

3837--A

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

February 20, 2015

Introduced by Sen. LANZA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government -- recommended to the Committee on Local Government in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the general municipal law and the tax law, in relation to enacting the New York state green economic development zones act

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as
2 the "New York state green economic development zones act".

3 S 2. The general municipal law is amended by adding a new article 18-D
4 to read as follows:

5 ARTICLE 18-D

6 GREEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONES

7 SECTION 974. SHORT TITLE.

8 974-A. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND DECLARATION.

9 974-B. DEFINITIONS.

10 974-C. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSIONER.

11 S 974. SHORT TITLE. THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY BE CITED AS
12 THE "NEW YORK STATE GREEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONES ACT".

13 S 974-A. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND DECLARATION. IT IS HEREBY FOUND
14 AND DECLARED THAT THERE EXISTS WITHIN THE STATE THE NEED TO STIMULATE
15 EMPLOYMENT AND MORE EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION BY UTILIZING THE EMERGING
16 GREEN TECHNOLOGY THAT WILL REDUCE THE OUTPUT OF CARBON IN THE ATMOSPHERE
17 OF THE STATE, IMPROVE THE STATE'S ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OF LIFE AND
18 GENERAL HEALTH OF THE RESIDENTS. THIS NEED REQUIRES THE STATE GOVERNMENT
19 TO TARGET AREAS FOR EXTRAORDINARY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN ORDER
20 TO STIMULATE PRIVATE INVESTMENT, PRIVATE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND JOB
21 CREATION. IT IS THE PUBLIC POLICY OF THE STATE TO OFFER SPECIAL INCEN-

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

LBD01033-02-6

1 TIVES AND ASSISTANCE THAT WILL PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW GREEN
2 BUSINESSES AND THE EXPANSION OF EXISTING BUSINESSES WITHIN PRE-DESIGNAT-
3 ED AREAS AND TO DO SO WITHOUT ENCOURAGING THE RELOCATION OF BUSINESS
4 INVESTMENT FROM OTHER AREAS OF THE STATE. IT IS FURTHER FOUND AND
5 DECLARED THAT IT IS THE PUBLIC POLICY OF THE STATE TO ACHIEVE THESE
6 GOALS THROUGH THE MUTUAL COOPERATION OF ALL LEVELS OF STATE AND LOCAL
7 GOVERNMENT AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY. STATEN ISLAND FACES UNIQUE AND
8 SERIOUS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES THAT ARE NOT ENCOUNTERED BY OTHER
9 COMPARABLE COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES IN THE REGION. THESE INCLUDE THE
10 COST OF TRANSPORTATION DUE TO DISTANCE, TOLLS AND TRAFFIC AS WELL AS THE
11 LIMITED DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES BECAUSE OF WETLANDS AND BROWNFIELDS.
12 SPECIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH TAX BENEFITS IS REQUIRED TO ALLOW THE
13 PROPOSED AREA TO BE COMPETITIVE WITHIN THE REGION.

14 S 974-B. DEFINITIONS. AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE, THE FOLLOWING TERMS
15 SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING MEANINGS UNLESS THE CONTEXT SHALL INDICATE
16 ANOTHER OR DIFFERENT MEANING OR INTENT:

17 (A) "APPLICANT" SHALL MEAN THE COUNTY, CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE SUBMIT-
18 TING AN APPLICATION IN THE MANNER AUTHORIZED BY LOCAL LAW FOR DESIG-
19 NATION OF AN AREA AS A GREEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONE.

20 (B) "ENTERPRISE" SHALL MEAN A BUSINESS ENTERPRISE THAT IS AUTHORIZED
21 TO DO BUSINESS IN THIS STATE AND IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED AND
22 FOUND TO COMPLY WITH GREEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONE CRITERIA.

23 (C) "GREEN BUSINESS" SHALL MEAN A BUSINESS THAT PRIMARILY OPERATES IN
24 ONE OR MORE OF THREE AREAS: PRODUCTION, SERVICE AND REPAIR, AND RESEARCH
25 AND DEVELOPMENT. A GREEN PRODUCTION COMPANY IS A COMPANY DEALING PRIMA-
26 RILY WITH THE MANUFACTURING AND DISTRIBUTION OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY TECH-
27 NOLOGIES AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTION TECHNOLOGIES. GREEN
28 PRODUCTION COMPANIES INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, BIO FUEL DEVELOP-
29 MENT, SOLAR PANEL PRODUCTION OR ASSEMBLY, WIND TURBINE PRODUCTION OR
30 ASSEMBLY, CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE MECHANISM, CLEAN FUEL VEHICLES,
31 RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT, OR ENERGY EFFICIENCY TECHNOLOGIES. GREEN
32 PRODUCTION SHALL ALSO INCLUDE, BUT SHALL NOT BE LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOW-
33 ING: (1) GREENHOUSE EMISSION REDUCTION TECHNOLOGIES; (2) THE ASSEMBLY
34 OF ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS FOR A CLEAN-FUELED VEHICLE; OR (3) ENERGY EFFI-
35 CIENCY TECHNOLOGIES; WHERE

36 (A) "GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTION TECHNOLOGIES" SHALL MEAN AND
37 INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO: (I) COGENERATION TECHNOLOGIES, WHICH
38 SHALL MEAN ANY ONE OF THE SEVERAL TECHNOLOGIES WHEREIN WASTE HEAT FROM
39 ON-SITE ELECTRICAL GENERATION PROCESSES IS RECOVERED TO PROVIDE STEAM OR
40 HOT WATER TO MEET ON-SITE NEEDS, SUCH AS HEATING AND/OR AIR CONDITIONING
41 AND WHICH ATTAINS OVERALL SYSTEM EFFICIENCY AS ESTABLISHED BY THE
42 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, CONSIDERING BOTH THERMAL AND
43 ELECTRICAL PROCESSES TOGETHER; (II) FURNACE AND BOILER REPLACEMENTS AND
44 RETROFITS, PROVIDED THAT THE NEW OR RETROFITTED FURNACES AND BOILERS
45 SHALL NOT AT ANY TIME OPERATE ON DIESEL FUEL WITH SULFUR CONTENT GREATER
46 THAN 0.05 PERCENT BY WEIGHT; (III) THE PRODUCTION OF CLEAN-FUELED VEHI-
47 CLES OR THE CONVERSION OF EXISTING VEHICLES TO CLEAN-FUELED VEHICLES;
48 AND (IV) OTHER MEASURES THAT WILL REDUCE THE DEMAND FOR AND/OR THE
49 CONSUMPTION OF ENERGY INCLUDING FUELS, AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT
50 OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION WITH THE NEW YORK STATE ENERGY RESEARCH
51 AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY;

52 (B) "CLEAN-FUELED VEHICLE" SHALL MEAN ANY MOTOR VEHICLE AS DEFINED IN
53 SECTION ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE OF THE VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC LAW, THAT
54 USES ELECTRICITY, INCLUDING ELECTRICITY EITHER STORED OR GENERATED
55 ON-BOARD, AS ITS PRIMARY MOTIVE FORCE, OR THAT IS FUELED BY NATURAL GAS,
56 PROPANE, HYDROGEN OR ANY OTHER NON-CARBON PRODUCING FUEL;

1 (C) "ENERGY EFFICIENCY TECHNOLOGIES" SHALL MEAN TECHNOLOGIES THAT
2 REDUCE THE CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO: (I)
3 REPLACEMENT OF INEFFICIENT LIGHTING FIXTURES; (II) APPLIANCES AND EQUIP-
4 MENT THAT MEET ENERGY EFFICIENCY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AS IDENTIFIED IN
5 ARTICLE SIXTEEN OF THE ENERGY LAW; AND (III) OTHER SUCH MEASURES THAT
6 WILL REDUCE THE DEMAND FOR AND/OR CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY AS DETER-
7 MINED BY THE NEW YORK STATE ENERGY AND RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY;

8 (D) "RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT" SHALL MEAN THE PURCHASE AND INSTAL-
9 LATION OF TECHNOLOGIES DESIGNED TO CONVERT RENEWABLE ENERGY INTO ELEC-
10 TRICITY OR OTHER END USES, WHERE RENEWABLE ENERGY SHALL MEAN RENEWABLE
11 ENERGY RESOURCES AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION TWELVE OF SECTION 1-103 OF
12 THE ENERGY LAW;

13 (E) "GREEN SERVICE AND REPAIR" SHALL MEAN ANY COMPANY THAT DEALS
14 PRIMARILY WITH THE PROVISION OF SERVICES TO OTHER COMPANIES OR INDIVID-
15 UALS IN A SUSTAINABLE OR ENERGY EFFICIENT MANNER. GREEN SERVICE AND
16 REPAIR COMPANIES INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, THOSE OFFERING SUCH
17 SERVICES AS GREEN ROOFING, LEED CERTIFICATION AND INSPECTION SERVICES,
18 THE GREEN BUILDING INITIATIVE'S GREEN GLOBES SYSTEM, USE AND SALE OF LOW
19 VOC PAINTS, LOW ENERGY RADIANT FLOORING, WHITE, COATED, OR GREEN ROOF
20 INSTALLATION, RECOVERY AND RECYCLING PROCESSING, REPLACEMENT OF INEFFI-
21 CIENT TECHNOLOGIES, CLEAN-FUEL VEHICLE SALES AND REPAIR, COGENERATION
22 TECHNOLOGY INSTALLATION AND REPAIR; AND

23 (F) "GREEN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT" SHALL MEAN ANY ENTITY THAT WORKS
24 PRIMARILY TO DISCOVER NEW KNOWLEDGE ABOUT GREEN PRODUCTS, PROCESSES, AND
25 SERVICES, AND THEN APPLIES THAT KNOWLEDGE TO CREATE NEW AND IMPROVED
26 GREEN PRODUCTS, PROCESSES, AND SERVICES THAT FILL MARKET NEEDS. GREEN
27 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO,
28 STUDIES INVOLVING IMPROVEMENTS TO RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY, SUSTAINA-
29 BLE FARMING OR LANDSCAPING PROCESSES, WATER CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGIES,
30 ENERGY EFFICIENCY TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS, ALTERNATIVE FUEL DEVELOPMENT,
31 COST-BENEFIT ANALYSES OF SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES, ENERGY RETURN ON INVEST-
32 MENT, GREEN EDUCATION OUTREACH, AND URBAN SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES.

33 (D) "COMMISSIONER" SHALL MEAN THE COMMISSIONER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOP-
34 MENT.

35 (E) "GREEN ZONE" SHALL MEAN THE AREA OF STATEN ISLAND DEFINED BY THE
36 FOLLOWING AREA BASED ON THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING
37 ZONING MAPS: BEGINNING AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE NORTH SIDE OF THE FOOT
38 OF THE GOETHALS BRIDGES AND THE US PIERHEAD AND BULKHEAD LINE; THENCE
39 RUNNING EASTERLY 3,214.78 FEET ALONG AND PARALLEL TO NORTH SIDE OF THE
40 GOETHALS BRIDGE EXTENSION TO THE CENTERLINE OF WESTERN AVENUE; THENCE
41 RUNNING NORTH 93.71 FEET TO THE CENTER LINE OF GOETHALS ROAD NORTH;
42 THENCE RUNNING EAST 5,909.12 FEET ALONG AND PARALLEL TO THE SOUTH SIDE
43 OF GOETHALS ROAD NORTH TO CENTERLINE OF SOUTH AVENUE; THENCE RUNNING
44 SOUTH 433.81 FEET ALONG AND PARALLEL THE WEST SIDE OF SOUTH AVENUE TO
45 THE CENTERLINE OF FAHEY AVENUE; THENCE RUNNING EAST 424.89 FEET ALONG
46 AND PARALLEL TO THE SOUTH SIDE OF FAHEY AVENUE TO THE CENTERLINE OF
47 FELTON STREET; THENCE RUNNING SOUTH 1,314.02 FEET ALONG AND PARALLEL THE
48 WEST SIDE OF FELTON STREET TO THE CENTERLINE OF LAMBERTS LANE; THENCE
49 RUNNING SOUTH 790.62 ALONG THE FELTON STREET LINE TO THE INTERSECTION OF
50 GRAHAM AVENUE AND LANDER AVENUE; THENCE RUNNING SOUTH 3,413.10 FEET
51 ALONG AND PARALLEL TO THE WEST SIDE OF GRAHAM AVENUE TO THE CENTERLINE
52 OF VICTORY BOULEVARD; THENCE RUNNING SOUTHEAST 3,114.21 ALONG THE WEST
53 SIDE OF VICTORY BOULEVARD TO THE CENTERLINE OF TRAVIS AVENUE; THENCE
54 RUNNING EAST 5,030.20 FEET ALONG AND PARALLEL THE SOUTH SIDE OF TRAVIS
55 AVENUE TO THE CENTERLINE OF RICHMOND AVENUE; THENCE RUNNING SOUTH
56 12,265.02 ALONG AND PARALLEL TO THE WEST SIDE OF RICHMOND AVENUE TO THE

CENTERLINE OF ARTHUR KILL ROAD; THENCE RUNNING WEST 27,432.19 FEET ALONG AND PARALLEL THE NORTH SIDE OF ARTHUR KILL ROAD TO THE INTERSECTION OF ARTHUR KILL ROAD AND KREISCHER ST.; THENCE RUNNING 992.60 FEET TO THE INTERSECTION OF ANDROVETTE STREET; AND PARALLEL TO THE EAST SIDE OF THE US PIERHEAD AND BULKHEAD LINE TO THE POINT AND PLACE OF THE BEGINNING.

S 974-C. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSIONER. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL:

(A) PROMULGATE REGULATIONS, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF LABOR, FOR PROGRAM EVALUATION AND COORDINATE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN EVALUATION SYSTEM, WHICH IS CAPABLE OF COMPILING AND ANALYZING ACCURATE AND CONSISTENT INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR AN ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER STATUTORY OBJECTIVES AND CRITERIA ARE BEING MET;

(B) DESIGNATE BUSINESSES AS MEETING THE CRITERIA OF A GREEN BUSINESS; AND

(C) REVIEW PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES AND PROGRESS IN MEETING OBJECTIVES.

S 3. Section 210-B of the tax law is amended by adding a new subdivision 49 to read as follows:

49. GREEN ZONE TAX REDUCTION CREDIT. (A) ALLOWANCE OF CREDIT. A TAXPAYER SHALL BE ALLOWED A CREDIT AGAINST THE TAX IMPOSED BY THIS CHAPTER. SUCH CREDIT, TO BE COMPUTED AS HEREINAFTER PROVIDED, SHALL BE ALLOWED FOR A QUALIFIED GREEN BUSINESS WITHIN A GREEN ZONE, OR A SOLE PROPRIETOR OF A QUALIFIED GREEN BUSINESS WITHIN A GREEN ZONE OR A MEMBER OF A PARTNERSHIP WHICH IS A QUALIFIED GREEN BUSINESS WITHIN A GREEN ZONE.

(B) AMOUNT OF CREDIT. THE AMOUNT OF THE CREDIT FOR TAXABLE YEARS BEGINNING ON OR AFTER JANUARY FIRST, TWO THOUSAND SEVENTEEN, SHALL BE COMPUTED AT THIRTY PERCENT FOR EACH DOLLAR OF THE TOTAL BUSINESS AND ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF NEW CONSTRUCTION RELATED TO THE BUSINESS OPERATION SITE OF THE QUALIFYING COMPANY AND/OR IMPROVEMENTS EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN TWENTY PERCENT OF THE TAXABLE ASSESSED VALUE OF THE PROPERTY FOR EXISTING SITES BEING IMPROVED. THIS IS A NON-REFUNDABLE TAX CREDIT WHICH IF NOT USED BY THE TAXPAYER IN TAX YEAR ONE CAN BE USED IN TAX YEAR TWO. NO ADDITIONAL TIME MAY BE ADDED TO PERIOD OF USE.

S 4. Subparagraph (B) of paragraph 1 of subsection (i) of section 606 of the tax law is amended by adding a new clause (xli) to read as follows:

(XLI) GREEN ZONE TAX REDUCTION	AMOUNT OF CREDIT UNDER
CREDIT UNDER SUBSECTION	SUBDIVISION FORTY-NINE OF
(CCC)	SECTION TWO HUNDRED TEN-B

S 5. Section 606 of the tax law is amended by adding a new subsection (ccc) to read as follows:

(CCC) GREEN ZONE TAX REDUCTION CREDIT. (1) A TAXPAYER SHALL BE ALLOWED A CREDIT, TO BE COMPUTED AS HEREINAFTER PROVIDED, AGAINST THE TAX IMPOSED BY THIS ARTICLE, WHERE THE TAXPAYER IS A QUALIFIED GREEN BUSINESS WITHIN A GREEN ZONE, OR A SOLE PROPRIETOR OF A QUALIFIED GREEN BUSINESS WITHIN A GREEN ZONE OR A MEMBER OF A PARTNERSHIP WHICH IS A QUALIFIED GREEN BUSINESS WITHIN A GREEN ZONE.

(2) AMOUNT OF CREDIT. THE AMOUNT OF THE CREDIT FOR TAXABLE YEARS BEGINNING ON OR AFTER JANUARY FIRST, TWO THOUSAND SEVENTEEN, SHALL BE COMPUTED AT THIRTY PERCENT FOR EACH DOLLAR OF THE TOTAL BUSINESS AND ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF NEW CONSTRUCTION RELATED TO THE BUSINESS OPERATION SITE OF THE QUALIFYING COMPANY AND/OR IMPROVEMENTS EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN TWENTY PERCENT OF THE TAXABLE ASSESSED VALUE OF THE PROPERTY FOR EXISTING SITES BEING IMPROVED. THIS CREDIT MAY ONLY BE TAKEN BY THE TAXPAYER IN ONE TAX YEAR AND ONCE USED MAY NOT BE USED AGAIN.

S 6. Section 1511 of the tax law is amended by adding a new subdivision (dd) to read as follows:

1 (DD) GREEN ZONE TAX REDUCTION CREDIT. (1) A TAXPAYER SHALL BE ALLOWED
2 A CREDIT, TO BE COMPUTED AS HEREINAFTER PROVIDED, AGAINST THE TAX
3 IMPOSED BY THIS ARTICLE, WHERE THE TAXPAYER IS A QUALIFIED GREEN BUSI-
4 NESS WITHIN A GREEN ZONE, OR A SOLE PROPRIETOR OF A QUALIFIED GREEN
5 BUSINESS WITHIN A GREEN ZONE OR A MEMBER OF A PARTNERSHIP WHICH IS A
6 QUALIFIED GREEN BUSINESS WITHIN A GREEN ZONE.
7 (2) AMOUNT OF CREDIT. THE AMOUNT OF THE CREDIT FOR TAXABLE YEARS
8 BEGINNING ON OR AFTER JANUARY FIRST, TWO THOUSAND SEVENTEEN, SHALL BE
9 COMPUTED AT THIRTY PERCENT FOR EACH DOLLAR OF THE TOTAL BUSINESS AND ONE
10 HUNDRED PERCENT OF NEW CONSTRUCTION RELATED TO THE BUSINESS OPERATION
11 SITE OF THE QUALIFYING COMPANY AND/OR IMPROVEMENTS EQUAL TO OR GREATER
12 THAN TWENTY PERCENT OF THE TAXABLE ASSESSED VALUE OF THE PROPERTY FOR
13 EXISTING SITES BEING IMPROVED. THIS CREDIT MAY ONLY BE TAKEN BY THE
14 TAXPAYER IN ONE TAX YEAR AND ONCE USED MAY NOT BE USED AGAIN.
15 S 7. This act shall take effect immediately.