, and may be cited as, the West Virginia
- 2 New Markets Jobs Act.

§31-15D-2. Definitions.

- 1 (a) Any term used in this article has the meaning ascribed by this section unless a different
- 2 meaning is clearly required by the context of its use or by definition in this article.
- 3 (b) For purposes of this article, the term:
- 4 (1) "Affiliate" means an entity that directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries
- 5 controls, or is controlled by, or is under common control with the entity specified;
- 6 (2) "Applicable percentage" means zero percent for the first three credit allowance dates
- 7 and 15 percent of the qualified equity investment for the next four credit allowance dates;
- 8 (3) "Authority" means the West Virginia Economic Development Authority as provided in
- 9 §31-15-4 of this code;
- 10 (4) "Compliance period" means the period beginning on the date the qualified equity

11 investment is initially made and ending on the sixth anniversary of the date of the qualified equity 12 investment; 13 (5) "Credit allowance date" means with respect to any qualified equity investment: 14 (A) The date on which the investment is initially made; and 15 (B) Each of the six anniversary dates of such date thereafter. 16 (6) "Insurance Commissioner" means the Insurance Commissioner of West Virginia or his or her designee as provided in §15-1-4 of this code; 17 18 (7) "Purchase price" means the amount paid to the qualified community development 19 entity for a qualified equity investment, which may not exceed the amount of qualified equity 20 investment authority certified pursuant to §31-15D-4 of this code; 21 (8) "Qualified active low-income community business" has the meaning given the term in 22 26 U. S. C. § 45D, as amended, and 26 C. F. R. § 1.45D-1. Any business that is nonprofit or 23 derives, or projects to derive, 15 percent or more of its annual revenue from the rental or sale of 24 real estate is not considered to be a qualified active low-income community business. The real 25 estate exception does not apply to a business that is controlled by or under common control with 26 another business if the second business: (i) Does not derive or project to derive 15 percent or 27 more of its annual revenue from the rental or sale of real estate; and (ii) is the primary tenant of 28 the real estate leased from the initial business. A business shall be considered a qualified active 29 low-income community business for the duration of the qualified community development entity's 30 investment in, or loan to, the business if the entity reasonably expects, at the time it makes the 31 investment or loan, that the business will continue to satisfy the requirements of being a qualified 32 active low-income community business, other than the size and net income standards, throughout 33 the entire period of the investment or loan; 34 (9) "Qualified community development entity" has the meaning given the term in Section 35 45D of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended: Provided, That the entity has entered

into an allocation agreement with the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund of the

U. S. Treasury Department with respect to credits authorized by Section 45D of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, which includes the State of West Virginia within the service area set forth in the allocation agreement. An entity may not be deemed to be controlled by another entity solely as a result of the entity having made a direct or indirect equity investment in the other entity that earns tax credits under Section 45D of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or similar state program. The term shall include subsidiary community development entities of any qualified community development entity and transferees of qualified equity investment authority pursuant to §31-15D-4 of this code;

- (10) "Qualified equity investment" means any equity investment in, or long-term debt security issued by, a qualified community development entity that:
- (A) Is acquired after the effective date of this act at its original issuance solely in exchange for cash;
- (B) Has 100 percent of its cash purchase price used by the qualified community development entity to make qualified low-income community investments in qualified active low-income community businesses located in this state by the first anniversary of the initial credit allowance date; and
- (C) Is designated by the qualified community development entity as a qualified equity investment hereunder and is certified by the authority pursuant to §31-15D-4 of this code.

This term shall include any qualified equity investment that does not meet the provisions of paragraph (A) of this subdivision if the investment was a qualified equity investment in the hands of a prior holder;

(11) "Qualified low-income community investment" means any capital or equity investment in, or loan to, any qualified active low-income community business: *Provided*, That with respect to any one qualified active low-income community business, the maximum amount of qualified low-income community investments made in the business, on a collective basis with all of the businesses' affiliates, with the proceeds of qualified equity investments certified under §31-15D-

4 of this code, shall be \$5 million, exclusive of qualified low-income community investments made with repaid or redeemed qualified low-income community investments or interest or profits realized thereon;

(12) "State premium tax liability" means any liability incurred by any entity under §33-3-14, §33-3-15, §33-3-16 or §33-3-17 of this code: *Provided*, That if the tax liability imposed under these sections is eliminated or reduced, the term "state premium tax liability" shall also include any tax liability imposed by this state on an insurance company or other person that had premium tax liability under the laws of this state for the purpose of making up tax revenue lost by the state as a result of the elimination or reduction of the taxes imposed under these sections.

§31-15D-3. Transferability.

No tax credit earned under this article is transferrable to another entity other than an affiliate subject to state premium tax liability or saleable on the open market: *Provided*, That tax credits earned by or allocated to a partnership, limited liability company or S-corporation may be further allocated to the partners, members or shareholders of the entity in accordance with the provisions of any agreement among the partners, members or shareholders. The allocation shall be not considered a sale for purposes of this article.

§31-15D-4. Certification of qualified equity investments.

- (a) A qualified community development entity that seeks to have an equity investment or long-term debt security designated as a qualified equity investment and eligible for tax credits under this article shall first file a credit application with the authority. The authority shall begin accepting applications on July 1, 2018. The application filed by the qualified community development entity shall include the following:
- 6 (1) The amount of qualified equity investment authority requested;
- 7 (2) The amount of qualified equity investment authority requested that the applicant agrees

8 to designate as a federal qualified equity investment with the Community Development Financial
 9 Institutions Fund;

- (3) Evidence of the applicant's certification as a qualified community development entity,
 including evidence of the service area of the entity that includes this state;
- (4) A copy of an allocation agreement executed by the applicant, or its controlling entity.
 and the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund;

- (5) A certificate executed by an executive officer of the applicant attesting that the allocation agreement remains in effect and has not been revoked or cancelled by the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund;
- (6) A business plan that includes a revenue impact assessment projecting state and local tax revenue to be generated by the applicant's proposed qualified low-income community investments prepared by a nationally recognized third-party independent economic forecasting firm using a dynamic economic forecasting model that analyzes the applicant's business plan over the 10 years following the date the application is submitted to the authority; and
- (7) A nonrefundable application fee of \$10,000. This fee shall be paid to the authority and shall be required of each application submitted.
- (b) Within 30 days of receipt of a completed application containing the information set forth in subsection (a) of this section, the authority shall grant or deny the application in full or in part. The authority shall deny an application if the business plan submitted with the application does not project revenue neutrality against the proposed tax credit utilization. If the authority denies any part of the application, the authority shall inform the qualified community development entity of the grounds for the denial. If the qualified community development entity provides any additional information required by the authority or otherwise completes its application within 15 days of the notice of denial, the application shall be considered complete as of the original date of submission. If the qualified community development entity fails to provide the information or complete its application within the 15-day period, the application remains denied and must be

resubmitted in full with a new submission date.

(c) If the application is complete, the authority shall certify the proposed equity investment or long-term debt security as a qualified equity investment that is eligible for tax credits under this article, subject to the limitations contained in subsection (f) of this section. The Tax Commissioner shall provide written notice of the certification to the qualified community development entity.

- (d) The authority shall certify qualified equity investments in the order applications are received by the authority. Applications received on the same day shall be deemed to have been received simultaneously.
- (e) For applications that are complete and received on the same day, the authority shall first certify applications by applicants that agree to designate qualified equity investments as federal qualified equity investments in proportionate percentages based on the ratio of the amount of qualified equity investments requested in an application to be designated as a federal qualified equity investment to the total amount of qualified equity investments to be designated as federal qualified equity investments in all applications in which applicants agree to designate qualified equity investments. Thereafter, the authority shall certify the qualified equity investments of all other applicants, including the remaining qualified equity investment authority requested by applicants not designated as federal qualified equity investments, in proportionate percentages based on the ratio of the amount of qualified equity investments not requested in an application to be designated as a federal qualified equity investment to the total amount of qualified equity investments not requested in applications to be designated as federal qualified equity investments.
- (f) The authority shall certify no more than \$60 million in qualified equity investments pursuant to this article.
- (g) An approved applicant may transfer all or a portion of its certified qualified equity investment authority to its controlling entity or any subsidiary qualified community development

entity of the controlling entity: *Provided*, That the applicant and the transferee notify the authority of the transfer with the notice set forth in subsection (h) of this section and include the information required in the application with respect to such transferee with such notice.

(h) Within one calendar year of the applicant receiving notice of certification, the qualified community development entity shall issue the qualified equity investment and receive cash in the amount of the certified amount and, if applicable, designate the required amount of qualified equity investment authority as a federal qualified equity investment. The qualified community development entity must provide the authority with evidence of the receipt of the cash investment and designation as a federal qualified equity investment, if applicable, within one calendar year and five days of the applicant receiving notice of certification. If the qualified equity investment and, if applicable, designate the qualified equity investment as a federal qualified equity investment within such time period following receipt of the certification notice, the certification shall lapse and the entity may not issue the qualified equity investment without reapplying to the authority for certification.

- (i) Lapsed certifications revert to the authority and shall be reissued:
- (1) First, pro rata to applicants whose qualified equity investment allocations were reduced pursuant to subsection (e) of this section with a preference to applicants who have agreed to designate qualified equity investments as federal qualified equity investments; and
 - (2) Thereafter, in accordance with the provisions of this article.
- (j) Recaptured tax credits and the related qualified equity investment authority are eligible for reissuance to qualified community development entities under the provisions of this article and recaptured tax credits shall be reissued:
- (1) First, pro rata to applicants whose qualified equity investment allocations were reduced pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, with a preference to applicants who agreed to designate qualified equity investments as federal qualified equity investments; and

(2) Thereafter, in accordance with the provisions of this article.

(k) The authority must notify the Insurance Commissioner of the names of the entities that are eligible to use tax credits provided under §31-15D-3 of this code, pursuant to an allocation of tax credits or change in allocation of tax credits or due to a transfer of a qualified equity investment upon the allocation, change or transfer.

§31-15D-5. New capital requirement.

No qualified active low-income community business that receives a qualified low-income community investment from a qualified community development entity that issues qualified equity investments under this article, or any affiliates of such a qualified active low-income community business, may directly or indirectly: (1) Own or have the right to acquire an ownership interest in a qualified community development entity or member or affiliate of a qualified community development entity, including, but not limited to, a holder of a qualified equity investment issued by the qualified community development entity: or (2) loan to or invest in a qualified community development entity or member or affiliate of a qualified community development entity, including, but not limited to, a holder of a qualified equity investment issued by a qualified community development entity, where the proceeds of such loan or investment are directly or indirectly used to fund or refinance the purchase of a qualified equity investment hereunder. For purposes of this section, a qualified community development entity shall not be considered an affiliate of a qualified active low-income community business solely as a result of its qualified low-income community investment in such business.

§31-15D-6. Reporting.

(a) Qualified community development entities shall submit a report to the authority within the first five business days after the second anniversary of the initial credit allowance date that provides documentation as to the investment of 100 percent of the purchase price of the qualified equity investment in qualified low-income community investments in qualified active low-income community businesses located in West Virginia. The report shall include:

(1) The location of the qualified active low-income community business;

(2) A bank statement of the qualified community development entity evidencing each qualified low-income community investment;

- (3) Evidence that the business was a qualified active low-income community business at the time of the qualified low-income community investment; and
- (4) Any information regarding the recapture under Section 45D of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, of a federal tax credit available with respect to a qualified equity investment that is eligible for a credit under this article.
- (5) Any information regarding the qualified community development entity redeeming or making principal repayment with respect to a qualified equity investment prior to the seventh anniversary of the issuance of such qualified equity investment.
- (6) Any information that the qualified community development entity failed to invest an amount equal to 100 percent of the purchase price of the qualified equity investment in qualified low-income community investments in West Virginia within 24 months of the issuance of the qualified equity investment and maintain the level of investment in qualified low-income community investments in West Virginia until the last credit allowance date for the qualified equity investment. For purposes of this article, an investment shall be considered held by a qualified community development entity even if the investment has been sold or repaid, if the qualified community development entity reinvests an amount equal to the capital returned to or recovered by the qualified community development entity from the original investment, exclusive of any profits realized, in another qualified low-income community investment within 12 months of the receipt of such capital. Periodic amounts received as repayment of principal pursuant to regularly scheduled amortization payments on a loan that is a qualified low-income community investment if the amounts are reinvested in one or more qualified low-income community investments by the end of the following calendar year. A qualified community development entity shall not be required to

reinvest capital returned from qualified low-income community investments after the sixth anniversary of the issuance of the qualified equity investment, and the qualified low-income community investment shall be considered held by the qualified community development entity through the seventh anniversary of the qualified equity investment's issuance.

(7) Such other information required by the authority.

- (b) Thereafter, the qualified community development entity shall submit an annual report to the authority within 45 days of the beginning of each calendar year during the compliance period. No annual report shall be due prior to the first anniversary of the initial credit allowance date. The report shall include, but is not limited to, the following:
- (1) Number of employment positions created and retained as a result of qualified low-income community investments.
 - (2) Average annual salary of employment positions described in this subsection.
- (3) Any information regarding the recapture under Section 45D of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, of a federal tax credit available with respect to a qualified equity investment that is eligible for a credit under this article.
- (4) Any information regarding the qualified community development entity redeeming or making principal repayment with respect to a qualified equity investment prior to the seventh anniversary of the issuance of such qualified equity investment.
- (5) Any information that the qualified community development entity failed to invest an amount equal to 100 percent of the purchase price of the qualified equity investment in qualified low-income community investments in West Virginia within 24 months of the issuance of the qualified equity investment and maintain that level of investment in qualified low-income community investments in West Virginia until the last credit allowance date for the qualified equity investment. For purposes of this article, an investment shall be considered held by a qualified community development entity even if the investment has been sold or repaid, if the qualified community development entity reinvests an amount equal to the capital returned to or recovered

by the qualified community development entity from the original investment, exclusive of any profits realized, in another qualified low-income community investment within 12 months of the receipt of such capital. Periodic amounts received as repayment of principal pursuant to regularly scheduled amortization payments on a loan that is a qualified low-income community investment shall be treated as continuously invested in a qualified low-income community investment if the amounts are reinvested in one or more qualified low-income community investments by the end of the following calendar year. A qualified community development entity shall not be required to reinvest capital returned from qualified low-income community investments after the sixth anniversary of the issuance of the qualified equity investment, and the qualified low-income community investment shall be considered held by the qualified community development entity through the seventh anniversary of the qualified equity investment's issuance.

(6) In the event the authority is provided any information required by subdivisions (3), (4) and (5) of this subsection, the authority shall provide that information to the Insurance Commissioner.

CHAPTER 33. INSURANCE.

ARTICLE 3. LICENSING, FEES AND TAXATION OF INSURERS.

§33-3-14e. Credits against premium tax for investment pursuant to the West Virginia New Market Jobs Acts.

- 1 (a) For the purpose of this section, the term:
 - (1) "Applicable percentage" means zero percent for the first three credit allowance dates
- 3 and 15 percent of the qualified equity investment for the next four credit allowance dates;
- 4 (2) "Compliance period" means the period beginning on the date the qualified equity
- 5 investment is initially made and ending on the sixth anniversary of the date of the qualified equity
- 6 <u>investment;</u>

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(3) "Credit allowance date" means with respect to any qualified equity investment:

8 (A) The date on which the investment is initially made; and 9 (B) Each of the six anniversary dates of the date thereafter. 10 (4) "Insurance Commissioner" means the Insurance Commissioner of West Virginia or his 11 or her designee as provided in §15-1-4 of this code. 12 (5) "Purchase price" means the amount paid to the qualified community development 13 entity for a qualified equity investment, which may not exceed the amount of qualified equity 14 investment authority certified pursuant to §31-15D-4 of this code; 15 (6) "Qualified active low-income community business" has the meaning given such term 16 in 26 U. S. C. § 45D, as amended, and 26 C. F. R. Sec. 1.45D-1. Any business that is a nonprofit 17 or derives or projects to derive 15 percent or more of its annual revenue from the rental or sale of 18 real estate is not considered to be a qualified active low-income community business. The real 19 estate exception does not apply to a business that is controlled by or under common control with 20 another business if the second business: (i) Does not derive or project to derive 15 percent or 21 more of its annual revenue from the rental or sale of real estate; and (ii) is the primary tenant of 22 the real estate leased from the initial business. A business shall be considered a qualified active 23 low-income community business for the duration of the qualified community development entity's 24 investment in, or loan to, the business if the entity reasonably expects, at the time it makes the 25 investment or loan, that the business will continue to satisfy the requirements for being a qualified 26 active low-income community business, other than the size and net income standards, throughout 27 the entire period of the investment or loan; 28 (7) "Qualified community development entity" has the meaning given such term in 29 Section 45D of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended: Provided, That such entity has 30 entered into an allocation agreement with the Community Development Financial Institutions 31 Fund of the U. S. Treasury Department with respect to credits authorized by Section 45D of the 32 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, which includes the State of West Virginia within

the service area set forth in such allocation agreement. An entity shall not be deemed to be

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controlled by another entity solely as a result of such entity having made a direct or indirect equity investment in the other entity that earns tax credits under Section 45D of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or similar state program. The term shall include subsidiary community development entities of any such qualified community development entity and transferees of qualified equity investment authority pursuant to §31-15D-4 of this code; (8) "Qualified Equity Investment" means any equity investment in a qualified community development entity that: (A) Is acquired after the effective date of this act at its original issuance solely in exchange for cash; (B) Has 100 percent of its cash purchase price used by the qualified community development entity to make qualified low-income community investments in qualified active lowincome community businesses located in this state by the second anniversary of the initial credit allowance date; and (C) Is designated by the qualified community development entity as a qualified equity investment hereunder and is certified by the Economic Development Authority pursuant to section §31-15D-4 of this code. This term shall include any qualified equity investment that does not meet the provisions of paragraph (A) of this subdivision if such investment was a qualified equity investment in the hands of a prior holder; (9) "Qualified low-income community investment" means any capital or equity investment in, or loan to, any qualified active low-income community business: Provided, That with respect to any one qualified active low-income community business, the maximum amount of qualified low-income community investments made in such business, on a collective basis with all of the businesses' affiliates, with the proceeds of qualified equity investments certified under §31-15D-4 of this code, shall be \$5 million, exclusive of qualified low-income community investments made with repaid or redeemed qualified low-income community investments or interest or profits

realized thereon;

(10) "State premium tax liability" means any liability incurred by any entity under §33-3-14, §33-3-15, §33-3-16 or §33-3-17 of this code: *Provided*, That if the tax liability imposed under said sections is eliminated or reduced, the term "state premium tax liability" shall also include any tax liability imposed by this state on an insurance company or other person that had premium tax liability under the laws of this state for the purpose of making up tax revenue lost by the state as a result of the elimination or reduction of the taxes imposed under said sections.

- (b) Any entity that makes a qualified equity investment pursuant to §31-15D-2 of this code shall be allowed an earned and vested tax credit against the entity's state premium tax liability that may be used as follows:
- (1) The amount of tax credit allowable on each credit allowance date to an entity that makes a qualified equity investment, or to a subsequent holder of the qualified equity investment, shall be annually computed by multiplying the purchase price paid to the qualified community development entity for the qualified equity investment by the applicable percentage for the credit allowance date;
- (2) The annual credit allowance, computed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, may be used to offset the entity's state premium tax liability or tax recognized pursuant to provisions of §33-3-16 of this code for tax periods ending on or after the credit allowance date; and
- (3) The amount of the credit claimed by an entity shall not exceed the amount of such entity's state premium tax liability for the tax year for which the credit is claimed. Any amount of tax credit remaining, after the credit is used as provided in this section, may be carried forward for use in any subsequent taxable year.
- (c) The Insurance Commissioner may recapture, from the entity that claimed the credit on a return, the tax credit allowed under this article if:

(1) Any amount of a federal tax credit available with respect to a qualified equity investment that is eligible for a credit under this article is recaptured under Section 45D of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. In such case the Insurance Commissioner's recapture shall be proportionate to the federal recapture with respect to such qualified equity investment;

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(2) The qualified community development entity redeems or makes principal repayment with respect to a qualified equity investment prior to the seventh anniversary of the issuance of such qualified equity investment. In such case the Insurance Commissioner's recapture shall be proportionate to the amount of the redemption or repayment with respect to such qualified equity investment;

(3) The qualified community development entity fails to invest an amount equal to 100 percent of the purchase price of the qualified equity investment in qualified low-income community investments in West Virginia within 24 months of the issuance of the qualified equity investment and maintain such level of investment in qualified low-income community investments in West Virginia until the last credit allowance date for the qualified equity investment. For purposes of this article, an investment shall be considered held by a qualified community development entity even if the investment has been sold or repaid, if the qualified community development entity reinvests an amount equal to the capital returned to or recovered by the qualified community development entity from the original investment, exclusive of any profits realized, in another qualified low-income community investment within 12 months of the receipt of such capital. Periodic amounts received as repayment of principal pursuant to regularly scheduled amortization payments on a loan that is a qualified low-income community investment shall be treated as continuously invested in a qualified low-income community investment if the amounts are reinvested in one or more qualified low-income community investments by the end of the following calendar year. A qualified community development entity shall not be required to reinvest capital returned from qualified low-income community investments after the sixth anniversary of the issuance of the qualified equity investment, and the qualified low-income community investment

112 shall be considered held by the qualified community development entity through the seventh 113 anniversary of the qualified equity investment's issuance; or 114 (4) As a result of any violation of §33-3-9 of this code. 115 (d) Recaptured tax credits and the related qualified equity investment authority are eligible 116 for reissuance to qualified community development entities under the provisions of this article and 117 recaptured tax credits shall be reissued: 118 (1) First, pro rata to applicants whose qualified equity investment allocations were reduced 119 pursuant to §31-15D-4(e) of this code, with a preference to applicants who agreed to designate 120 qualified equity investments as federal qualified equity investments; and 121 (2) Thereafter, in accordance with the provisions of this article. 122 (e) Enforcement of the recapture provisions set forth in this section shall be subject to a 123 six-month cure period. No recapture shall occur until the qualified community development entity 124 shall have been given notice of noncompliance and afforded six months from the date of such 125 notice to cure the noncompliance. 126 (f) In rendering letter rulings and making other determinations under this section, to the 127 extent applicable, the Insurance Commissioner shall look for guidance in Section 45D of the 128 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and the rules and regulations issued thereunder.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to establish a West Virginia business growth in low-income communities tax credit.

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