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## **An Act To Establish a Renewable Energy Tax Credit**

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §5219-BB** is enacted to read:

### **§ 5219-BB. Renewable energy tax credit**

**1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Payroll" means the total amount paid in this State during the tax period by the taxpayer for compensation, including wages, pretax employee contributions made to a benefit package and employer contributions made to an employee benefit package.

B. "Property" means the average value of the taxpayer's real and tangible personal property that is owned or rented and used during the tax period. Property owned by the taxpayer is valued at its original cost. Property rented by the taxpayer is valued at 8 times the net annual rental rate. The net annual rental rate is the annual rental rate paid by the taxpayer.

C. "Qualified business activity" means manufacturing renewable energy products or biofuel or conducting research and development in renewable energy. For purposes of this paragraph, "biofuel" has the same meaning as in section 5219-X, subsection 1.

**2. Credit allowed.** Except as provided by subsection 3, a taxpayer that is a business conducting a qualified business activity is allowed a credit in the amount of:

A. One hundred percent of the tax that would otherwise be due under this Part for each of the first 5 tax years beginning with the tax year in which the taxpayer commences its qualified business activity; and

B. Fifty percent of the tax that would otherwise be due under this Part for each of the 5 tax years following the time period in paragraph A.

**3. Apportioned credit in certain circumstances.** In the case of a business engaged in both qualified and nonqualified business activities in the State, the credit provided for in this section is limited to that portion that is attributable to the qualified business activity. The limitation is calculated by an apportionment. The apportionment is determined by a fraction, the numerator of which is the property value plus the payroll for the taxable year attributed to the qualified business activity of the business and the denominator of which is the statewide property value plus payroll for the taxable year of the business.

If the qualified business is a taxable corporation that has affiliated groups, as defined in section 5102, subsection 1-B, engaged in a unitary business, as defined in section 5102, subsection 10-A, the property and payroll values in the State of the unitary affiliated groups must be included in the apportionment fraction. The resulting fraction must be multiplied by the total tax liability otherwise due under this Part of the qualified business and those affiliated groups.

If the apportionment provisions of this subsection do not fairly reflect the amount of the credit associated with the taxpayer's qualified business activity, the taxpayer may petition for, or the State Tax Assessor may require, in respect to all or any part of the taxpayer's business activity, the employment of another reasonable method to effectuate an equitable apportionment of the credit associated with the taxpayer's qualified business activity.

**4. Members of pass-through entities.** A member of a pass-through entity that conducts a qualified business activity is allowed a credit under this section based on the tax due under this Part related to items of income, gain, deduction, loss or other items required to be reported by the pass-through entity to the member. For purposes of this subsection, "pass-through entity" means a corporation that for the applicable tax year is treated as an S corporation under the Code and a partnership, trust, limited liability company or similar entity that for the applicable tax year is not taxed as a C corporation for federal tax purposes; "member" means an individual or other owner of a pass-through entity.

**5. Limitations.** A taxpayer receiving a credit under this section may not receive a credit under section 5219-X for the same business activity. The credit under this section may not reduce the tax due under this Part to less than zero. The credit provided by this section may not be claimed for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2019.

**Sec. 2. Application.** This Act applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2007.

## SUMMARY

This bill provides a tax credit for a business engaged in the qualified business activity of manufacturing renewable energy products or biofuel or engaged in research and development in renewable energy equal to the income taxes otherwise due for 5 years and then 50% of the income taxes due for the next 5 years from when the business commences the qualified activity, similar to the credit given for Pine Tree Development Zone businesses.