

House Bill 1643

By: Representative Lim of the 99th

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 imposition, rate, computation, exemptions, and credits relative to state income
3 taxes, so as to create new tax credits for healthcare practitioners in designated zones and for
4 hiring certain employees in such zones; to provide for conditions and limitations; to provide
5 for definitions; to provide for promulgation of rules and regulations; to provide for related
6 matters; to provide for an effective date and 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
11 imposition, rate, computation, exemptions, and credits relative to state income taxes, is
12 amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

13 "48-7-29.01.

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

15 (1) 'Community health worker' means a front-line public health worker who:

(A) Is a trusted member of, or has an unusually close understanding of, the community being served;

(B) Serves as a liaison to, link to, or intermediary between health and social services and the community to:

(i) Facilitate access to services; and

(ii) Improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery; and

(C) Builds individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities, including:

(i) Outreach;

(ii) Community education;

(iii) The provision of health-related information to support individuals in the community;

(iv) Social support; and

(v) Advocacy.

(2) 'Designated zone' means any zone designated under:

(A) Chapter 61 of Title 36, the 'Urban Redevelopment Law';

(B) Chapter 88 of Title 36, the 'Enterprise Zone Employment Act of 1997';

(C) Code Section 48-7-40.1, relating to less developed areas; or

(D) Code Section 48-7-40.32, relating to revitalization zones.

(3) 'Healthcare practitioner' means a licensed healthcare provider who practices in a designated zone and provides:

(A) Primary care, including obstetrics, gynecological services, pediatric services, or geriatric services;

(B) Behavioral health services, including mental health or alcohol and substance abuse services; or

(C) Dental services.

(4) 'Qualified employee' means a healthcare practitioner, community health worker, or an interpreter who provides direct support to a healthcare practitioner in a designated zone and expands access to healthcare services in the zone:

(A) Who on January 1, 2023, did not work as a healthcare practitioner, community health worker, or interpreter in a qualified zone; and

(B) Who has not previously worked as a healthcare practitioner, community health worker, or interpreter in a designated zone, unless, after January 1, 2023, such person returns to practice in a designated zone after having practiced in a location that does not fall in a designated zone for at least three years.

(5) 'Qualified position' means a position for a qualified employee that pays at least 150 percent of the federal minimum wage, is full time, and is of indefinite duration.

(b)(1) A healthcare practitioner shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed by Code Section 48-7-20 in an amount equal to 50 percent of the amount of the state income tax that would otherwise be due from such practitioner. The tax credit may be claimed for up to five years, provided that the person continues to qualify as a healthcare practitioner under this Code section. No person shall be allowed a tax credit under this Code section and Code Section 48-7-29 in the same taxable year. Each person shall be limited to a total of five years of tax credits across this Code section and Code Section 48-7-29 combined. In no event shall the amount of the tax credit exceed the taxpayer's income tax liability, and any unused tax credit shall not be allowed to be carried forward to apply to the taxpayer's succeeding years' tax liability. No such tax credit shall be allowed the taxpayer against prior years' tax liability.

(2) No healthcare practitioner who on January 1, 2023, is currently practicing in a designated zone shall be eligible to receive the credit provided for in paragraph (1) of this subsection. No credit shall be allowed for a healthcare practitioner who has previously practiced in a designated zone, unless, after January 1, 2023, that healthcare practitioner

68 returns to practice in a designated zone after having practiced in a location that does not
69 fall in a designated zone for at least three years.

70 (c) A person qualifying as a healthcare practitioner who hires one or more persons in a
71 qualified position also shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed by Code Section
72 48-7-20 in an amount equal to \$5,000.00 against the state income tax that would otherwise
73 be due from such practitioner. In no event shall the amount of the tax credit exceed the
74 taxpayer's income tax liability, and any unused tax credit shall not be allowed to be carried
75 forward to apply to the taxpayer's succeeding years' tax liability. No such tax credit shall
76 be allowed the taxpayer against prior years' tax liability.

77 (d) The commissioner shall promulgate any rules and regulations necessary to implement
78 and administer this Code section."

79 **SECTION 2.**

80 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2023, and shall be applicable to taxable years
81 beginning on or after January 1, 2023.

82 **SECTION 3.**

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