

House Bill 105 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Watson of the 172nd, Powell of the 171st, Meeks of the 178th, McCall of the 33rd, and Pirkle of the 155th

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, computation, and exemptions from state income tax, so as to
3 exempt from state income tax certain income received by taxpayers as payments from a
4 disaster relief or assistance program administered by the United States Department of
5 Agriculture in connection with Hurricane Michael; to provide for legislative findings; to
6 provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and
7 for other purposes.

8 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 (1) The General Assembly finds and determines that Hurricane Michael has had a
11 catastrophic impact on the citizens and the economy of Georgia and has particularly
12 devastated the agriculture industry on which many citizens of Georgia are heavily dependent
13 for their livelihood and on which the state is dependent for a large portion of its gross
14 domestic product.

15 (2) The General Assembly further finds and declares that, due to the severity and scope of
16 this natural disaster, it is appropriate and advisable under these very limited circumstances
17 that any relief or assistance payments awarded to taxpayers impacted by Hurricane Michael
18 by the federal government through the United States Department of Agriculture should not
19 be treated and taxed as income by the State of Georgia in order to provide relief to Georgia
20 farmers and spur the rebuilding of Georgia's agriculture industry.

21 **SECTION 2.**

22 Article 2 of Chapter 7 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
23 imposition, rate, computation, and exemptions from state income tax, is amended in
24 subsection (a) of Code Section 48-7-27, relating to the computation of taxable net income,
25 by adding a new paragraph to read as follows:

H. B. 105 (SUB)

26 "(11.2) For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2019, and ending on or before
27 December 31, 2023, income received as payments from a disaster relief or assistance
28 program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture in connection with
29 Hurricane Michael, which was a weather event declared to be a major disaster in this state
30 by the President of the United States during the 2018 calendar year, to the extent such
31 income is included in federal adjusted gross income or federal taxable income:"

32 **SECTION 3.**

33 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
34 without such approval.

35 **SECTION 4.**

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