

## VIRGINIA ENTERPRISE ZONE PROGRAM REGULATION

PART I.DEFINITIONS AND PURPOSE13 VAC 5-112-10 Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“Agreed-upon procedures engagement” means an engagement between an independent certified public accountant licensed by the Commonwealth and the business or zone investor seeking to qualify for Enterprise Zone incentive grants whereby the independent certified public accountant, using procedures specified by the Department, will test and report on the assertion of the business or zone investor as to their qualification to receive the Enterprise Zone incentive.

“Assumption or acquisition” means, in connection with a trade or business, that the inventory; accounts receivable; liabilities; customer list and good will of an existing Virginia company has been assumed or acquired by another taxpayer, regardless of a change in federal identification number or employees.

"Average number of permanent full-time employees" means the number of permanent full-time employees during each payroll period of a business firm's taxable year divided by the number of payroll periods. This definition applies only for the purpose of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-20:

1. In calculating the average number of permanent full-time employees, a business firm may count only those permanent full-time employees who worked at least half of their normal workdays during the payroll period. Paid leave time may be counted as work time.

2. For a business firm that uses different payroll periods for different classes of employees, the

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average number of permanent full-time employees of the firm shall be defined as the sum of the average number of permanent full-time employees for each class of employee.

"Base taxable year" means either of two taxable years immediately preceding the first year of qualification, at the choice of the business firm. This definition applies only for the purpose of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-20.

"Base year" means either of the two calendar years immediately preceding a qualified business firm's first year of grant eligibility, at the choice of the business firm.

"Business firm" means any corporation, partnership, electing small business (subchapter S) corporation, limited liability company, or sole proprietorship authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of Virginia as well as business and professional organizations and associations whose classification falls under sectors 813910 and 813920 of the North American Industry Classification Systems (NAICS).

"Building" means a structure built on a single foundation and under one roof regardless of address, ownership or tax assessment configurations or separation of sections by fire walls.

"Capital lease" means a lease that meets one or more of the following criteria and as such is classified as a purchase by the lessee: the lease term is greater than 75 percent of the property's estimated economic life; the lease contains an option to purchase the property for less than fair market value; ownership of the property is transferred to the lessee at the end of the lease term; or the present value of the lease payments exceed 90 percent of the fair market value of the property.

"Common control" means those firms as defined by Internal Revenue Code § 52(b).

"Department" means the Department of Housing and Community Development.

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"Employee of a zone establishment" means a person employed by a business firm who is on the payroll of the firm's establishment or establishments within the zone. In the case of an employee who is on the payroll of two or more establishments of the firm, both inside and outside the zone, the term "employee of a zone establishment" refers only to such an employee assigned to the firm's zone establishment or establishments for at least one-half of his normally scheduled work days. This definition applies only for the purpose of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-20.

"Enterprise zone incentive grant" or "grant" means a grant provided for creating permanent full-time positions pursuant to § 59.1-282.1 of the Code of Virginia. This definition applies only for the purpose of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-200.

"Establishment" means a single physical location where business is conducted or where services or industrial operations are performed.

1. A central administrative office is an establishment primarily engaged in management and general administrative functions performed centrally for other establishments of the same firm.
2. An auxiliary unit is an establishment primarily engaged in performing supporting services to other establishments of the same firm. This definition applies only for the purpose of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-110.

"Existing business firm" means one that was actively engaged in the conduct of trade or business in an area prior to such an area being designated as an enterprise zone or that was engaged in the conduct of trade or business in the Commonwealth and relocates to begin operation of a trade or business within an enterprise zone. An existing business firm is also one that was not previously conducted in the Commonwealth by such taxpayer who acquires or assumes a trade or business

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and continues its operations. This definition applies only for the purpose of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-20.

“Expansion” means an increase in square footage or the footprint of an existing nonresidential building via a shared wall, or enlargement of an existing room or floor plan. Pursuant to real property investment grants this shall include mixed use buildings.

“Facility” means a complex of buildings, co-located at a single physical location within an enterprise zone, all of which are necessary to facilitate the conduct of the same trade or business. This definition applies to new construction, as well as to the rehabilitation and expansion of existing structures.

“Federal minimum wage” means the minimum wage standard as currently defined by the United States Department of Labor in the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. 201 et seq. Such definition applies to permanent full-time employees paid on an hourly or wage basis.

“Food and beverage service” means a business whose classification falls under subsector 722 Food Services and Drinking Places of North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

“Full month” means the number of days that a permanent full-time position must be filled in order to count in the calculation of the grant amount under 13 VAC 5-112-200 and 13 VAC 5-112-260. A full month is calculated by dividing the total number of days in calendar year by 12. A full month for the purpose of calculating job creation grants is equivalent to 30.416666 days.

“Grant eligible position” means a new permanent full-time position created above the threshold number at an eligible business firm. Positions in retail, local service or food and beverage service shall not be considered grant eligible positions.

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"Grant year" means the calendar year for which a business firm applies for an enterprise zone incentive grant pursuant to § 59.1-282.1 of the Code of Virginia. This definition applies only for the purpose of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-200.

"Health benefits" means that at a minimum medical insurance is offered to employees by and partially paid for by the employer.

"Household" means all the persons who occupy a single housing unit. Occupants may be a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any group of related or unrelated persons who share living arrangements. This definition applies only for the purpose of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-20.

"Housing unit" means a house, apartment, group of rooms, or single room that is occupied or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters. This definition applies only for the purpose of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-20.

"Household income" means all income actually received by all household members over the age of 16 from the following sources. This definition applies only for the purpose of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-20:

1. Gross wages, salaries, tips, commissions, etc. (before deductions);
2. Net self-employment income (gross receipts minus operating expenses);
3. Interest and dividend earnings; and
4. Other money income received from net rents, Old Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI), social security benefits, pensions, alimony, child support, and periodic income from insurance policy annuities and other sources.

The following types of income are excluded from household income:

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1. Non-cash benefits such as food stamps and housing assistance;
2. Public assistance payments;
3. Disability payments;
4. Unemployment and employment training benefits;
5. Capital gains and losses; and
6. One-time unearned income.

When computing household income, income of a household member shall be counted for the portion of the income determination period that the person was actually a part of the household.

"Household size" means the largest number of household members during the income determination period. This definition applies only for the purpose of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-20.

"Income determination period" means the 12 months immediately preceding the month in which the person was hired. This definition applies only for the purpose of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-20.

"Independent certified public accountant" means a public accountant certified and licensed by the Commonwealth of Virginia who is not an employee of the business firm seeking to qualify for state tax incentives and grants under this program.

"Job creation grant" means a grant provided under § 59.1-547 of the Code of Virginia.

"Jurisdiction" means the city or county which made the application to have an enterprise zone. In the case of a joint application, it means all parties making the application. Pursuant to enterprise zone designations made prior to July 1, 2005 this shall include towns.

"Large qualified business firm" means a qualified business firm making qualified zone

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investments in excess of \$15 million when such zone investments result in the creation of at least fifty permanent full-time positions. This definition applies only for the purpose of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-20.

“Large qualified zone resident” means a qualified zone resident making qualified zone investments in excess of \$100 million when such qualified zone investments result in the creation of at least 200 permanent full-time positions. This definition applies only for the purpose of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-110.

“Local service” means a business which provides services primarily within the Commonwealth of Virginia. A service business where the majority of sales come from outside the Commonwealth would not be considered a local service business.

"Local zone administrator" means the chief executive of the city or county, in which an enterprise zone is located, or his or her designee. Pursuant to enterprise zone designations made prior to July 1, 2005, this shall include towns.

"Low-income " means household income was less than or equal to 80 percent of area median household income during the income determination period. Persons who meet the definition of both low-income and zone resident may not be counted as both for purposes of meeting employment requirements for the general tax credit. Instead, qualifying business firms must claim these persons as either low-income or zone resident. This definition applies only for the purpose of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-20.

"Median household income" means the dollar amount, adjusted for household size, as determined annually by the Department for the city or county in which the zone is located. This definition applies only for the purpose of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to

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13 VAC 5-112-20.

“Mixed use” means a building incorporating residential uses in which a minimum of 30 percent of the useable floor space will be devoted to commercial, office or industrial use. Buildings where less than 30 percent of the useable floor space is devoted to commercial, office or industrial use shall be considered primarily residential in nature and shall not be eligible for a grant under 13 VAC 5-112-110. This definition applies only for the purpose of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-330.

"Net loss" applies to firms that relocate or expand operations and means (i) after relocating into a zone, a business firm's gross permanent employment is less than it was before locating into the zone, or (ii) after a business firm locates or expands within a zone, its gross employment at its non-zone location or locations is less than it was before the zone location occurred.

“New construction” means a single, nonresidential facility built on previously undeveloped land of a nonresidential structure built on the site/parcel of a previously razed structure with no remnants of the prior structure or physical connection to existing structures or outbuildings on the property. Pursuant to real property investment grants this shall include mixed use buildings.

"New business" means a business not previously conducted in the Commonwealth by such taxpayer and that begins operation in an enterprise zone after the zone was designated. A new business is also one created by the establishment of a new facility and new permanent full-time employment by an existing business firm in an enterprise zone and does not result in a net loss of permanent full-time employment outside the zone. This definition applies only for the purpose of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-20.

"Number of eligible permanent full-time positions" means the amount by which the number of



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permanent full-time positions at a business firm in a grant year exceeds the threshold number.

This definition applies only for the purpose of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-200 and 13 VAC 5-112-260.

"Payroll period" means the period of time for which a business firm normally pays its employees.

"Permanent full-time employee" means a person employed by a business firm who is normally scheduled to work either (i) a minimum of 35 hours per week for the entire normal year of the business firm's operations, which normal year must consist of at least 48 weeks, (ii) a minimum of 35 hours per week for a portion of the taxable year in which the employee was initially hired for, or transferred to the business firm or, (iii) a minimum of 1,680 hours per year if the standard fringe benefits are paid by the business firm for the employee. Permanent full-time employee also means two or more individuals who together share the same job position and together work the normal number of hours a week as required by the business firm for that one position.

Seasonal, temporary, leased or contract labor employees or employees shifted from an existing location in the Commonwealth to a business firm location within an enterprise zone shall not qualify as permanent full-time employees. This definition only applies to business firms for the purpose of qualifying for enterprise zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-20.

"Permanent full-time position" (for purposes of qualifying for grants pursuant to section § 59.1-282.1 of the Code of Virginia) means a job of indefinite duration at a business firm located in an enterprise zone, requiring the employee to report to work within the enterprise zone, and requiring either (i) a minimum of 35 hours of an employee's time a week for the entire normal year of the business firm's operations, which normal year must consist of at least 48 weeks, (ii) a

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minimum of 35 hours of an employee's time a week for a portion of the taxable year in which the employee was initially hired for, or transferred to the business firm or (iii) a minimum of 1,680 hours per year if the standard fringe benefits are paid by the business firm for the employee. Seasonal, temporary, leased or contract labor positions, or a position created when a job function is shifted from an existing location in this Commonwealth to a business firm located within an enterprise zone shall not qualify as permanent full-time positions. This definition only applies to for the purpose of qualifying for job grants pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-200.

“Permanent full-time position” (for the purpose of qualifying for grants pursuant section § 59.1-547 of the Code of Virginia) to means a job of indefinite duration at a business firm located within an enterprise zone requiring the employee to report to work within the enterprise zone; and requiring (i) a minimum of 35 hours of an employee’s time per week for the entire normal year of the business firm’s operation, which “normal year” must consist of at least 48 weeks, (ii) a minimum of 35 hours of an employee’s time per week for the portion of the calendar year in which the employee was initially hired for or transferred to the business firm, or (iii) a minimum of 1,680 hours per year. Such position shall not include (i) seasonal, temporary or contract positions, (ii) a position created when a job function is shifted from an existing location in the Commonwealth to a business firm located with an enterprise zone, (iii) any position that previously existed in the Commonwealth, or (iv) positions created by a business that is simultaneously closing facilities in other areas of the Commonwealth.

"Placed in service" means (i) the final certificate of occupancy has been issued by the local jurisdiction for real property improvements or real property investments; or (ii) the first moment that machinery becomes operational and is used in the manufacturing of a product for

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consumption; or (iii) in the case of tools and equipment it means the first moment they are used in the performance of duty or service.

“Qualification year” the calendar year for which a qualified business firm or qualified zone investor is applying for a grant pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-260.

"Qualified business firm" means a business firm meeting the business firm requirements in 13 VAC 5-112-20 or 13 VAC 5-112-260 and designated a qualified business firm by the Department.

“Qualified real property investment” (for purposes of qualifying for a real property investment grant) means the amount properly chargeable to a capital account for improvements to rehabilitate, expand or construct depreciable real property placed in service during the calendar year within an enterprise zone provided that the total amount of such improvements equals or exceeds (i) \$50,000 with respect to a single building or a facility in the case of rehabilitation or expansion or (ii) \$250,000 with respect to a single building or a facility in the case of new construction. Qualified real property investments include expenditures associated with (a) any exterior, interior, structural, mechanical or electrical improvements necessary to construct, expand or rehabilitate a building for commercial, industrial or mixed use; (b) excavations; (c) grading and paving; (d) installing driveways; and (e) landscaping or land improvements.

Qualified real property investments shall include, but not be limited to, costs associated with demolition, carpentry, sheetrock, plaster, painting, ceilings, fixtures, doors, windows, fire suppression systems, roofing, flashing, exterior repair, cleaning and cleanup.

Qualified real property investment shall not include:

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1. The cost of acquiring any real property or building.
  2. Other acquisition costs including: (i) the cost of furnishings; (ii) any expenditure associated with appraisal, architectural, engineering, surveying, and interior design fees; (iii) loan fees, points, or capitalized interest; (iv) legal, accounting, realtor, sales and marketing, or other professional fees; (v) closing costs, permits, user fees, zoning fees, impact fees, and inspection fees; (vi) bids, insurance, signage, utilities, bonding, copying, rent loss, or temporary facilities incurred during construction; (vii) utility connection or access fees; (viii) outbuildings; (ix) the cost of any well or septic or sewer system; and (x) roads.
  3. The basis of any property: (i) for which a grant under this section was previously provided; (ii) for which a tax credit under § 59.1-280.1 of the Code of Virginia was previously granted; (iii) which was previously placed in service in Virginia by the qualified zone investor, a related party as defined by Internal Revenue Code § 267 (b), or a trade or business under common control as defined by Internal Revenue Code § 52 (b); or (iv) which was previously in service in Virginia and has a basis in the hands of the person acquiring it, determined in whole or in part by reference to the basis of such property in the hands of the person from whom it was acquired or Internal Revenue Code § 1014 (a).
- "Qualified zone improvements"(for purposes of qualifying for an Investment Tax Credit) means the amount properly chargeable to a capital account for improvements to rehabilitate or expand depreciable nonresidential real property placed in service during the taxable year within an enterprise zone, provided that the total amount of such improvements equals or exceeds (i) \$50,000 and (ii) the assessed value of the original facility immediately prior to the rehabilitation

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or expansion. Qualified zone improvements include expenditures associated with any exterior, structural, mechanical, or electrical improvements necessary to construct, expand or rehabilitate a building for commercial or industrial use.

1. Qualified zone improvements include, but are not limited to, the costs associated with excavation, grading, paving, driveways, roads, sidewalks, landscaping or other land improvements, demolition, carpentry, sheetrock, plaster, painting, ceilings, fixtures, doors, windows, fire suppression systems, roofing and flashing, exterior repair, cleaning and clean-up.

2. Qualified zone improvements do not include (i) the cost of furnishings; (ii) any expenditure associated with appraisal, architectural, engineering and interior design fees, (iii) loan fees; points or capitalized interest; (iv) legal, accounting, realtor, sales and marketing or other professional fees; (v) closing costs, permits, user fees, zoning fees, impact fees, inspection fees; (vi) bids insurance, signage, utilities, bonding, copying, rent loss, or temporary facilities incurred during construction; (vii) utility hook-up or access fees; (viii) outbuildings; (ix) the cost of any well, septic, or sewer system; or (x) cost of acquiring land or an existing building.

3. In the case of new nonresidential construction, qualified zone improvements also do not include land, land improvements, paving, grading, driveway, and interest. This definition applies only for the purposes of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-110.

"Qualified zone investment" means the sum of qualified zone improvements and the cost of machinery, tools and equipment used in manufacturing tangible personal property and placed in service on or after July 1, 1995. Machinery, equipment, tools, and real property that are leased through a capital lease and that are being depreciated by the lessee or that are transferred from

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out-of-state to a zone location by a business firm may be included as qualified zone investment.

Such leased or transferred machinery, equipment, tools, and real property shall be valued using

the depreciable basis for federal income tax purposes. Machinery, tools and equipment shall not

include the basis of any property: (i) for which a credit was previously granted under § 59.1-

280.1, of the Code of Virginia; (ii) which was previously placed in service in Virginia by the

taxpayer, a related party, as defined by Internal Revenue Code §267 (b), or a trade or business

under common control, as defined by Internal Revenue Code §52 (b); or (iii) which was

previously in service in Virginia and has a basis in the hands of the person acquiring it,

determined in whole or in part by reference to the basis of such property in the hands of the

person whom acquired it, or Internal Revenue Code § 1014 (a). This definition applies only for

the purposes of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-110.

"Qualified zone resident" means an owner or tenant of nonresidential real property located in an

enterprise zone who expands or rehabilitates such real property to facilitate the conduct of a

trade or business by such owner or tenant within the enterprise zone. In the case of a

partnership, limited liability company or S corporation, the term "qualified zone resident" means

the partnership, limited liability company or S corporation. This definition applies only for the

purposes of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-110.

“Qualified zone investor” means an owner or tenant of real property located within an enterprise

zone who expands, rehabilitates or constructs such real property for commercial, industrial or

mixed use. In the case of a tenant, the amounts of qualified zone investment specified in this

section shall relate to the proportion of the property for which the tenant holds a valid lease.

Units of local, state and federal government or political subdivisions shall not be considered

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qualified zone investors.

“Real property investment grant” means a grant made under § 59.1-548 of the Code of Virginia.

This definition applies only for the purposes of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-330.

“Rehabilitation” means the alteration or renovation of all or part of an existing nonresidential building without an increase in square footage. Pursuant to real property investment grants this shall include mixed use buildings

“Redetermined base year” means the base year for calculation of the number of eligible permanent full-time positions in a second or subsequent three-year grant period. If a second or subsequent three-year grant period is requested within two years after the previous three-year period, the redetermined base year will be the last grant year. The calculation of the redetermined base year employment will be determined by the number of positions in the preceding base year, plus the number of threshold positions, plus the number of permanent full-time positions receiving grants in the final year of the previous grant period. If a business firm applies for subsequent three-year periods beyond the two years immediately following the completion of a three-year grant period, the firm shall use one of the two preceding calendar years as the base year, at the choice of the business firm. This definition applies only for the purposes of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-200.

“Regular basis” means at least once a month. This definition applies only for the purposes of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-260.

“Related party” means those as defined by Internal Revenue Code § 267(b).

“Report to work” means that the employee filling a permanent full-time position reports to the

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business' zone establishment on a regular basis.

"Retail" means a business whose classification falls under sectors 44-45 Retail Trade of North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

"Seasonal employee" means any employee who normally works on a full-time basis and whose customary annual employment is less than nine months. For example, individuals hired by a CPA firm during the tax return season in order to process returns and who work full-time over a three month period are seasonal employees.

"Small qualified business firm" means any qualified business firm other than a large qualified business firm. This definition applies only for the purpose of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-20.

"Small qualified zone resident" means any qualified zone resident other than a large qualified zone resident. This definition applies only for the purpose of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-350, C.

"Subsequent base year" means the base year for calculating the number of grant eligible positions in a second or subsequent five consecutive calendar year grant period. If a second or subsequent five-year grant period is requested within two years after the previous five-year grant period, the subsequent base year will be the last grant year. The calculation of this subsequent base year employment will be determined by the number of permanent full-time positions in the preceding base year, plus the number of threshold positions, plus the number of grant eligible positions in the final year of the previous grant period. If a business firm applies for subsequent five consecutive calendar year grant periods beyond the two years immediately following the completion of the previous five-year grant period, the business firm shall use one of the two



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preceding calendar years as subsequent base year, at the choice of the business firm.

"Tax due" means the amount of tax liability as determined by the Department of Taxation or the State Corporation Commission. This definition applies only for the purpose of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-20 and 13 VAC 5-112-110.

"Tax year" means the year in which the assessment is made. This definition applies only for the purpose of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-110.

"Taxable year" means the year in which the tax due on state taxable income, state taxable gross receipts or state taxable net capital is accrued. This definition applies only for the purpose of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-20 and 13 VAC 5-112-110.

"Threshold number" means 110 percent of the number of permanent full-time positions in the base year for the first three-year period in which a business firm is eligible for an enterprise zone incentive grant. For a second and any subsequent three-year period of eligibility, the threshold means 120 percent of the number of permanent full-time positions in the applicable base year as redetermined for the subsequent three-year period. If such number would include a fraction, the threshold number shall be the next highest integer. Where there are no permanent full-time positions in the base year, the threshold will be zero. This definition applies only for the purpose of qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-200.

"Threshold number" means an increase of four permanent full-time positions over the number of permanent full-time positions in the base year or subsequent base year.

"Transferred employee" means an employee of a firm in the Commonwealth that is relocated to an enterprise zone facility owned or operated by that firm.

"Wage rate" means the hourly wage paid to an employee inclusive of shift premiums and

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commissions. In the case of salaried employees, the hourly wage rate shall be determined by dividing the annual salary, inclusive of shift premiums and commissions, by 1,680 hours.

Bonuses, overtime and tips are not to be included in the determination of wage rate.

"Zone" means an enterprise zone declared by the Governor to be eligible for the benefits of this program.

"Zone real property investment tax credit" means a credit provided to a large qualified zone resident pursuant to § 59.1-280.1 J of the Code of Virginia. This definition applies only for qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-110.

"Zone resident" means a person whose principal place of residency is within the boundaries of any enterprise zone. Persons who meet the definition of both low-income and zone resident may not be counted as both for purposes of meeting employment requirements for the general tax credit. Instead, qualifying business firms must claim these persons as either low-income or zone resident. Zone residency must be verified annually. This definition applies only for qualifying for Enterprise Zone incentives pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-20 and 13 VAC 5-112-200.

## PART II.

### BUSINESS FIRM PROCEDURES FOR BUSINESSES QUALIFYING FOR GENERAL TAX

#### CREDIT

13 VAC 5-112-20 Effective dates.

Beginning on July 1, 2005, small qualified and large qualified business firms shall be allowed a credit against taxes imposed by Articles 2 (Individuals; § 58.1-320 et seq.) and 10 (Corporations; § 58.1-400 et seq.) of Chapter 3; Chapter 12 (Bank Franchise; § 58.1-1200 et. seq.) Article 1 (Insurance Companies; § 58.1-2500 et seq.) of Chapter 25, or Article 2 (Telegraph, Telephone,

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Water, Heat, Light, Power and Pipeline Companies; (§ 58.1-2620 et seq.) of Chapter 26 of Title 58.1 of the Code of Virginia as provided in this regulation for up to ten consecutive years in an amount equaling up to 80 percent of the tax due the first tax year, and up to 60 percent of the tax due for the second through tenth tax years.

The provisions of this section shall apply only as follows:

1. To those qualified business firms that have initiated use of enterprise zone tax credits pursuant to section § 59.1-280 of the Code of Virginia on or before July 1, 2005;

2. To those small qualified business firms and large qualified business firms that have signed agreements with the Commonwealth regarding the use of enterprise zone tax credits in accordance with section § 59.1-280 of the Code of Virginia on or before July 1, 2005; provided that in the case of small qualified business firms, the signed agreements must be based on proposals developed by the Commonwealth prior to November 1, 2004.

13 VAC 5-112-30 Computation of credit.

A. The amount of credit allowed shall be subject to the limitations provided by 13 VAC 5-112-

20. An unused tax credit may not be applied to future years. Any credit not useable for the taxable year the credit was allowed shall not be carried back to a preceding taxable year. The credit is not refundable.

B. If, due to adjustments, the amount of actual tax liability as reported on the application changes, the amount of credit that the qualified business firm will be eligible to receive will not exceed the amount of credit authorized by the Department. However, if, as a result of adjustments, the tax liability decreases from the amount stated on the application, the qualified

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business firm will receive a lower credit amount based on the new tax liability in accordance with the percentage amounts specified in 13 VAC 5-112-20.

C. For large qualified business firms, the percentage amounts of the income tax credits available to such qualified business firms under this section will have been determined by agreement between the Department and the qualified business firm. The negotiated percentage amount shall not exceed the percentages specified by 13 VAC 5-112-30.

D. Tax credits provided for in this section shall only apply to taxable income of a qualified business firm attributable to the conduct of business within the enterprise zone. Any qualified business firm having taxable income from business activity both within and without the enterprise zone, shall allocate and apportion its Virginia taxable income attributable to the conduct of business as follows:

1. The portion of a qualified business firm's Virginia taxable income allocated and apportioned to business activities within an enterprise zone shall be determined by multiplying its Virginia taxable income by a fraction, the numerator of which is the sum of the property factor and the payroll factor, and the denominator of which is two.

a. The property factor is a fraction. The numerator is the average value of real and tangible personal property of the business firm that is used in the enterprise zone. The denominator is the average value of real and tangible personal property of the business firm used everywhere in the Commonwealth.

b. The payroll factor is a fraction. The numerator is the total amount paid or accrued within the enterprise zone during the taxable period by the business firm for compensation. The denominator is the total compensation paid or accrued everywhere in the Commonwealth during

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the taxable period by the business firm for compensation.

2. The property factor and the payroll factor shall be determined in accordance with the procedures established in §§ 58.1-409 through 58.1-413 of the Code of Virginia for determining the Virginia taxable income of a corporation having income from business activities which is taxable both within and without the Commonwealth, mutatis mutandis.

3. If a qualified business firm believes that the method of allocation and apportionment hereinbefore prescribed as administered has operated or will operate to allocate or apportion to an enterprise zone a lesser portion of its Virginia taxable income that is reasonably attributable to a business conducted within the enterprise zone, it shall be entitled to file with the Department of Taxation a statement of its objections and of such alternative method of allocation or apportionment as it believes to be appropriate under the circumstances with such detail and proof and within such time as the Department of Taxation may reasonable prescribe. If the Department of Taxation concludes that the method of allocation or apportionment employed is in fact inequitable or inapplicable, it shall redetermine the taxable income by such other method of allocation or apportionment as best seems calculated to assign to an enterprise zone the portion of the qualified business firm's Virginia taxable income reasonably attributable to business conducted within the enterprise zone.

E. In the event that taxpayer requests exceed the Commonwealth's annual fiscal limitation, each taxpayer shall be granted a pro rata amount as determined by the Department. The amount of such prorated credit shall be determined by applying a fraction, the numerator of which shall be the gross credits requested by the taxpayer for such year, and the denominator of which shall be the total gross credits requested by all taxpayers for such year, to the Commonwealth's annual

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financial limitation. The credit which may be requested each year shall be subject to the limitations provided by 13 VAC 5-112-40 and 13 VAC 5-112-130.

13 VAC 5-112-40 Annual fiscal limitations.

A. The total amount of tax credits awarded to small and large qualified business firms ~~in~~ under this section and qualified large zone residents in 13 VAC 5-112-110 shall not exceed \$7.5 million annually until the end of fiscal year 2019 as provided for in sections § 59.1-280 and § 59.1-280.1 of the Code of Virginia.

B. Upon receiving applications for tax credits under this section and section 13 VAC-5-112-110, the Department shall determine the amount of the tax credit to be allocated to each eligible business firm. In the event that the amount of tax credits to which all applicants qualifying under this section and section 13 VAC-5-112-110 are eligible, exceeds \$7.5 million annually, the tax credits shall be apportioned among eligible applicants pro rata, based upon the amount of the tax credits to which an applicant is eligible and the amount of tax credits available for allocation.

13 VAC 5-112-50 Qualified business.

Qualification for the credit can occur by satisfying the criteria in subdivisions 1 through 3 of this section. Any business firm may be designated a qualified business for the purpose of this credit if:

1. A business firm establishes within an enterprise zone a trade or business not previously conducted in the Commonwealth of Virginia by such taxpayer, and at least 25 percent or more (except for businesses qualifying prior to July 1, 1997, when it shall be at least 40 percent or more) of the permanent full-time employees employed at the business firm's establishment or establishments located within the enterprise zone must either have incomes below 80 percent of

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the median income for the jurisdiction prior to employment or be zone residents. Zone residency will be subject to annual verification, while low-income status verification is only required upon initial employment. A new business is also one created by the establishment of a new facility and new permanent full-time employment by an existing business firm in an enterprise zone and does not result in a net loss of permanent full-time employment outside the zone.

2. A business firm is actively engaged in the conduct of a trade or business in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and increases the average number of permanent full-time employees employed at the business firm's establishment or establishments located within the enterprise zone by at least 10 percent over base taxable years' employment with no less than 25 percent (except for businesses qualifying prior to July 1, 1997, when it shall be no less than 40 percent ) of such increase being employees who have incomes below 80 percent of the median income for the jurisdiction prior to employment or are zone residents. In the event that a company has activities both inside and outside the enterprise zone, the business firm may not aggregate activity from outside the zone for calculation of employment increase. Other employment positions that shall not be used in the calculation of the 10 percent employment increase are referred to in subdivision 3 of this section and 13 VAC 5-112-90.

3. A business firm is actively engaged in the conduct of a trade or business in the Commonwealth and relocates to begin operation of a trade or business within an enterprise zone and increases the average number of permanent full-time employees by at least 10 percent over the base taxable years' employment with no less than 25 percent or more (except for businesses qualifying prior to July 1, 1997, when it shall be at least 40 percent or more) of such increase being employees who have incomes below 80 percent of the median income for the jurisdiction

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prior to employment or are zone residents. Current employees of the business firm that are transferred directly to the enterprise zone facility from another site within the state resulting in a net loss of employment at that site shall not be included in calculating the increase in the average number of permanent full-time employees by the business firm within the enterprise zone.

4. If a business firm is actively engaged in the conduct of a trade or business in the Commonwealth and its operations continue following its assumption or acquisition by another entity, the resulting entity must meet the requirements for qualification described in subdivision 3 of this section and 13 VAC 5-112-90.

5. A business firm located within a locality's enterprise zone or zones that moves to another location within that locality's enterprise zone or zones must meet the requirements for qualification described in subdivisions 1, or 2, or 3 of this section and 13 VAC 5-112-90.

6. A business firm moving from one locality's enterprise zone to another locality's enterprise zone prior to being qualified shall be subject to the requirements described in subdivision 3 of this section and 13 VAC 5-112-90.

7. A business firm that has already qualified for enterprise zone incentives and moves from one locality's enterprise zone into another locality's enterprise zone shall no longer be qualified unless the firm increases its permanent full-time employment by an additional 10 percent over the last year of qualification.

8. Large qualified business firms must meet the terms of their documented negotiation agreement with the Department pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-20; (2) prior to seeking initial qualification under this section.

9. The business firm must certify annually to the Department on prescribed form or forms, and



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other documentation as required by the Department, that the firm has met the criteria for qualification prescribed in subdivisions 1 through 7 of this section. The form or forms referred to in this subdivision must be prepared by an independent certified public accountant licensed by the Commonwealth and shall serve as prima facie evidence that the business firm met the definition of a qualified business but the evidence of eligibility shall be subject to rebuttal. The Department or the Department of Taxation or State Corporation Commission, as applicable, may at its discretion require any business firm to provide supplemental information regarding the firm's eligibility (i) as a qualified business firm or (ii) for a tax credit claimed pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-20.

13 VAC 5-112-60 Qualification in zones whose designation period is ending

A. Small qualified business firms located in a zone whose designation period is ending that have qualified under 13 VAC 5-112-20 by or before the zone expiration date may receive the remainder of their incentive period provided they continue to qualify under 13 VAC 5-112-20. Tax credits are not authorized beyond the end of fiscal year 2019 as specified in section § 59.1-280, I of the Code of Virginia.

B. Large qualified business firms located in a zone whose designation period is ending that have qualified under 13 VAC 5-112-20 by or before the zone expiration date may receive the remainder of their incentive period provided they continue to qualify under 13 VAC 5-112-20. The incentive period shall be for ten consecutive years or until the negotiated credit amount is reached, which ever is sooner. Tax credits are not authorized beyond the end of fiscal year 2019 as specified in section § 59.1-280, I of the Code of Virginia.

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13 VAC 5-112-70 Application submittal and processing.

A. For tax years that end on or before December 31, or for businesses with tax years in accordance with §441(f) of the Internal Revenue Code on or before January 7 of the subsequent year, applications requesting a general tax credit shall be submitted to the Department by no later than May 1 of the subsequent calendar year. At a minimum, these applications must be signed by independent certified public accountant licensed by the Commonwealth.

B. Beginning with tax years ending in 2005, any business firm that is eligible to qualify for tax credits under this section pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-20 may amend past tax returns in order to qualify for and receive general tax credits. Such business firms shall submit an application requesting general tax credits to the Department by no later than May 1 of any of three subsequent calendar years immediately following the year the business firm is requesting the credit provided that there is an outstanding credit balance remaining for that particular tax year. These requests will be handled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Business firms may not amend past tax returns in order to become initially eligible for tax credits under this section pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-20.

C. The Department shall review all applications for completeness and notify business firms of any errors no later than June 1. Business firms must respond to any unresolved issues by no later than June 15. If the Department does not meet its June 1 date for notification, then businesses must respond to any unresolved issues within 10 calendar days of the actual notification.

D. The Department shall notify all applicants by June 30 as to the amount of applicable general credit it may claim for the taxable year the request was made.

E. Applications must be made on forms prescribed by the Department, and either hand delivered

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by the date specified in this section or sent by certified mail with a return receipt requested and post marked no later than the date specified in this section.

F. Applicants may only apply for credits which they are otherwise eligible to claim for such taxable year, subject to the limitations provided by 13 VAC 5-112-40 and 13 VAC 5-112-130. 13 VAC 5-112-80 Certification to Tax Commissioner in accordance with § 59.1-280 A of the Code of Virginia.

A. The Department shall certify to the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Taxation, or in the case of public service companies to the Director of Public Service Taxation for the State Corporation Commission, the applicability of the tax credits requested by the firm; and forward the certification to the firm. A copy should be retained for the firm's records. The firm shall file the original with the applicable state tax return or returns. If the firm is not eligible for qualification, the Department shall notify the firm that it fails to qualify for state tax incentives under this part.

B. Submission of state tax returns. A business firm, upon receipt from the Department of the certificate of its qualification to receive state tax incentives, may file the applicable state tax returns. In order for the Virginia Department of Taxation or the State Corporation Commission to grant the incentive or incentives requested, the appropriate copy of the certificate of qualification must be attached to the firm's tax return.

When a partnership or small business corporation electing to be taxed under Subchapter S of the federal Internal Revenue Code requests a credit or credits against state individual income tax on behalf of its partners or shareholders, each partner or shareholder must attach to its state individual income tax return a photocopy of the appropriate certificate of qualification received

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by the firm.

C. Denial of tax credit. Any certification by the Department pursuant to this section shall not impair the authority of the Department of Taxation or State Corporation Commission to deny in whole or in part any claimed tax credit if the Department of Taxation or State Corporation Commission determines that the qualified business firm is not entitled to such tax credit.

13 VAC 5-112-90 Anti-churning.

A. A permanent full-time employee shall not include any employee:

1. For which a credit under this chapter was previously earned by a related party, as defined by the Internal Revenue Code § 267 (b) or a trade or business under common control;

2. Who was previously employed in the same job function in Virginia by a related party, or a trade or business under common control;

3. Whose job function was previously performed at a different location in Virginia by an employee of the taxpayer, a related party, or a trade or business under common control;

4. Whose previous job function previously qualified for a credit in connection with a different enterprise zone location on behalf of the taxpayer, a related party, or a trade or business under common control;

5. Whose job function counted for purposes of determining a 10 percent increase by an existing business firm and credited in an earlier taxable year on behalf of the taxpayer, a related party, or a trade or business under common control; or

6. Whose job function was filled in the Commonwealth and the trade or business where this job function was located was acquired or assumed by another taxpayer.

B. A new permanent full-time position which otherwise qualifies for the credit will not be

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disqualified for purposes of the credit where the employer chooses to use more than one individual to fill the position. This exception is limited to those situations where no more than two employees are used to fill a position, such employees are eligible for essentially the same benefits as full-time employees, and each employee works at least 20 hours per week for at least 48 weeks per year.

13 VAC 5-112-100 Pass through entities.

The amount of any credit attributable to a partnership, S corporation, or limited liability company shall be allocated to the individual partners, shareholders, or members, respectively.

The credit will be allocated in the manner in which income is allocated for federal income tax purposes.

PART III.

PROCEDURES FOR QUALIFYING FOR ZONE REAL PROPERTY INVESTMENT TAX

CREDIT

13 VAC 5-112-110 Effective dates.

Beginning on July 1, 2005, a qualified large zone resident shall be allowed a real property investment tax credit against taxes imposed by Articles 2 (Individuals; § 58.1-320 et seq.) and 10 (Corporations; § 58.1-400 et seq.) of Chapter 3; Chapter 12 (Bank Franchise; § 58.1-1200 et seq.); Article 1 (Insurance Companies; § 58.1-2500 et seq.) of Chapter 25, or Article 2 (Telegraph, Telephone, Water, Heat, Light, Power and Pipeline Companies; § 58.1-2620 et seq.) of Chapter 26 of Title 58.1 of the Code of Virginia, as provided in this chapter.

The provisions of this section shall apply only as follows:

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1. To those large qualified zone residents that have initiated use of enterprise zone tax credits pursuant to section § 59.1-280.1 of the Code of Virginia on or before July 1, 2005;

2. To those large qualified zone residents that have signed agreements with the Commonwealth regarding the use of enterprise zone tax credits in accordance with section § 59.1-280.1 of the Code of Virginia on or before July 1, 2005.

13 VAC 5-112-120 Computation of credit.

A. A large qualified zone resident shall be eligible for a credit in an amount of up to five percent of the qualified zone investments. The zone real property investment tax credit provided by this subsection shall not exceed the tax imposed for such taxable year, but any tax credit not usable for the taxable year generated may be carried over until the full amount of such credit has been utilized. However, this incentive period shall not last beyond 2019 as specified in section § 59.1-280, I of the Code of Virginia.

B. The percentage amount of the zone real property investment tax credit granted to a large qualified zone resident must have been determined by agreement between the Department and the large qualified zone resident, provided such percentage amount does not exceed five percent.

C. The percentage amounts of the business income tax credit provided in 13 VAC 5-112-30 C which may be granted to a large qualified business firm are also subject to agreement between the Department in the event that a large qualified zone resident is also a large qualified business firm, provided such percentage amounts shall not exceed the percentage amounts otherwise provided in 13 VAC 5-112-30 C.

D. Qualified zone improvements shall not include the basis of any property: (i) for which a

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credit under this section was previously granted; (ii) which was previously placed in service in Virginia by the taxpayer, a related party, or a trade or business under common control; or (iii) which was previously in service in Virginia and has a basis in the hands of the person acquiring it, determined in whole or in part by reference to the basis of such property in the hands of the person from whom acquired, or Internal Revenue Code § 1014 (a).

13-VAC 5-112-130 Annual fiscal limitations

A. The total amount of tax credits awarded to small and large qualified business firms in 13 VAC 5-112-20 and qualified large zone residents under this section shall not exceed \$7.5 million annually until the end of fiscal year 2019 as provided for in sections § 59.1-280 and § 59.1-280.1 of the Code of Virginia.

B. Upon receiving applications for tax credits under this section and section 13 VAC-5-112-20, the Department shall determine the amount of the tax credit to be allocated to each eligible business firm. In the event that the amount of tax credits to which all applicants qualifying under sections § 59.1-280 and § 59.1-280.1 of the Code of Virginia are eligible, exceeds \$7.5 million annually, the tax credits shall be apportioned among eligible applicants pro rata, based upon the amount of the tax credits to which an applicant is eligible and the amount of tax credits available for allocation.

13 VAC 5-112-140 Eligibility.

A. The use of zone real property investment tax credits may be initiated in accordance with 13 VAC 5-112-120, C. once the job creation and investment identified in the negotiation have been completed.

B. The business firm must certify to the Department on the prescribed form or forms, and other

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documents as prescribed by the Department, that the firm has met the criteria for qualification prescribed in this section. The form or forms referred to in this subsection must be prepared by an independent certified public accountant licensed by the Commonwealth and shall serve as prima facie evidence that the business firm met the qualifications, but the evidence of eligibility shall be subject to rebuttal. The Department or the Department of Taxation or State Corporation Commission, as applicable, may at its discretion require any business firm to provide supplemental information regarding the firm's eligibility (i) as a qualified business firm or (ii) for a tax credit claimed pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-120 A.

13 VAC 5-112-150 Qualification in zones whose designation period is ending.

Large qualified zone residents located in a zone whose designation period is ending that have a documented negotiation agreement with the Department and that have qualified by or before that the zone expiration date may continue receive the tax credits until the negotiated tax credit amount is reached, provided they continue to qualify under 13 VAC 5-112-110. This incentive period shall not last beyond 2019 as specified in section § 59.1-280, I of the Code of Virginia.

13 VAC 5-112-160 Anti-churning.

A. The following shall not be included in the calculation of permanent full-time positions:

1. An employee for whom a credit under this chapter was previously earned by a related party, as defined by the Internal Revenue Code § 267 (b) or a trade or business under common control;
2. A position in which an employee filling that position was previously employed in the same job function in Virginia by a related party, or a trade or business under common control;
3. A job function that was previously performed at a different location in Virginia by an employee of the taxpayer, a related party, or a trade or business under common control;



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4. A position that previously qualified for a credit in connection with a different enterprise zone location on behalf of the taxpayer, a related party, or a trade or business under common control;

or

5. A position that was filled in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the trade or business where that position was located was purchased by another taxpayer.

13 VAC 5-112-170 Pass through entities.

The amount of any credit attributable to a partnership, S corporation, or limited liability company shall be allocated to the individual partners, shareholders, or members, respectively.

The credit will be allocated in the manner in which income is allocated for federal income tax purposes.

13 VAC 5-112-180 Application submittal and processing.

A. For tax years that end on or before December 31, or for businesses with tax years in accordance with §441(f) of the Internal Revenue Code on or before January 7 of the subsequent year, applications requesting zone real property investment tax credits shall be submitted to the Department by no later than May 1 of the subsequent calendar year. At a minimum, these applications must be signed by independent certified public accountant licensed by the Commonwealth.

B. The Department shall review all applications for completeness and notify business firms of any errors by no later than June 1. Business firms must respond to any unresolved issues by no later than June 15. If the Department does not meet its June 1 date for notification, then businesses must respond to any unresolved issues within 10 calendar days of the actual notification.

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C. The Department shall notify all applicants by June 30 as to the amount of applicable credit or refund it is eligible for in the taxable year the request was made.

D. Applications must be made on forms prescribed by the Department, and either hand delivered by the date specified in this section or sent by certified mail with a return receipt requested and post marked no later than the date specified in this section.

E. Applicants may only apply for credits which they are otherwise eligible to claim for such taxable year, subject to the limitations provided by 13 VAC 5-112-40 and 13 VAC 5-112-130. 13 VAC 5-112-190 Certification to Tax Commissioner in accordance with § 59.1-208 B of the Code of Virginia.

A. The Department shall certify to the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Taxation, or in the case of public service companies to the Director of Public Service Taxation for the State Corporation Commission, the applicability of the tax credits requested by the firm; and forward the certification to the firm, which should make a copy for it's records and file original with the applicable state tax return or returns or notify the firm that it fails to qualify for state tax incentives under PART II (13 VAC 5-112-20 et seq.).

B. Submission of state tax returns - A business firm, upon receipt from the Department of the certificate of its qualification to receive state tax incentives, may file the applicable state tax returns. In order for the Virginia Department of Taxation or the State Corporation Commission to grant the incentive or incentives requested, the appropriate copy of the certificate of qualification must be attached to the firm's tax return.

When a partnership or small business corporation electing to be taxed under Subchapter S of the federal Internal Revenue Code requests a credit or credits against state individual income tax on

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behalf of its partners or shareholders, each partner or shareholder must attach to its state individual income tax return a photocopy of the appropriate certificate of qualification received by the firm.

C. Any certification by the Department pursuant to this section shall not impair the authority of the Department of Taxation or State Corporation Commission to deny in whole or in part any claimed tax credit if the Department of Taxation or State Corporation Commission determines that the qualified business firm is not entitled to such tax credit. The Department of Taxation or the State Corporation Commission shall notify the Department in writing upon determining that a business firm is ineligible for such a tax credit.

PART IV.

PROCEDURES FOR QUALIFYING FOR ZONE INCENTIVE GRANTS

13 VAC 5-112-200 Effective dates.

Beginning on July 1, 2005, a business firm shall be eligible to receive enterprise zone incentive grants for the creation of new permanent full-time positions. This section shall apply only to those businesses that have initiated use of three-year grant period for creating permanent full-time positions pursuant to sections § 59.1-282.1 and § 59.1-282.2 of the Code of Virginia on or before July 1, 2005. This part shall govern those businesses only for the duration of such three-year grant period. Businesses may not begin any three-year grant periods after July 1, 2005.

13 VAC 5-112-210 Computation of grant amount.

A. For any eligible business firm, the amount of any grant earned shall be equal to (i) \$1,000 multiplied by the number of eligible permanent full-time positions filled by employees whose permanent place of residence is within the enterprise zone, and (ii) \$500 multiplied by the

## VIRGINIA ENTERPRISE ZONE PROGRAM REGULATION

number of eligible permanent full-time positions filled by employees whose permanent place of residence is outside the enterprise zone.

1. The number of eligible permanent full-time positions filled by employees whose permanent place of residence is within the enterprise zone shall be determined for any grant year by multiplying the number of eligible permanent full-time positions by a fraction, the numerator of which shall be the number of employees hired for permanent full-time positions from January 1 of the applicable base year through December 31 of the grant year whose permanent place of residence is within the enterprise zone , and the denominator of which shall be the total number of employees hired for permanent full-time positions by the business firm during the same period. Zone residency is subject to annual verification and if an employee moves outside the zone his permanent place of residence cannot be considered within the enterprise zone for the remaining grant period.

2. The number of eligible permanent full-time positions filled by employees whose permanent place of residence is outside the enterprise zone shall be determined for any grant year by subtracting the number of eligible positions filled by employees whose permanent place of residence is within the enterprise zone, as determined in subdivision 1 of this subsection, from the number of eligible positions.

B. The amount of the grant for which a business firm is eligible with respect to any employee who is employed in an eligible position for less than 12 full months during the grant year will be determined by multiplying the grant amount by a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of full months that the employee worked for the business firm during the grant year, and the denominator of which is 12.

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C. The maximum grant that may be earned by a business firm in one grant year is limited to \$100,000. Each member of an affiliated group of corporations shall be eligible to receive up to a maximum grant of \$100,000 in a single grant year.

13 VAC 5-112-220 Eligibility.

A. A business firm shall be eligible to receive job grants for three consecutive calendar years beginning with the first year of grant eligibility. Business firms in their first three-year period shall demonstrate that they have increased the business firm's enterprise zone permanent full-time positions by 10 percent over the base year. Permanent full-time positions created during the second or third year of the grant period are eligible for additional grant funding over the previous year level at the option of the business firm, but only during the three year grant period.

B. Business firms in their second or any subsequent three-year period of grant eligibility must demonstrate that it has increased employment by 20 percent over a redetermined base year.

13 VAC 5-112-230 Application submittal and processing.

A. The amount of the grant for which a business firm is eligible in any year shall not include amounts for the number of eligible positions in any year other than the preceding calendar year, except as provided for in §59.1-282.2 of the Code of Virginia.

B. In order to claim the grant an application must be submitted to the local zone administrator by March 31 of the year following the grant year. Applications for grants shall be made on form or forms as prescribed by the Department and may include other documentation as requested by the local zone administrator or Department. The form or forms referred to in this subsection must be prepared by an independent certified public accountant licensed by the Commonwealth and shall serve as prima facie evidence that the business firm met the eligibility requirements. At

## VIRGINIA ENTERPRISE ZONE PROGRAM REGULATION

a minimum, these applications must be signed by independent certified public accountant licensed by the Commonwealth.

C. The local zone administrator shall review applications and determine the completeness of each application and the requested documentation, and forward applications for grants to the Department by no later than April 30 of the year following the grant year. Applications forwarded to the Department by the local zone administrator must be either hand delivered by the date specified in this section or sent by certified mail with a return receipt requested and post marked no later than the date specified in this section.

D. The Department shall review all applications for completeness and notify business firms of any errors no later than June 1 of the year following the grant year. Business firms must respond to any unresolved issues by no later than June 15 of the year following the grant year. If the Department does not meet its June 1 date for notification, then businesses must respond to any unresolved issues within 10 calendar days of the actual notification.

E. The Department shall notify all businesses by June 30 as to the amount of applicable zone incentive grant it is eligible for in the calendar year the request was made.

F. Any business firm receiving an enterprise zone incentive grant under § 59.1-282.1 of the Code of Virginia shall not be eligible for a major business facility job tax credit pursuant to § 58.1-439 of the Code of Virginia with respect to any enterprise zone location which is receiving an enterprise zone incentive grant.

13 VAC 5-112-240 Qualification in zones whose designation period is ending.

Business firms located in a zone whose designation period is ending that have qualified by or before the zone expiration date may receive the balance of their three consecutive year incentive

## VIRGINIA ENTERPRISE ZONE PROGRAM REGULATION

period provided they continue to qualify under 13 VAC 5-112-200. Business firms may not begin a three-year grant period after the zone expiration date.

13 VAC 5-112-250 Anti-churning.

A. No grant shall be allowed for any permanent full-time position:

1. Which a grant under this chapter was previously earned by a related party, as defined by the Internal Revenue Code § 267 (b), or a trade or business under common control;
2. Where an employee filling that positions was previously employed in the same job function in Virginia by a related party, or a trade or business under common control;
3. Which was previously performed at a different location in Virginia by an employee of the taxpayer, a related party, or a trade or business under common control;
4. Which previously qualified for a grant in connection with a different enterprise zone location on behalf of the taxpayer, a related party, or a trade or business under common control; or
5. That was filled in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the trade or business where that position was located was purchased by another taxpayer.

PART V.PROCEDURES FOR QUALIFYING FOR ENTERPRISE ZONE JOB CREATION GRANTS13 VAC 5-112-260 Effective dates.

Beginning on July 1, 2005, a business firm shall be eligible to receive enterprise zone job creation grants for the creation of new permanent full-time positions.

13 VAC 5-112 -270 Computation of grant amount.

A. For any qualified business the grant amount is calculated as follows:

## VIRGINIA ENTERPRISE ZONE PROGRAM REGULATION

1. \$800 per year for up to five consecutive years for each grant eligible position that is paid a wage rate during the qualification year that is at least of 200 percent of the federal minimum wage in place during the qualification year, and that is provided with health benefits, or

2. \$500 per year for up to five years for each grant eligible position that is paid a wage rate during such year that is less than 200 percent of the federal minimum wage, but at least 175 percent of the federal minimum wage, and that is provided with health benefits.

B. A business firm may receive grants for up to a maximum of 350 grant eligible jobs annually.

C. Job creation grants are based on a calendar year. The grant amount for any permanent full-time position that is filled for less than a full calendar year must be prorated based on the number of full months worked.

1. In cases where a position is grant eligible for only a portion of a qualification year the grant amount will be prorated based on the number of full months the position was grant eligible. This shall include cases where changes in wage rate; health care benefits; or the federal minimum wage rate change a position's grant eligibility

2. In cases where a change in a grant eligible position's wage rate or the federal minimum wage rate during a qualification year changes the per position maximum grant amount available for that position, the grant amount shall be prorated based on the period the position was paid a minimum of 200 percent of the federal minimum wage rate and the period the position was paid a minimum of 175 percent of the federal minimum wage but less than 200 percent.



## VIRGINIA ENTERPRISE ZONE PROGRAM REGULATION

D. The amount of the job creation grant for which a qualified business firm is eligible in any year shall not include amounts for grant eligible positions in any year other than the preceding calendar year. Job creation grants shall not be available for any calendar year prior to 2005.

E. Permanent full-time positions that have been used to qualify for any other enterprise zone incentive pursuant to former § 59.1-270 through § 59.1-284.01 of the Code of Virginia shall not be eligible for job creation grants and shall not be counted as a part of the minimum threshold of four new positions.

13 VAC 5-112-280 Eligibility.

A. A business firm shall be eligible to receive job creation grants for five consecutive years beginning with the first year of grant eligibility. Business firms in their first five-year period shall demonstrate that they have increased employment by four permanent full-time positions over the base year. Additional permanent full-time positions created during the remainder of years in the grant period are eligible for additional grant funding over the previous year's level or such positions may be used instead to begin a subsequent grant period pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-280, B.

B. A business firm may be eligible for subsequent five consecutive calendar year grant periods if it creates new grant eligible positions above the threshold number for its subsequent base year.

1. If a second or subsequent five-year grant period is requested within two years after the previous five-year grant period, the subsequent base year will be the last grant year. The calculation of this subsequent base year employment will be determined by the number of permanent full-time positions in the preceding base year, plus the number of threshold positions,

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plus the number of grant eligible positions in the final year of the previous grant period.

2. If a business firm applies for subsequent five consecutive calendar year grant periods beyond the two years immediately following the completion of the previous five-year grant period, the business firm shall use one of the two preceding calendar years as the subsequent base year, at the choice of the business firm.

C. A business firm is eligible to receive enterprise zone job creation grants for any and all years in which the business firm qualifies in the five consecutive calendar years period commencing with the first year of grant eligibility.

D. Job creation grants shall be available beginning with calendar year 2005.

E. Any qualified business firm receiving an enterprise job creation grant under this section is not be eligible for a major business facility job tax credit pursuant to § 58.1-439.

F. The following positions are not grant eligible:

1. Those in retail, local service or food and beverage service.

2. Those paying less than 175 percent of the federal minimum wage or that are not provided with health benefits.

3. Seasonal, temporary or contract positions.

13 VAC 5-112-290 Application submittal and processing.

A. In order to claim the grant an application must be submitted to the Department on prescribed form or forms. Applicants shall provide other documents as prescribed by the Department.

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B. Local zone administrators must verify that the location of the business is in the enterprise zone in a manner prescribed by the Department.

C. The accuracy and validity of information provided in such applications, including that related to permanent full-time positions, wage rates and provision of health benefits are to be attested to by an independent certified public accountant licensed in Virginia through an agreed-upon procedures engagement conducted in accordance with current attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, using procedures provided by the Department as assurance that the firm has met the criteria for qualification prescribed in this section.

D. The Department will not accept nor process any applications submitted without the required attestation information.

E. Applications requesting job creation grants shall be submitted to the Department by no later than April 1 of the calendar year subsequent to the qualification year.

F. The Department shall review all applications for completeness and notify business firms of any errors by no later than May 15. Business firms must respond to any unresolved issues by no later than June 1. If the Department does not meet its May 15 date for notification, then businesses must respond to any unresolved issues within 10 calendar days of the actual notification.

G. The Department shall award job creation grants and notify all applicants by June 30 as to the amount of the grant they shall receive.

H. Applications must either be hand delivered by the date specified in this section or sent by

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certified mail with a return receipt requested and post marked no later than the date specified in this section.

13-VAC 5-112-300 Accuracy and validity of information.

A. The Department may at any time review qualified zone businesses records related to qualification under this section to assure that information provided in the application process is accurate.

B. Qualified zone businesses shall maintain all documentation regarding qualification for enterprise zone job creation grants for at least one year after the final year of their five-year grant period.

C. Job creation grants that do not have adequate documentation regarding permanent full-time positions, wage rates and provision of health benefits may be subject to repayment by the qualified zone business.

13 VAC 5-112-310 Anti-churning.

A. No grant shall be allowed for any permanent full-time position:

1. Which a grant under this chapter was previously earned by a related party, as defined by the Internal Revenue Code § 267 (b), or a trade or business under common control;

2. Where an employee filling that positions was previously employed in the same job function in Virginia by a related party, or a trade or business under common control;

3. Which was previously performed at a different location in Virginia by an employee of the taxpayer, a related party, or a trade or business under common control;

4. Which previously qualified for a grant in connection with a different enterprise zone location

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on behalf of the taxpayer, a related party, or a trade or business under common control; or

5. That was filled in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the trade or business where that position was located was purchased by another taxpayer.

13 VAC 5-112-320 Qualification in zones whose designation period is ending.

A. Business firms located in a zone whose designation period is ending that have qualified by or before the zone expiration date may receive the balance of their five consecutive year incentive period provided they continue to qualify under 13 VAC 5-112-270 and 13 VAC 5-112-280.

Business firms may not begin additional five-year incentive period after the zone expiration date.

## PART VI.

### PROCEDURES FOR QUALIFYING FOR REAL PROPERTY INVESTMENT GRANT

13 VAC 5-112-330 Effective dates.

Beginning on July 1, 2005, a qualified zone investor shall be allowed a real property investment grant. Units of local, state and federal government or political subdivisions shall not be considered qualified zone investors.

13 VAC 5-112-340 Computation of grant amount.

A. For any qualified zone investor, the amount of the grant shall be equal to 30 percent of the qualified zone investments, as defined below:

1. Qualified zone investments include expenditures associated with (a) any exterior, interior, structural, mechanical or electrical improvements necessary to construct, expand or rehabilitate a building for commercial, industrial or mixed use; (b) excavations; (c) grading and paving; (d) installing driveways; and (e) landscaping or land improvements. These can include, but not be limited to, costs associated with demolition, carpentry, sheetrock, plaster, painting, ceilings,

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fixtures, doors, windows, fire suppression systems, roofing, flashing, exterior repair, cleaning and cleanup.

2. Qualified real property investments do not include:

a. The cost of acquiring any real property or building.

b. Other acquisition costs including: (i) the cost of furnishings; (ii) any expenditure associated with appraisal, architectural, engineering, surveying, and interior design fees; (iii) loan fees, points, or capitalized interest; (iv) legal, accounting, realtor, sales and marketing, or other professional fees; (v) closing costs, permits, user fees, zoning fees, impact fees, and inspection fees; (vi) bids, insurance, signage, utilities, bonding, copying, rent loss, or temporary facilities incurred during construction; (vii) utility connection or access fees; (viii) outbuildings; (ix) the cost of any well or septic or sewer system; and (x) roads.

c. The basis of any property: (i) for which a grant under this section was previously provided; (ii) for which a tax credit under § 59.1-280.1 of the Code of Virginia was previously granted; (iii) which was previously placed in service in Virginia by the qualified zone investor, a related party as defined by Internal Revenue Code § 267 (b), or a trade or business under common control as defined by Internal Revenue Code § 52 (b); or (iv) which was previously in service in Virginia and has a basis in the hands of the person acquiring it, determined in whole or in part by reference to the basis of such property in the hands of the person from whom it was acquired or Internal Revenue Code § 1014 (a).

B. For any qualified zone investor making less than \$2,000,000 in qualified real property

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investment, the cumulative grant will not exceed \$125,000 within any five-year period for any building or facility.

1. In such cases where subsequent qualified real property investment within the five-year period results in the total qualified real property investment equaling \$2 million or more, then the qualified zone investor shall be eligible to receive an additional grant (s) provided that the total of all grants received within the five-year period does not exceed a maximum of \$250,000.

C. For any qualified zone investor making \$2 million or more in qualified real property investments, the cumulative grant will not exceed \$250,000 within any five-year period for any building or facility.

D. The total grant amount per building or facility within a five year period shall not exceed \$250,000.

13 VAC 5-112-350 Eligibility.

A. Only office, commercial or industrial or mixed use real property is eligible. A mixed use building where the office, commercial or industrial use is less than 30 percent shall not be eligible for this grant.

B. A qualified zone investor is eligible to apply for a real property investment grant in the calendar year following the year in which the property was placed in service provided that:

1. The total amount of the rehabilitation or expansion of depreciable office, commercial or industrial or mixed use real property placed in service during the calendar year within the enterprise zone equals or exceeds \$50,000 with respect to a building or facility.

2. The cost of any newly constructed depreciable office, commercial or industrial or mixed use real property (as opposed to rehabilitation or expansion) is at least \$250,000 with respect to a

## VIRGINIA ENTERPRISE ZONE PROGRAM REGULATION

building or facility.

C. Real property investments that were placed in service in calendar year 2004 that were not eligible to submit a tax credit request as a small qualified zone resident pursuant to former § 59.1-280.1 of the Code of Virginia because of the timing of their tax year may apply for a real property investment grant in 2006.

D. In the case of a tenant, the amounts of qualified zone investment specified in this section shall relate to the proportion of the property for which the tenant holds a valid lease

E. In the case of buildings with multiple tenants and/or owners, such tenants or owners shall coordinate qualification under this section.

F. Units of local, state and federal government or political subdivisions are not eligible to apply for this grant.

13 VAC 5-112-360 Qualification in zones whose designation period is ending.

Zone investors located in a zone whose designation period is ending must qualify for investments made prior the zone expiration date to receive a real property investment grant.

Zone investors may not qualify for investments made after the zone expiration date.

13 VAC 5-112-370 Intrastate Anti-Piracy Rule

Real property investment grants will not be available to assist a Virginia business firm to relocate from one area of Virginia to another unless there is an increase in employment or building square footage for the firm.

13 VAC 5-112-380 Application submittal and processing.

A. In order to claim the grant an application must be submitted to the Department on prescribed form or forms. Applicants shall provide other documents as prescribed by the Department.



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B. Local zone administrators must verify that the location of the business is in the enterprise zone in a manner prescribed by the Department.

C. The accuracy and validity of information provided in such applications, including that related to qualified real property investments are to be attested to by an independent certified public accountant licensed in Virginia through an agreed-upon procedures engagement conducted in accordance with current attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, using procedures provided by the Department as assurance that the firm has met the criteria for qualification prescribed in this section.

D. The Department will not accept nor process any applications submitted without the required attestation information.

E. Applications requesting real property investment grants shall be submitted to the Department by no later than April 1 of the calendar year subsequent to the qualification year.

F. The Department shall review all applications for completeness and notify business firms of any errors by no later than May 15. Business firms must respond to any unresolved issues by no later than June 1. If the Department does not meet its May 15 date for notification, then businesses must respond to any unresolved issues within 10 calendar days of the actual notification.

G. The Department shall award real property investment grants and notify all applicants by June 30 as to the amount of the grant they shall receive.

H. Applications must either be hand delivered by the date specified in this section or sent by certified mail with a return receipt requested and post marked no later than the date specified in this section.

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I. Applicants may only apply for grants which they are otherwise eligible to claim for such calendar year, subject to the limitations provided by 13 VAC 5-112-400.

13 VAC 5-112-390 Accuracy and validity of information.

A. The Department may at any time review qualified zone investors records related to qualification to assure that information provided in the application process is accurate.

B. Qualified zone investors shall maintain all documentation regarding qualification for enterprise zone incentive grants for a minimum of three years following the receipt of any grant.

C. Real property investment grants that do not have adequate documentation regarding qualified real property investments may be subject to repayment by the qualified zone investor.

PART VII.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR ENTERPRISE ZONE GRANTS

13 VAC 5-112-400 Allocating enterprise zone grants.

A. Qualified business firms and qualified zone investors shall be eligible to receive enterprise zone grants provided for in 13 VAC 5-112-200, 13 VAC 5-112-260 and 13 VAC 5-112-330 to the extent that they apply for and are approved for grant allocations through the Department.

B. Upon receiving applications for grants provided for under 13 VAC 5-112-200, 13 VAC 5-112-260, and 13 VAC 5-112-330, the Department shall determine the amount of the grant to be allocated to each eligible business firm and zone investor.

C. If the total amount of grants for which qualified business firm are eligible under 13 VAC 5-112-200 and 13 VAC 5-112-260 and for which qualified zone investors are eligible under 13

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VAC 5-112-330 exceeds the annual appropriation for such grants, then the amount of grant that each qualified business firm and qualified zone investor will receive for shall be prorated in a proportional manner.

13 VAC 5-112-410 Actions of the Department.

Actions of the Department relating to the approval or denial of applications for enterprise zone grants under this section shall be exempt from the provisions of the Administrative Process Act pursuant to subdivision B 4 of § 2.2-4002.

PART VIII.

ENTERPRISE ZONE DESIGNATION

13 VAC 5-112-420 Status of enterprise zones designated prior to July 1, 2005.

A. All enterprise zones designated pursuant to § 59.1-274, § 59.1-274.1, and § 59.1-274.2 of the Code of Virginia as those were in effect prior to July 1, 2005 shall continue in effect until the end of their 20-year designation period. Such zones shall be governed by the provisions of Chapter 47 exclusive of section § 59.1-542, E of the Code of Virginia.

13 VAC 5-112-430 Eligible applicants for zone designation.

A. Eligible applicants include the governing body of any county or city.

B. Towns are not eligible applicants. However, county applicants may include acreage in an incorporated town as part of the county's proposed enterprise zone provided that the town is located within the applicant county. In such situations, towns may provide local incentives in addition to the county incentives.

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C. Two or more adjacent localities may file a joint application for an enterprise zone.

D. Jurisdictions may apply for more than one enterprise zone designation. This includes the submission of a joint application with other jurisdictions. Each jurisdiction is limited to a total of three enterprise zones.

13 VAC 5-112-440 Zone eligibility requirements.

A. To be eligible for consideration, an application for an enterprise zone must meet the requirements set out in this section.

B. Enterprise zones may consist of no more than three noncontiguous areas. The size of the enterprise zone shall consist of the total of the-acreage of all non-contiguous areas. The maximum combined land area cannot exceed maximum size guidelines set forth in subdivisions C 1, 2, 3 and 4 of this section.

C. All proposed zones shall conform to the following size guidelines:

1. Cities - Minimum: ¼ square mile (160 acres); Maximum: 1 square mile (640 acres) or seven percent of the jurisdiction's land area or population, whichever is largest. Towns designated as enterprise zones pursuant to former sections § 59.1-274, § 59.1-274.1 and § 59.1-274.2 of the Code of Virginia shall conform to the size guidelines for cities.

2. Unincorporated areas of counties - Minimum: ½ square mile (320 acres); Maximum: 6 square miles (3,840 acres).

3. Consolidated cities - Zones in cities the boundaries of which were created through the consolidation of a city and county or the consolidation of two cities, shall conform substantially to the minimum and maximum size guidelines for unincorporated areas of counties as set forth in subdivision 3 of this subsection.

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4. In no instance shall a zone consist only of a site for a single business firm.

13 VAC 5-112-450 Relationship to federal empowerment zone program.

For enterprise zones designated by the Governor that have been enlarged to conform with the boundaries of a federal empowerment zone, the state enterprise zone designation shall continue until the expiration of the area's federal empowerment zone designation, unless earlier terminated as provided in this chapter.

PART IX.

PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR ZONE DESIGNATIONS

13 VAC 5-112-460 Procedures for zone application and designation.

A. Upon recommendation of the Director of the Department, the Governor may designate up to 30 enterprise zones in accordance with the provisions of this section. Such designations are to be done in coordination with the expiration of existing zones designated under earlier Enterprise Zone Program provisions or the termination of designations pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-510, 13 VAC 5-112-520, and 13 VAC 5-112-530, D. The initial round of six zone designation applications and approval may be conducted prior to adoption of final program regulations as provided under section § 59.1-542, E. of the Code of Virginia.

B. Applications for zone designation will be solicited by the Department on a competitive basis in accordance with the following procedures and requirements:

1. An application for zone designation must be submitted on Form EZ-1 to the Director, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, 501 North Second Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, on or before the submission deadline established by the Department.

2. Each applicant jurisdiction(s) must hold at least one public hearing on the application for

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zone designation prior to submission of the application to the Department. Notification of the public hearing is to be in accordance with § 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia relating to advertising of public hearings. An actual copy of the advertisement must be included in the application.

3. In order to be considered in the competitive zone designation process an application from a jurisdiction(s) must include all the requested information, be accompanied by a resolution(s) of the local governing body(s) and be signed by the chief administrator(s) or the clerk(s) to county board of supervisors where there is no chief administrator. The chief administrator(s) or clerk(s), in signing the application, must certify that the applicant jurisdiction(s) held the public hearing required in subdivision 2 of this subsection.

C. Within 60 days following the application submission deadline, the Department shall review and the Director shall recommend to the Governor those applications that meet a minimum threshold standard as set by the Department and are competitively determined to have the greatest potential for accomplishing the purposes of the program.

D. Enterprise zones designated pursuant to section § 59.1-542 of the Code of Virginia will be designated for an initial 10-year period except as provided for in 13 VAC 5-112-510 and 13 VAC 5-112-520. Upon recommendation of the Director of the Department, the Governor may renew zones for up to two five-year renewal periods.

E. A local governing body whose application for zone designation is denied shall be notified and provided with the reasons for denial.

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13 VAC 112-470 Procedures and requirements for joint applications.

A. Two or more adjacent localities may file a joint application for an enterprise zone as provided for in 13 VAC 5-112-430 and must meet the requirements set out in this section..

B. Localities applying for a joint zone must demonstrate a regional need for an enterprise zone and a regional impact that could not be achieved through a single jurisdiction zone.

C. Applicants for a joint zone shall also specify what mechanisms will be used to ensure that the economic benefits of such a zone are shared among the applicant localities.

D. A joint enterprise zone shall consist of no more than three noncontiguous zone areas for each participating locality.

E. Each jurisdiction comprising the proposed joint enterprise zone may have the maximum acreage as specified by the size guidelines in 13 VAC 5-112-440.

F. The applicants may designate one jurisdiction to act as program administrator. The jurisdiction so designated shall be responsible for filing annual reports as provided for in 13 VAC 5-112-560.

G. In order to submit a joint application, Form EZ-1 must be completed and filed by the jurisdiction acting as program administrator in accordance with the procedures set forth in subdivision B 1 through 3 of 13 VAC 5-112-460. In addition, a copy of Form EZ-1-JA must be completed by each of the other participating jurisdictions to certify that they are in agreement in filing the joint application. A copy or copies of Form EZ-1-JA must be submitted to the Department with Form EZ-1.

H. The applicants must meet all other requirements of these regulations pertaining to

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applicants. In the case of joint applications, all references to "applicant" and "local governing body" contained in the text of these regulations shall mean the governing body of each participating jurisdiction.

13 VAC 5-112-480 Application considerations.

A. Consideration for enterprise zone designations shall be based upon the locality-wide need and impact of such a designation.

B. Need shall be assessed in part by the following distress factors: (i) the average unemployment rate for the locality over the most recent three-year period, (ii) the average median adjusted gross income for the locality over the most recent three-year period, and (iii) the average percentage of public school students within the locality receiving free or reduced price lunches over the most recent three-year period. These distress factors shall account for at least 50 percent of the consideration given to local governments' for enterprise zone designation.

C. Local governments submitting applications for enterprise zone designation shall propose local incentives that address the economic conditions within their locality and that will help stimulate real property improvements and new job creation. Such local incentives include, but are not limited to: (i) reduction of permit fees; (ii) reduction of user fees; (iii) reduction of business, professional and occupational license tax; (iv) partial exemption from taxation of substantially rehabilitated real estate pursuant to § 58.1-3221; and (v) adoption of a local enterprise zone development taxation program pursuant to Article 4.2 (§ 58.1-3245.6 et seq.) of Chapter 32 of Title 58.1. The extent and duration of such incentives shall conform to the requirements of the Constitution of Virginia and the Constitution of the United States. In making application for designation as an enterprise zone, the application may also contain proposals for



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regulatory flexibility, including but not limited to: (a) special zoning districts, (b) permit process reform, (c) exemptions from local ordinances, and (d) other public incentives proposed in the locality's application which shall be binding upon the locality upon designation of the enterprise zone.

D. The likely impact of proposed local incentives in addressing the economic conditions within the locality, and in stimulating real property investments and job creation together with the projected impact of state incentives, will be factors in evaluating applications.

E. A locality may establish eligibility criteria for local incentives that differ from the criteria required to qualify for the incentives provided in this chapter.

F. Proposed local incentives may be provided by the local governing body itself or by an assigned agent or agents such as a local redevelopment and housing authority, an industrial development authority, a private non-profit entity or a private for-profit entity. In the case of a county which includes acreage in an incorporated town (s), the county may designate the governing body of the town(s) to serve as its assigned agent for incentives to be provided by the town(s).

PART X.

PROCEDURES FOR ZONE AMENDMENT

13 VAC-5-112 490 Amendment of approved applications.

A. A local governing body will be permitted to request amendments to approved applications for zone designation in accordance with the procedures and requirements set out in this section.

Each jurisdiction participating in a joint zone may amend their portion of the application, including boundaries and incentives, independently of the other participating jurisdictions.

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B. The applicant jurisdiction must be current on the submission of annual reports as set forth in 13 VAC 5-112-550 in order to amend an approved application.

C. The applicant jurisdiction must hold at least one public hearing on the requested amendment prior to its submission to the Department. This public hearing may not have been held more than six months prior to the amendment submission. In the case of a boundary amendment that involves the elimination of area or areas, the applicant jurisdiction must separately notify each property owner and business located within the affected area of the proposed amendment prior to holding the public hearing.

D. A request for an amendment must be submitted to the Department on Form EZ-2. This form must be accompanied by a resolution of the local governing body and must certify that the applicant jurisdiction held the public hearing required in subsection C. of this section prior to the adoption of the resolution. In the case of a joint application, Form EZ-2 must be completed by the jurisdiction requesting the amendment and must be accompanied by Form EZ-2-JA. This form certifies that the other participating jurisdictions are in agreement in filing the request for amendment.

E. An enterprise zone application may be amended annually, at least 12 months from the last amendment application by the jurisdiction. Amendments may be to the entire application or individual sections such as the boundary or incentives.

F. A zone boundary amendment may not consist of a site for a single business firm or be less than 10 acres.

G. A non-contiguous area (s) may be added to an enterprise zone through a boundary amendment. However, no enterprise zone shall have more than three non-contiguous areas.

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H. The total zone acreage resulting from a boundary amendment must conform to the size guidelines set forth in 13 VAC5-112-440.

I. Boundary amendments that involve the elimination of area or areas from a zone shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis with the potential impact on affected businesses and property owners being given primary consideration. Such boundary changes cannot involve more than 15 percent of the total zone acreage.

J. A county may amend its zone boundaries to include as part of the county's total acreage, acreage in any town located within the county provided it meets sections A-I above. This shall not constitute a joint zone and does not provide the town with the ability to make any zone amendments, create sub zone(s) or give the town its own zone acreage allocation. In such situations, towns may provide local incentives in addition to the county incentives.

K. The Department will approve an amendment to local incentives only when the proposed incentive is equal to or superior to that in the original application or any previous amendment approved by the Department. The Department will approve an amendment of zone boundaries only if the proposed amendment is deemed to be consistent with the purposes of the program as determined by the Department.

L. A local governing body that is denied an application amendment shall be provided with the reasons for denial.

PART XI.

PROCEDURES FOR ANNUAL REVIEW

13 VAC 5-112-500 Annual review of enterprise zones.

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A. Annually, the Department will review the performance and effectiveness of each enterprise zone in creating new jobs, encouraging private investment and usage of state incentives based on information provided by the locality (s) in their annual report pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-550 and during periodic on-site visit. The Department shall notify the locality(s) of any concerns and make recommendations for improvement where necessary.

B. The Department shall annually provide enterprise zone localities with a current listing of all qualified business firms, qualified large zone residents and qualified zone investors.

PART XII.

PROCEDURES FOR ZONE TERMINATION

13 VAC 5-112-510 Failure to provide local program incentives.

A. If the local governing body or assigned agent(s) is unable or unwilling to provide the specified local incentives as proposed in its application for zone designation or as approved by the Department in an amendment the following procedures will apply. In the case of joint applications, these procedures will apply if either local governing body or its assigned agent or agents is unable or unwilling to provide approved local incentives.

B. A local governing body must notify the Department in writing within 30 days of any inability or unwillingness to provide an approved local program incentive.

C. A local governing body will have 60 days after submission of the notice required in subsection B of this section to request an amendment to its application. Such a request shall be filed in accordance with the procedures set forth in 13 VAC 5-112-490.

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D. The Department will review requests for amendments in accordance with the requirements set forth in 13 VAC 5-112-490. Approval of an amendment will allow a zone to continue in operation. If a local governing body fails to provide notice as set forth in subsection B of this section, or has its request for an amendment denied, then the Department shall terminate that enterprise zone designation.

13 VAC 5-112-520 Failure to qualify for state incentives.

If no business firms, large zone residents or zone investors have qualified for incentives as provided for in 13 VAC 5-112-20, 13 VAC 5-112-110, 13 VAC 5-112-200, 13 VAC 5-112-260 and 13 VAC 5-112-330 within any five-year period, the Department shall terminate that enterprise zone designation.

PART XIII.

PROCEDURES FOR ENTERPRISE ZONE RENEWAL

13 VAC 5-112-530 Procedures for zone renewal.

A. Enterprise zones designated pursuant to 13 VAC 5-112-460 are in effect for an initial 10-year period with up to two five-year renewal periods, except as provided for in 13 VAC 5-112-510 and 13 VAC 5-112-520. Recommendations for five-year renewals shall be based on the locality's performance of its enterprise zone responsibilities, the continued need for such a zone, and its effectiveness in creating jobs and capital investment. The following procedures shall be used in considering such an enterprise zone for renewal.

B. In anticipation of the tenth and fifteen anniversaries of an enterprise zone's designation, the locality (s) shall submit to the Department on the prescribed form information regarding, but not

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limited to: 1. the area conditions; 2. the continued need for the enterprise zone; 3. its long-term effectiveness in creating jobs and capital investment. The Department shall also consider the locality (s) long-term performance of enterprise zone responsibilities.

C. Localities that have shown satisfactory performance and effectiveness, or that are making steady improvement in performance and effectiveness or have a continued need for an enterprise zone will be recommended to the Governor by the Department for an additional five-year designation period. No enterprise zone designation shall be in effect more than twenty-years.

D. Localities that have shown consistently poor performance and effectiveness or that no longer need an enterprise zone will not be recommended for renewal and will be notified of such in writing by the Department.

PART XIV.

ZONE TERMINATION AND INCENTIVE QUALIFICATION

13 VA 5-112-540 Zone termination and incentive qualification.

A. A zone shall be terminated in accordance with the procedures set forth in 13 VAC 5-112-510, VAC 5-112-520 and 13 VAC 5-112-530, D. upon written notice to a local governing body. The date of such notice is considered to be the date of zone termination.

B. Qualified business firms, qualified large zone residents and qualified zone investors located in a terminated zone may continue to request state enterprise zone incentives for any remaining years in the incentive period for which they are eligible as provided for in 13 VAC 5-112-20, 13 VAC 5-112-110, 13 VAC 5-112-200, 13 VAC 5-112-260 and 13 VAC 5-112-330.

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C. In the case of business firms and large zone residents qualified under 13 VAC 5-112-20, 13 VAC 5-112-110 and 13 VAC 5-112-200, the incentive period shall not go beyond 2019.

PART XV.ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS13 VAC 5-112-550 Annual reporting.

A. A local governing body shall submit annual reports to the Department for the purpose of program monitoring and evaluation. Annual reports shall be submitted to the Department on Form EZ-3-AR no later than July 15 of the following year. Annual reports shall include information and data for the purpose of program evaluation as requested on Form EZ-3-AR.

B. The Department shall review the effectiveness in creating jobs and capital investment and activity occurring within designated enterprise zones and shall annually report its findings to the Senate Finance Committee, the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor, the House Appropriations Committee, and the House Committee on Commerce and Labor. When the potential exists that the annual fiscal limitations on the enterprise zone incentives will be fully utilized, thus triggering their pro rata distribution, the Department shall include this information in the annual report.

13 VAC 5-112-560 Confidentiality of information

A. Pursuant to § 59.1-3 of the Code of Virginia, except in accordance with proper judicial order or as otherwise provided by law, any employee or former employee of the Department shall not divulge any information acquired by him in the performance of his duties with respect to employment, property, or income of any business firm submitted to the Department pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Code of Virginia. Any person violating this section shall be guilty of a Class 2

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misdemeanor. The provisions of this section shall not be applicable, however, to:

1. Acts performed or words spoken or published in the line of duty under law;

2. Inquiries and investigations to obtain information as to the implementation of this chapter by a duly constituted committee of the General Assembly, or when such inquiry or investigation is relevant to its study, provided that any such information shall be privileged;

3. Disclosures of information to the Department of Taxation or the State Corporation Commission as may be required to implement the provisions of this chapter; or

4. The publication of statistics so classified as to prevent the identification of particular business firms.