- 1 HB144
- 2 136192-1
- 3 By Representative Roberts
- 4 RFD: Economic Development and Tourism
- 5 First Read: 07-FEB-12
- 6 PFD: 02/02/2012

1	136192-1:n:02/02/2012:JET/th LRS2012-686
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8	SYNOPSIS: This bill would expand this state's existing
9	tax incentives to investments by companies
10	primarily engaged in the coal mining industry.
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12	A BILL
13	TO BE ENTITLED
14	AN ACT
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16	To amend Sections 40-9B-3 and 40-18-190, Code of
17	Alabama 1975; to expand existing tax incentives to investments
18	by companies primarily engaged in the coal mining industry.
19	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:
20	Section 1. Sections 40-9B-3 and 40-18-190, Code of
21	Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:
22	"§40-9B-3.
23	"(a) For purposes of this chapter, the following
24	words and phrases mean:
25	"(1) ABATE, ABATEMENT. A reduction or elimination of
26	a taxpayer's liability for tax or payments required to be made
27	in lieu thereof. An abatement of transaction taxes imposed

under Chapter 23 of this title, or payments required to be
made in lieu thereof, shall relieve the seller from the
obligation to collect and pay over the transaction tax as if
the sale were to a person exempt, to the extent of the
abatement, from the transaction tax.

- "(2) ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RESOURCES. The definition given in Section 40-18-1.
- "(3) CONSTRUCTION RELATED TRANSACTION TAXES. The transaction taxes imposed by Chapter 23 of this title, or payments required to be made in lieu thereof, on tangible personal property and taxable services incorporated into an industrial development property, the cost of which may be added to capital account with respect to the property, determined without regard to any rule which permits expenditures properly chargeable to capital account to be treated as current expenses.
- "(4) DATA PROCESSING CENTER. An establishment at which not less than 50 new jobs are located, and which is engaged in the provision of complete processing and specialized reports from data, the provision of automated data processing and data entry services, the provision of an infrastructure for hosting or data processing services, the provision of specialized hosting activities, the provision of application service provisioning, the provision of general time-share mainframe facilities, or some combination of the foregoing, without regard to whether any other activities are conducted at the establishment.

"(5) EDUCATION TAXES. Ad valorem taxes, or payments required to be made in lieu thereof, that must, pursuant to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, legislative act, or the resolution or other action of the governing board authorizing the tax, be used for educational purposes or for capital improvements for education and local construction related transaction taxes levied for educational purposes or for capital improvements for education.

"(6) HEADQUARTERS FACILITY. Any trade or business described in the 2007 North American Industry Classification System, promulgated by the Executive Office of the President of the United States, Office of Management and Budget, National Industry 551114, at which not less than 50 new jobs are located.

- "(7) HYDROPOWER PRODUCTION. The definition given in Section 40-18-1.
- "inducement agreement," entered into between a private user and a public authority or county or municipal government and/or a resolution or other official action, an "inducement resolution," "inducement letter," or "official action" adopted by a public authority or county or municipal government, in each case expressing, among other things, the present intent of such public authority or county or municipal government to issue bonds in connection with the private use property therein described.

"(9) INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PROPERTY. Real and/or
personal property acquired in connection with establishing or
expanding an industrial or research enterprise in Alabama.

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"(10) INDUSTRIAL OR RESEARCH ENTERPRISE.

"a. Any trade or business described in the 2007 North American Industry Classification System, promulgated by the Executive Office of the President of the United States, Office of Management and Budget, Sectors 31 (other than National Industry 311811), 32, and 33; Subsectors 423, 424, 511, and 927; Industry Groups 2121, 5417, 5415, and 5182 (without regard to the premise that data processing and related services be performed in conjunction with a third-party); Industries 11331 and 48691; and National Industries 115111, 517110, 541380, and 561422 (other than establishments that originate telephone calls) and includes such trades and businesses as may be hereafter reclassified in any subsequent publication of the North American Industry Classification System or other industry classification system developed in conjunction with the United States Department of Commerce, or any process or treatment facility which recycles, reclaims, or converts any materials, which include solids, liquids, or gases, to a reusable product.

"b. With respect to abatements granted in accordance with Section 40-9B-9, and only with respect to such abatements, "industrial or research enterprise" means any trade or business described in the 2007 North American Industry Classification System within Subsector 493

1 (Warehousing and Storage), Industry Number 488310 (Port and 2 Harbor Operations), or Industry Number 488320 (Marine Cargo Handling), when such trade or business is conducted on 3 premises in which the Alabama State Port Authority has an ownership, leasehold, or other possessory interest and such 5 6 premises are used as part of the operations of the Alabama State Port Authority.

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- "c. "Industrial or research enterprise" includes the above-described trades and business and any others as may hereafter be reclassified in any subsequent publication of the NAICS or similar industry classification system developed in conjunction with the United States Department of Commerce or Office of Management and Budget.
 - "d. "Industrial or research enterprise" also includes any underground natural gas storage facility which is located in the Gulf Opportunity Zone, as that phrase is defined in the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005, developed from existing geologic reservoirs, including, without limitation, salt domes, and placed in service on or before December 31, 2013.
 - "e. "Industrial or research enterprise" also includes any plant, property, or facility that meets both of the following:
 - "1. It produces electricity from:
- 25 "(i) Alternative energy resources and has capital 26 costs of at least one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000); 27 or

- "(ii) Hydropower production and has capital costs of at least five million dollars (\$5,000,000).
- "2. All or a portion of the plant, property, or 3 facility is owned by one or more of the following: A utility described in Section 37-4-1(7)a., an entity organized under 5 the provisions of Chapter 6 of Title 37, or an authority both 6 7 organized and existing pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 50A of Title 11 and subject to the payments required to be 8 made in lieu of ad valorem, sales, use, license, and severance 9 10 taxes imposed by Section 11-50A-7, or an entity in which one 11 or more of the foregoing owns an interest.
 - "f. "Industrial or research enterprise" also includes any headquarters facility.
- "g. "Industrial or research enterprise" also
 includes any data processing center.

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- "h. "Industrial or research enterprise" also includes any research and development facility.
- "i. "Industrial or research enterprise" also includes any renewable energy facility.
 - "(11) MAJOR ADDITION. Any addition to an existing industrial development property that equals the lesser of: 30 percent of the original cost of the industrial development property or two million dollars (\$2,000,000). For purposes of this subsection, the original cost of existing industrial development property shall be the amount of industrial development property with respect to which an abatement was granted under this chapter when the property was constructed,

or if the existing industrial development property was constructed before January 1, 1993, the maximum amount that would have been allowed if the provisions of this chapter had applied at the time it was constructed. Only property that constitutes industrial development property shall be taken into account in making the determination in the previous sentence. Major addition shall include any addition costing at least two million dollars (\$2,000,000) which constitutes an industrial or research enterprise, regardless of whether added to an existing industrial development property.

"(12) MAXIMUM EXEMPTION PERIOD. Except as provided in Section 40-9B-11, a period equal to the shorter of:

"a. Ten years from and after: 1. The date of initial issuance by a county, city, or public authority of bonds to finance any costs of a private use property, or 2. If no such bonds are ever issued, the later of: (i) The date on which title to the property was acquired by or vested in the county, city, or public authority, or (ii) The date on which the property is or becomes owned, for federal income tax purposes, by a private user; or

"b. The weighted average economic life of the assets comprising such property, determined consistently with the provisions of 26 U.S.C. § 147(b) and measured from the date such property is placed in service.

"(13) MORTGAGE AND RECORDING TAXES. The taxes imposed by Chapter 22 of this title.

- "(14) NONEDUCATIONAL AD VALOREM TAXES. Ad valorem 1 2 taxes, or payments required to be made in lieu thereof, imposed by the state, counties, municipalities, and other 3 4 taxing jurisdictions of Alabama that are not required to be used for educational purposes or for capital improvements for 5 education.
- "(15) PERSON. Includes any individual, partnership, 7 trust, estate, or corporation. 8

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- "(16) PRIVATE USER. Any individual, partnership, or corporation organized for profit that is or will be treated as the owner of private use property for federal income tax purposes, any entity organized under Chapter 6 of Title 37, and any authority both organized and existing pursuant to Chapter 50A of Title 11 and subject to the payments required to be made in lieu of ad valorem, sales, use, license, and severance taxes imposed by Section 11-50A-7.
- "(17) PRIVATE USE INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY. Private use property that also constitutes industrial development property.
- "(18) PRIVATE USE PROPERTY. Any real and/or personal property which is or will be treated as owned by a private user for federal income tax purposes even though title may be held by a public authority or municipal or county government; any real and/or personal property which is owned by any entity organized under Chapter 6 of Title 37; and any real and/or personal property which is owned by any authority both organized and existing pursuant to Chapter 50A of Title 11,

- and subject to the payments required to be made in lieu of ad valorem, sales, use, license, and severance taxes imposed by Section 11-50A-7.
- "(19) PUBLIC AUTHORITY. A corporation created for

 public purposes pursuant to a provision of the Constitution of

 Alabama of 1901, or a general or local law that authorized it

 to issue bonds, the interest on which is exempt from the

 Alabama income tax, as in effect on May 21, 1992.
- 9 "(20) PUBLIC INDUSTRIAL AUTHORITY. A public

 10 authority authorized to issue bonds to acquire, construct,

 11 equip, or finance industrial development property.
- "(21) RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY. Any plant,
 property, or facility that either:

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- "a. Produces electricity or natural gas, in whole or in part, from biofuels as such term is defined in Section 2-2-90(c)(2) or from renewable energy resources as such term is defined in Section 40-18-1(30) with the exception that hydropower production shall be excluded from such definition; or
- 20 "b. Produces biofuel as such term is defined in 21 Section 2-2-90(c)(2).
 - "(22) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FACILITY. An establishment engaged in conducting original investigations undertaken on a systematic basis to gain new knowledge or applying research findings or other scientific knowledge to create new or significantly improved products or processes, or both.

"(23) STATEMENT OF INTENT. A written statement of intent to claim an abatement provided in this chapter, or to petition for local tax abatement, relating to an industrial or research enterprise described in paragraph e. of subdivision (10) of this subsection that is filed with the Department of Revenue at any time prior to the date on which the industrial or research enterprise described in paragraph e. of subdivision (10) of this subsection is placed in service in accordance with such procedures and on such form or forms as may be prescribed by the Department of Revenue. Such statement of intent shall contain a description of the industrial or research enterprise described in paragraph e. of subdivision (10) of this subsection; the date on which the acquisition, construction, installation, or equipping of the industrial or research enterprise described in paragraph e. of subdivision (10) of this subsection was commenced or is expected to commence; the actual or, if not known, the estimated capital costs of the industrial or research enterprise described in paragraph e. of subdivision (10) of this subsection; the number of new employees to be employed at the industrial or research enterprise described in paragraph e. of subdivision (10) of this subsection; and any other information required by the Department of Revenue.

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"(b) The abatements of ad valorem taxes, and payments in lieu thereof, allowed by amendments to this section by Act 2008-275 shall become effective for projects for which statements of intent are filed after December 31,

2011. No ad valorem taxes, or payments in lieu thereof, shall be abated for periods prior to January 1, 2012. The other abatements allowed by amendments made to this section by Act 2008-275 shall become effective after December 31, 2011.

"\$40-18-190.

- "(a) The following terms shall have the following meanings, respectively, when used in this article unless the context clearly requires otherwise:
 - "(1) BASE WAGE REQUIREMENT.
- "a. For qualifying projects in which an investing company files a written statement of intent (Form INT) with the department on or before May 21, 2009, "base wage requirement" means either an average hourly wage of not less than eight dollars (\$8) per hour or an average total compensation of not less than ten dollars (\$10) per hour, including benefits.

"b. For qualifying projects that are not located in a favored geographic area and for which an investing company files a written statement of intent (Form INT) with the department after May 21, 2009, "base wage requirement" means an average hourly wage, inclusive of all employees in Alabama, of not less than the lesser of fifteen dollars (\$15) per hour (indexed annually in accordance with the manner provided in Section 25-5-68) or the average hourly wage of the county where the qualifying project is located (as reported annually by the Department of Industrial Relations), both excluding benefits.

"c. For qualifying projects that are located in a favored geographic area and for which an investing company files a written statement of intent (Form INT) with the department after May 21, 2009, "base wage requirement" means an average hourly wage, inclusive of all employees in Alabama, of not less than the lesser of twelve dollars (\$12) per hour (indexed annually in accordance with the manner provided in Section 25-5-68) or the average hourly wage of the county where the qualifying project is located (as reported annually by the Department of Industrial Relations), both excluding benefits.

"d. Notwithstanding the foregoing, wages of direct processors of agriculture food products shall be subject to the local labor market. In the event that reliable local labor market statistics are not available, the department shall, by regulation or ruling, establish a source of wage information that best represents the average hourly wage rate in Alabama for direct processors of agriculture food products.

"(2) CAPITAL COSTS. All costs and expenses incurred by one or more investing companies in connection with the acquisition, construction, installation and equipping of a qualifying project during the period commencing with the date on which such acquisition, construction, installation and equipping commences and ending on the date on which the qualifying project is placed in service, including, without limitation all of the following:

"a. The costs of acquiring, constructing, installing, equipping, and financing a qualifying project, including all obligations incurred for labor and to

4 contractors, subcontractors, builders, and materialmen.

"b. The costs of acquiring land or rights in land and any cost incidental thereto, including recording fees.

"c. The costs of contract bonds and of insurance of all kinds that may be required or necessary during the acquisition, construction, or installation of a qualifying project.

"d. The costs of architectural and engineering services, including test borings, surveys, estimates, plans and specifications, preliminary investigations, environmental mitigation and supervision of construction, as well as for the performance of all the duties required by or consequent upon the acquisition, construction, and installation of a qualifying project.

"e. The costs associated with installation of fixtures and equipment; surveys, including archaeological and environmental surveys; site tests and inspections; subsurface site work; excavation; removal of structures, roadways, cemeteries, and other surface obstructions; filling, grading, paving and provisions for drainage, storm water retention, installation of utilities, including water, sewer, sewage treatment, gas, electricity, communications, and similar facilities; off-site construction of utility extensions to the boundaries of the property.

"f. All other costs of a nature comparable to those described, including, without limitation, all project costs which are required to be capitalized for federal income tax purposes pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 263A.

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"q. Costs otherwise defined as capital costs that are incurred by the investing company where the investing company is the lessee under a lease that: (1) has a term of not less than five years, and (2) is characterized as a capital lease for federal income tax purposes; provided, that if the project is a headquarters facility, the lease may be characterized as an operating lease for federal income tax purposes in which event capital costs shall include the net present value of the payments made by the investing company under the lease computed using the applicable federal rate for the month in which the qualifying project is placed in service and for the term most closely approximating the term of the lease. Capital costs shall not include property owned or leased by the investing company or a related party before the commencement of the acquisition, construction, installation or equipping of the qualifying project unless such property was physically located outside the state for a period of at least one year prior to the date on which the qualifying project was placed in service.

"h. Costs either paid or incurred by (i) a public industrial development board or authority, city, or county, or other public corporation or political subdivision (a "public entity") for the benefit of a qualifying project where such

costs are treated as costs paid by an investing company with respect to the qualifying project for federal income tax purposes (such costs shall not include amounts contributed by a public entity to a qualifying project as a capital contribution or gift except to the extent that an investing company has cost basis in the contribution or gift for federal income tax purposes); or (ii) a related party to an investing company to the extent such costs are included in or taken into account in determining the investing company's federal income tax basis in the qualifying project, whether or not incurred by an investing company.

"(3) CAPITAL CREDIT. An annual amount equal to up to five percent of the capital costs of the qualifying project, such amount to be credited or allowed in accordance with Section 40-18-194 and Section 40-18-195 hereof and other provisions of law, against the state income tax or financial institution excise tax, as provided in Section 40-18-194, liability generated by or arising out of the qualifying project in each of the 20 years commencing with the year during which the qualifying project is placed in service and continuing for 19 consecutive years thereafter.

"(4) DATA PROCESSING CENTER. An establishment engaged in the provision of complete processing and specialized reports from data, the provision of automated data processing and data entry services, the provision of an infrastructure for hosting or data processing services, the provision of specialized hosting activities, the provision of

- application service provisioning, the provision of general time-share mainframe facilities, or some combination of the foregoing, without regard to whether any other activities are
- 5 "(5) DEPARTMENT. The Alabama Department of Revenue.
- 6 "(6) FAVORED GEOGRAPHIC AREA. Either of the following:

conducted at the establishment.

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- 8 "a. Any area designated or created as an enterprise
 9 zone by law or that is governed by the Alabama Enterprise Zone
 10 Act.
 - "b. 1. Any Alabama county which is considered to be less developed. A county is considered to be less developed if it has been found to be less developed by the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations using the most current data available from the United States Departments of Labor or Commerce, the United States Bureau of the Census, or any other federal or state agency, and which finding shall be made immediately upon passage of Act 2001-965 and not later than January 1 of each year thereafter.
 - 2. A county shall be found to be less developed if it is ranked as the forty-fifth through sixty-seventh county, inclusive, using the following factors:
- "(i) Percent change in population over the most recent five-year period.
- "(ii) Personal per capita income in the last calendar year for which data are available.

- "(iii) The average percent employed over the last 12 months for which data are available.
- 3 "3. The factors used in ranking counties will be weighted in the following manner:
 - "(i) Percent change in population (25 percent).
 - "(ii) Personal per capita income (25 percent).
 - "(iii) Average percent employed (50 percent).
- 8 "(7) HEADQUARTERS FACILITIES.

- "a. For qualifying projects in which an investing company files a written statement of intent (Form INT) with the department on or before May 21, 2009, "headquarters facilities" means a facility which will serve as the national, regional or state headquarters for an investing company that conducts significant business operations outside the state and will serve as the principal office of the principal operating officer of the qualifying project. For purposes of this Article 7, the term "principal operating officer" is defined as the person with chief responsibility for the daily business operations of the qualifying project.
- "b. For qualifying projects in which an investing company files a written statement of intent (Form INT) with the department after May 21, 2009, "headquarters facilities" means any trade or business described in the 2007 North American Industry Classification System, promulgated by the Executive Office of the President of the United States, Office of Management and Budget, National Industry 551114.

Any trade or business described in the 2007 North American 2 Industry Classification System, promulgated by the Executive 3 Office of the President of the United States, Office of Management and Budget, Sectors 31 (other than National 5 6 Industry 311811), 32, and 33; Subsectors 423, 424, 511, and 7 927; Industry Groups 2121, 5417, 5415, and 5182 (without regard to the premise that data processing and related 8 services be performed in conjunction with a third-party); 9 10 Industries 11331 and 48691; and National Industries 115111, 11 517110, 541380, and 561422 (other than establishments that 12 originate telephone calls) and includes such trades and 13 businesses as may be hereafter reclassified in any subsequent 14 publication of the North American Industry Classification System or other industry classification system developed in 15 conjunction with the United States Department of Commerce, or 16 17 any process or treatment facility which recycles, reclaims, or converts materials, which include solids, liquids, or gases, 18 to a reusable product. 19

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"(8) INDUSTRIAL, WAREHOUSING, OR RESEARCH ACTIVITY.

"(9) INVESTING COMPANY. Any corporation, partnership, limited liability company, proprietorship, trust or other business entity, regardless of form, making a qualified investment.

"(10) NEW EMPLOYEES. Those persons who have not been previously employed at the site on which the qualifying project is or will be located or by an investing company or companies in the state; will be employed full-time at the

qualifying project; and will be subject to the personal income tax imposed by Section 40-18-2, upon commencement of employment at the qualifying project.

- "(11) PROJECT. Any land, building or other improvement, and all real and personal properties deemed necessary or useful in connection therewith, whether or not previously in existence, located or to be located in the state.
- "(12) QUALIFYING INVESTMENT. The undertaking by one or more investing companies of a qualifying project.
 - "(13) QUALIFYING PROJECT. A project to be sponsored or undertaken by one or more investing companies meeting any one of the following requirements:
 - "a. A project the capital costs of which are not less than two million dollars (\$2,000,000), and at which the predominant trade or business activity conducted will constitute industrial, warehousing, or research activity.
 - "b. A small business addition the capital costs of which are not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000), and at which the predominant trade or business activity conducted will constitute industrial, warehousing, or research activity.
 - "c. A headquarters facility the capital costs of which are not less than two million dollars (\$2,000,000) at which the predominant trade or business activity conducted will not be the production of electricity.
- "d. A project located in a favored geographic area the capital costs of which are not less than five hundred

- 1 thousand dollars (\$500,000), and at which the predominant
- 2 trade or business activity conducted will constitute
- 3 industrial, warehousing, or research activity.
- 4 "e. A project owned by a utility described in
- 5 Section 37-4-1(7)a., or owned by an investing company which is
- 6 itself owned by a utility, the capital costs of which are not
- 7 less than the following:
- 8 "1. One hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000), if
- 9 the predominant trade or business activity conducted will be
- 10 the production of electricity from alternative energy
- 11 resources.
- 12 "2. Five million dollars (\$5,000,000), if the
- predominant trade or business activity conducted will be the
- production of electricity from hydropower production.
- "f. A data processing center the capital costs of
- which are not less than the following:
- 17 "1. Two million dollars (\$2,000,000), if the data
- processing center is not located in a favored geographic area.
- 19 "2. Five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000), if the
- 20 data processing center is located in a favored geographic
- 21 area.
- "g. A research and development facility the capital
- costs of which are not less than the following:
- 24 "1. Two million dollars (\$2,000,000), if the
- research and development facility is not located in a favored
- 26 geographic area.

1 "2. Five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000), if the 2 research and development facility is located in a favored geographic area. 3 "h. A renewable energy facility the capital costs of which are not less than the following: 5 "1. Two million dollars (\$2,000,000), if the 6 7 renewable energy facility is not located in a favored 8 geographic area. "2. Five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000), if the 9 10 renewable energy facility is located in a favored geographic 11 area. 12 "(14) RELATED PARTY. A person or entity that bears a 13 relationship to an investing company described in Section 14 267(b), (c), or (e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. 15 "(15) RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY. Any plant, 16 17 property, or facility that either: "a. Produces electricity or natural gas, in whole or 18 in part, from biofuels as such term is defined in Section 19 20 2-2-90(c)(2) or from renewable energy resources as such term 21 is defined in Section 40-18-1(30) with the exception that 22 hydropower production shall be excluded from such definition; 23 or 24 "b. Produces biofuel as such term is defined in 25 Section 2-2-90(c)(2).

"(16) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FACILITY. An

establishment engaged in conducting original investigations

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1 undertaken on a systematic basis to gain new knowledge or 2 applying research findings or other scientific knowledge to create new or significantly improved products or processes, or 3

both.

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- "(17) SMALL BUSINESS ADDITION. Any land, building or 5 6 other improvement, and all real and personal properties deemed 7 necessary or useful in connection therewith, whether or not previously in existence, to be used as a part of any existing 8 facility of a business located in the state that, prior to the 9 date on which the addition is placed in service, had 100 or 11 fewer full-time employees.
- 12 "(18) TAX YEAR. The applicable taxable year as the 13 term is defined in Section 40-18-1(36).
- 14 "(19) 1993 ACT. Act No. 93-851, H. 27 and Act No. 93-852, H. 83 adopted at the 1993 First Special Session of the 15 Legislature of Alabama, as amended by Act No. 94-370, S. 559 16 17 adopted at the 1994 Regular Session of the Legislature of Alabama. 18
 - "(b) The amendments made to this section by Act 2008-275 shall be effective for tax years and periods beginning after December 31, 2011."
- 22 Section 2. The provisions of this act are severable. 23 If any part of this act is declared invalid or 24 unconstitutional, the declaration shall not affect the part 25 which remains.

Section 3. This act shall become effective immediately following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.