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HOUSE BILL NO. 200

Offered January 10, 2018

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A BILL to amend and reenact § 58.1-322.02 of the Code of Virginia, relating to individual income tax; subtraction for employer payment of qualified education loans.

Patrons—Ayala, Boysko, Gooditis, Herring, Hope, Levine, Lopez, Murphy, Plum, Rasoul, Reid, Roem and Tyler

Referred to Committee on Finance

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 58.1-322.02 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 58.1-322.02. Virginia taxable income; subtractions.**

In computing Virginia taxable income pursuant to § 58.1-322, to the extent included in federal adjusted gross income, there shall be subtracted:

1. Income derived from obligations, or on the sale or exchange of obligations, of the United States and on obligations or securities of any authority, commission, or instrumentality of the United States to the extent exempt from state income taxes under the laws of the United States, including, but not limited to, stocks, bonds, treasury bills, and treasury notes but not including interest on refunds of federal taxes, interest on equipment purchase contracts, or interest on other normal business transactions.

2. Income derived from obligations, or on the sale or exchange of obligations, of the Commonwealth or of any political subdivision or instrumentality of the Commonwealth.

3. Benefits received under Title II of the Social Security Act and other benefits subject to federal income taxation solely pursuant to § 86 of the Internal Revenue Code.

4. Up to \$20,000 of disability income, as defined in § 22(c)(2)(B)(iii) of the Internal Revenue Code; however, any person who claims a deduction under subdivision 5 of § 58.1-322.03 may not also claim a subtraction under this subdivision.

5. The amount of any refund or credit for overpayment of income taxes imposed by the Commonwealth or any other taxing jurisdiction.

6. The amount of wages or salaries eligible for the federal Work Opportunity Credit which was not deducted for federal purposes on account of the provisions of § 280C(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

7. Any amount included therein less than \$600 from a prize awarded by the Virginia Lottery.

8. The wages or salaries received by any person for active and inactive service in the National Guard of the Commonwealth of Virginia, not to exceed the amount of income derived from 39 calendar days of such service or \$3,000, whichever amount is less; however, only those persons in the ranks of O3 and below shall be entitled to the deductions specified in this subdivision.

9. Amounts received by an individual, not to exceed \$1,000 in any taxable year, as a reward for information provided to a law-enforcement official or agency, or to a nonprofit corporation created exclusively to assist such law-enforcement official or agency, in the apprehension and conviction of perpetrators of crimes. This subdivision shall not apply to the following: an individual who is an employee of, or under contract with, a law-enforcement agency, a victim or the perpetrator of the crime for which the reward was paid, or any person who is compensated for the investigation of crimes or accidents.

10. The amount of "qualified research expenses" or "basic research expenses" eligible for deduction for federal purposes, but which were not deducted, on account of the provisions of § 280C(c) of the Internal Revenue Code and which shall be available to partners, shareholders of S corporations, and members of limited liability companies to the extent and in the same manner as other deductions may pass through to such partners, shareholders, and members.

11. Any income received during the taxable year derived from a qualified pension, profit-sharing, or stock bonus plan as described by § 401 of the Internal Revenue Code, an individual retirement account or annuity established under § 408 of the Internal Revenue Code, a deferred compensation plan as defined by § 457 of the Internal Revenue Code, or any federal government retirement program, the contributions to which were deductible from the taxpayer's federal adjusted gross income, but only to the extent the contributions to such plan or program were subject to taxation under the income tax in another state.

12. Any income attributable to a distribution of benefits or a refund from a prepaid tuition contract or savings trust account with the Virginia College Savings Plan, created pursuant to Chapter 7 (§ 23.1-700 et seq.) of Title 23.1. The subtraction for any income attributable to a refund shall be

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58 limited to income attributable to a refund in the event of a beneficiary's death, disability, or receipt of a
59 scholarship.

60 13. All military pay and allowances, to the extent included in federal adjusted gross income and not
61 otherwise subtracted, deducted, or exempted under this section, earned by military personnel while
62 serving by order of the President of the United States with the consent of Congress in a combat zone or
63 qualified hazardous duty area that is treated as a combat zone for federal tax purposes pursuant to § 112
64 of the Internal Revenue Code.

65 14. For taxable years beginning before January 1, 2015, the gain derived from the sale or exchange
66 of real property or the sale or exchange of an easement to real property which results in the real
67 property or the easement thereto being devoted to open-space use, as that term is defined in §
68 58.1-3230, for a period of time not less than 30 years. To the extent that a subtraction is taken in
69 accordance with this subdivision, no tax credit under this chapter for donating land for its preservation
70 shall be allowed for three years following the year in which the subtraction is taken.

71 15. Fifteen thousand dollars of military basic pay for military service personnel on extended active
72 duty for periods in excess of 90 days; however, the subtraction amount shall be reduced dollar-for-dollar
73 by the amount by which the taxpayer's military basic pay exceeds \$15,000 and shall be reduced to zero
74 if such military basic pay amount is equal to or exceeds \$30,000.

75 16. The first \$15,000 of salary for each federal and state employee whose total annual salary from all
76 employment for the taxable year is \$15,000 or less.

77 17. Unemployment benefits taxable pursuant to § 85 of the Internal Revenue Code.

78 18. Any amount received as military retirement income by an individual awarded the Congressional
79 Medal of Honor.

80 19. Items of income attributable to, derived from, or in any way related to (i) assets stolen from,
81 hidden from, or otherwise lost by an individual who was a victim or target of Nazi persecution or (ii)
82 damages, reparations, or other consideration received by a victim or target of Nazi persecution to
83 compensate such individual for performing labor against his will under the threat of death, during World
84 War II and its prelude and direct aftermath. This subtraction shall not apply to assets acquired with such
85 items of income or with the proceeds from the sale of assets stolen from, hidden from, or otherwise lost
86 to, during World War II and its prelude and direct aftermath, a victim or target of Nazi persecution. The
87 provisions of this subdivision shall only apply to an individual who was the first recipient of such items
88 of income and who was a victim or target of Nazi persecution, or a spouse, widow, widower, or child or
89 stepchild of such victim.

90 As used in this subdivision:

91 "Nazi regime" means the country of Nazi Germany, areas occupied by Nazi Germany, those
92 European countries allied with Nazi Germany, or any other neutral European country or area in Europe
93 under the influence or threat of Nazi invasion.

94 "Victim or target of Nazi persecution" means any individual persecuted or targeted for persecution by
95 the Nazi regime who had assets stolen from, hidden from, or otherwise lost as a result of any act or
96 omission in any way relating to (i) the Holocaust, (ii) World War II and its prelude and direct aftermath,
97 (iii) transactions with or actions of the Nazi regime, (iv) treatment of refugees fleeing Nazi persecution,
98 or (v) the holding of such assets by entities or persons in the Swiss Confederation during World War II
99 and its prelude and aftermath. A "victim or target of Nazi persecution" also includes any individual
100 forced into labor against his will, under the threat of death, during World War II and its prelude and
101 direct aftermath.

102 20. The military death gratuity payment made after September 11, 2001, to the survivor of deceased
103 military personnel killed in the line of duty, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. Chapter 75; however, the subtraction
104 amount shall be reduced dollar-for-dollar by the amount that the survivor may exclude from his federal
105 gross income in accordance with § 134 of the Internal Revenue Code.

106 21. The death benefit payments from an annuity contract that are received by a beneficiary of such
107 contract, provided that (i) the death benefit payment is made pursuant to an annuity contract with an
108 insurance company and (ii) the death benefit payment is paid solely by lump sum. The subtraction under
109 this subdivision shall be allowed only for that portion of the death benefit payment that is included in
110 federal adjusted gross income.

111 22. Any gain recognized from the sale of launch services to space flight participants, as defined in
112 49 U.S.C. § 70102, or launch services intended to provide individuals with the training or experience of
113 a launch, without performing an actual launch. To qualify for a deduction under this subdivision, launch
114 services must be performed in Virginia or originate from an airport or spaceport in Virginia.

115 23. Any gain recognized as a result of resupply services contracts for delivering payload, as defined
116 in 49 U.S.C. § 70102, entered into with the Commercial Orbital Transportation Services division of the
117 National Aeronautics and Space Administration or other space flight entity, as defined in § 8.01-227.8,
118 and launched from an airport or spaceport in Virginia.

119 24. Any income taxed as a long-term capital gain for federal income tax purposes, or any income

taxed as investment services partnership interest income (otherwise known as investment partnership carried interest income) for federal income tax purposes. To qualify for a subtraction under this subdivision, such income shall be attributable to an investment in a "qualified business," as defined in § 58.1-339.4, or in any other technology business approved by the Secretary of Technology, provided that the business has its principal office or facility in the Commonwealth and less than \$3 million in annual revenues in the fiscal year prior to the investment. To qualify for a subtraction under this subdivision, the investment shall be made between the dates of April 1, 2010, and June 30, 2020. No taxpayer who has claimed a tax credit for an investment in a "qualified business" under § 58.1-339.4 shall be eligible for the subtraction under this subdivision for an investment in the same business.

25. For taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2014, any income of an account holder for the taxable year taxed as (i) a capital gain for federal income tax purposes attributable to such person's first-time home buyer savings account established pursuant to Chapter 32 (§ 55-555 et seq.) of Title 55 and (ii) interest income or other income for federal income tax purposes attributable to such person's first-time home buyer savings account.

Notwithstanding the statute of limitations on assessments contained in § 58.1-312, any subtraction taken under this subdivision shall be subject to recapture in the taxable year or years in which moneys or funds withdrawn from the first-time home buyer savings account were used for any purpose other than the payment of eligible costs by or on behalf of a qualified beneficiary, as provided under § 55-558. The amount subject to recapture shall be a portion of the amount withdrawn in the taxable year that was used for other than the payment of eligible costs, computed by multiplying the amount withdrawn and used for other than the payment of eligible costs by the ratio of the aggregate earnings in the account at the time of the withdrawal to the total balance in the account at such time.

However, recapture shall not apply to the extent of moneys or funds withdrawn that were (i) withdrawn by reason of the qualified beneficiary's death or disability; (ii) a disbursement of assets of the account pursuant to a filing for protection under the United States Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101 through 1330; or (iii) transferred from an account established pursuant to Chapter 32 (§ 55-555 et seq.) of Title 55 into another account established pursuant to such chapter for the benefit of another qualified beneficiary.

For purposes of this subdivision, "account holder," "eligible costs," "first-time home buyer savings account," and "qualified beneficiary" mean the same as those terms are defined in § 55-555.

26. For taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2015, any income for the taxable year attributable to the discharge of a student loan solely by reason of the student's death. For purposes of this subdivision, "student loan" means the same as that term is defined under § 108(f) of the Internal Revenue Code.

27. a. Income, including investment services partnership interest income (otherwise known as investment partnership carried interest income), attributable to an investment in a Virginia venture capital account. To qualify for a subtraction under this subdivision, the investment shall be made on or after January 1, 2018, but before December 31, 2023. No subtraction shall be allowed under this subdivision for an investment in a company that is owned or operated by a family member or an affiliate of the taxpayer. No subtraction shall be allowed under this subdivision for a taxpayer who has claimed a subtraction under subdivision 24 or a tax credit under § 58.1-339.4 for the same investment.

b. As used in this subdivision 27:

"Qualified portfolio company" means a company that (i) has its principal place of business in the Commonwealth; (ii) has a primary purpose of production, sale, research, or development of a product or service other than the management or investment of capital; and (iii) provides equity in the company to the Virginia venture capital account in exchange for a capital investment. "Qualified portfolio company" does not include a company that is an individual or sole proprietorship.

"Virginia venture capital account" means an investment fund that has been certified by the Department as a Virginia venture capital account. In order to be certified as a Virginia venture capital account, the operator of the investment fund shall register the investment fund with the Department prior to December 31, 2023, (i) indicating that it intends to invest at least 50 percent of the capital committed to its fund in qualified portfolio companies and (ii) providing documentation that it employs at least one investor who has at least four years of professional experience in venture capital investment or substantially equivalent experience. "Substantially equivalent experience" includes, but is not limited to, an undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university in economics, finance, or a similar field of study. The Department may require an investment fund to provide documentation of the investor's training, education, or experience as deemed necessary by the Department to determine substantial equivalency. If the Department determines that the investment fund employs at least one investor with the experience set forth herein, the Department shall certify the investment fund as a Virginia venture capital account at such time as the investment fund actually invests at least 50 percent of the capital committed to its fund in qualified portfolio companies.

181 28. *The payment by an employer, whether paid to the employee or to the employee's lender, of*
182 *principal or interest incurred by the employee on any qualified education loan as defined by § 221(d)(1)*
183 *of the Internal Revenue Code. The amount of the subtraction claimed by a taxpayer in a taxable year*
184 *shall not exceed \$5,250. No subtraction shall be allowed for payments made by employers prior to*
185 *January 1, 2018. No subtraction shall be allowed under this subdivision for a taxpayer who has claimed*
186 *a subtraction, deduction, or credit under any other provision of this title for the same payment.*