

House Bill 578

By: Representative Marin of the 96<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 7 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to the imposition, rate, and computation of income tax, so as to provide for an  
3 income tax credit with respect to qualified citizenship expenses for low-income families; to  
4 provide for definitions; to provide for conditions and limitations; to provide for powers,  
5 duties, and authority of the state revenue commissioner with respect to the foregoing; to  
6 provide for an effective date; to provide for applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for  
7 other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 SECTION 1.

10 Article 2 of Chapter 7 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
11 imposition, rate, and computation of income tax, is amended by adding a new Code section  
12 to read as follows:

13 "48-7-29.18.

14 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

15 (1) 'Qualified citizenship expenses' means amounts expended by the taxpayer on behalf  
16 of a qualified individual for any or all of the following:

17 (A) Any filing, application, and biometric fees paid to the United States Citizenship  
18 and Immigration Services in connection with an N-400 naturalization application for  
19 a qualified individual;

20 (B) Any amounts paid for enrollment of a qualified individual in an English language  
21 class which individual is over the age of 18 at the time of completion of such class; and

22 (C) Any costs for citizenship classes.

23 (2) 'Qualified individual' means the taxpayer, the taxpayer's spouse, or a dependent of  
24 the taxpayer but only for a period commencing with the filing of an I-485 application to  
25 register permanent residence or at the time such individual enters the United States on an

26 immigrant visa and ending on the date such individual becomes a naturalized citizen of  
27 the United States.

28 (b)(1) A taxpayer shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed by Code Section  
29 48-7-20 for qualified citizenship expenses in an amount not to exceed the actual amount  
30 expended or \$300.00, whichever is less. A taxpayer shall only be eligible to claim a  
31 credit under this paragraph if the gross income of such taxpayer and the taxpayer's spouse  
32 who resides with such taxpayer does not exceed \$41,300.00 for the year in which the  
33 credit is claimed and allowed.

34 (2) A taxpayer shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed by Code Section 48-7-20  
35 for qualified citizenship expenses expended on behalf of a qualified individual who is a  
36 member of the armed forces of the United States in an amount not to exceed the actual  
37 amount expended or \$300.00, whichever is less.

38 (c) In the event that the total amount of the tax credit under this Code section for a taxable  
39 year exceeds the taxpayer's income tax liability, any unused tax credit shall be allowed the  
40 taxpayer against succeeding years' tax liabilities. No such tax credit shall be allowed the  
41 taxpayer against prior years' tax liabilities.

42 (d) The commissioner shall be authorized to promulgate any rules and regulations  
43 necessary to implement and administer the provisions of this Code section."

44 **SECTION 2.**

45 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2012, and shall be applicable to all taxable  
46 years beginning on or after January 1, 2012.

47 **SECTION 3.**

48 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.