

## VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

*An Act to amend and reenact §§ 58.1-433.1, 58.1-439.2, and 58.1-2626.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to sunset of coal tax credits.*

[H 1899]

Approved

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That §§ 58.1-433.1, 58.1-439.2, and 58.1-2626.1 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 58.1-433.1. Virginia Coal Employment and Production Incentive Tax Credit.**

A. For taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2001, *but before January 1, 2022*, every electricity generator in the Commonwealth shall be allowed a ~~three-dollar-per-ton~~ \$3-per-ton credit against the tax imposed by § 58.1-400 or § 58.1-400.2 for each ton of coal purchased and consumed by such electricity generator, provided such coal was mined in Virginia as certified by such seller. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no electricity generator shall be allowed more than a ~~three-dollar-per-ton~~ \$3-per-ton coal tax credit and shall be subject to all limitations set forth in § 58.1-400.2. In no event shall the credit allowed hereunder exceed the total amount of tax liability of such taxpayer. Any tax credit not usable for the taxable year may be carried over to the extent usable for the next 10 succeeding taxable years or until the full credit is utilized, whichever is sooner. For the purposes of the credit provided by this section, "electricity generator" means any person who produces electricity for self-consumption or for sale.

B. For each such ton of coal described in subsection A that is purchased on or after January 1, 2006, *but before January 1, 2022*, from any person with an economic interest in coal as defined under § 58.1-439.2, the \$3-per-ton credit allowed under subsection A may be allocated between such electricity generator and such person with an economic interest in coal. The allocation of the \$3-per-ton credit may be provided in the contract between such parties for the sale of such coal. Such allocation may be amended by the execution of a written instrument by the parties prior to December 31 of the year of purchase of such coal. Such contracts and written instruments shall be subject to audit by the Department of Taxation to ensure the proper application of credits.

In no case shall the credit allocated for each such ton of coal among such electricity generators and such persons with an economic interest in coal exceed \$3 per ton.

All credits earned on or after January 1, 2006, ~~which~~ *but before January 1, 2022*, that are allocated to persons with an economic interest in coal as provided under this subsection may be used as tax credits by such persons against the tax imposed by § 58.1-400 and any other tax imposed by the Commonwealth. If the credits earned on or after January 1, 2006, *but before January 1, 2022*, exceed the state tax liability for the applicable taxable year of such person with an economic interest in coal, the excess shall be redeemable by the Tax Commissioner as set forth in subsection D of § 58.1-439.2, provided that the ability of persons with an economic interest in coal to redeem with the Tax Commissioner credits received pursuant to an allocation under this section shall expire for credits earned under this section on or after July 1, 2016.

**§ 58.1-439.2. Coalfield employment enhancement tax credit.**

A. For tax years beginning on and after January 1, 1996, but before January 1, 2017, and on and after January 1, 2018, but before January 1, ~~2023~~ 2022, any person who has an economic interest in coal mined in the Commonwealth shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed by § 58.1-400 and any other tax imposed by the Commonwealth in accordance with the following:

1. For metallurgical coal mined by underground methods, the credit amount shall be based on the seam thickness as follows:

Seam Thickness	Credit per Ton
36" and under	\$2.00
Above 36"	\$1.00

The seam thickness shall be based on the weighted average isopach mapping of actual metallurgical coal thickness by mine as certified by a professional engineer. Copies of such certification shall be maintained by the person qualifying for the credit under this section for a period of three years after the credit is applied for and received and shall be available for inspection by the Department of Taxation. The Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy is hereby authorized to audit all information upon which the isopach mapping is based.

2. For metallurgical coal mined by surface mining methods, a credit in the amount of 40 cents

57 (\$0.40) per ton for coal sold in 1996, and each year thereafter.

58 B. In addition to the credit allowed in subsection A, for tax years beginning on and after January 1,  
59 1996, but before January 1, 2023 2022, any person who is a producer of coalbed methane shall be  
60 allowed a credit in the amount of one cent (\$0.01) per million BTUs of coalbed methane produced in  
61 the Commonwealth against the tax imposed by § 58.1-400 and any other tax imposed by the  
62 Commonwealth on such person.

63 C. For purposes of this section, economic interest is the same as the economic ownership interest  
64 required by § 611 of the Internal Revenue Code which was in effect on December 31, 1977. A party  
65 who only receives an arm's length royalty shall not be considered as having an economic interest in coal  
66 mined in the Commonwealth.

67 D. If the credit exceeds the person's state tax liability for the tax year, the excess shall be redeemable  
68 by the Tax Commissioner on behalf of the Commonwealth for 90 percent of the face value within 90  
69 days after filing the return; however, for credit earned in tax years beginning on and after January 1,  
70 2002, *but before January 1, 2022*, such excess shall be redeemable by the Tax Commissioner on behalf  
71 of the Commonwealth for 85 percent of the face value within 90 days after filing the return. The  
72 remaining 10 or 15 percent of the value of the credit being redeemed, as applicable for such tax year,  
73 shall be deposited by the Commissioner in a regional economic development fund administered by the  
74 Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority to be used for regional economic diversification in  
75 accordance with guidelines developed by the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority and  
76 the Virginia Economic Development Partnership.

77 E. No person may utilize more than one of the credits on a given ton of coal described in subsection  
78 A. No person may claim a credit pursuant to this section for any ton of coal for which a credit has been  
79 claimed under § 58.1-433.1 or 58.1-2626.1. Persons who qualify for the credit may not apply such credit  
80 to their tax returns prior to January 1, 1999, and only one year of credits shall be allowed annually  
81 beginning in 1999.

82 F. The amount of credit allowed pursuant to subsection A shall be the amount of credit earned  
83 multiplied by the person's employment factor. The person's employment factor shall be the percentage  
84 obtained by dividing the total number of coal mining jobs of the person filing the return, including the  
85 jobs of the contract operators of such person, as reflected in the annual tonnage reports filed with the  
86 Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy for the year in which the credit was earned by the total  
87 number of coal mining jobs of such persons or operators as reflected in the annual tonnage reports for  
88 the year immediately prior to the year in which the credit was earned. In no case shall the credit  
89 claimed exceed that amount set forth in subsection A.

90 G. The tax credit allowed under this section shall be claimed in the third taxable year following the  
91 taxable year in which the credit was earned and allowed.

92 H. As used in this section, "metallurgical coal" means bituminous coal used for the manufacture of  
93 iron and steel with calorific value of 14,000 BTUs or greater on a moisture and ash free basis.

94 **§ 58.1-2626.1. The Virginia Coal Employment and Production Incentive Tax Credit.**

95 A. For the tax years beginning on and after January 1, 1988, *but before January 1, 2022*, every  
96 corporation in the Commonwealth doing the business of furnishing water, heat, light, or power to the  
97 Commonwealth or its citizens, whether by means of electricity, gas, or steam shall be allowed a credit  
98 against the tax imposed by § 58.1-2626 in the following amount: ~~one dollar~~ \$1 per ton for each ton of  
99 coal purchased and consumed by such corporation in excess of the number of tons of Virginia coal  
100 purchased by such corporation in 1985, provided such coal was mined in Virginia as certified by the  
101 producer of such coal. This credit shall be prorated equally against the corporation's estimated payments  
102 made in September and December and the final payment.

103 B. For tax years beginning on and after January 1, 1989, *but before January 1, 2022*, every  
104 corporation in the Commonwealth doing the business of furnishing water, heat, light, or power to the  
105 Commonwealth or its citizens, whether by means of electricity, gas, or steam shall be allowed additional  
106 credit against the tax imposed by § 58.1-2626 in the following amount: ~~one dollar~~ \$1 per ton for each  
107 ton of coal purchased and consumed by such corporation, provided such coal was mined in Virginia as  
108 certified by such seller. The credit shall be prorated equally against the corporation's estimated payments  
109 made in September and December and the final payment.

110 C. ~~Expired.~~

111 **2. That if tax credits were earned under the provisions of § 58.1-433.1 of the Code of Virginia**  
112 **prior to January 1, 2022, such credits may continue to be claimed on a return for taxable years on**  
113 **and after January 1, 2022, but only pursuant to the applicable carryover period specified in**  
114 **§ 58.1-433.1 of the Code of Virginia. A taxpayer claiming credits pursuant to the provisions of this**  
115 **enactment shall not claim more than \$1 million in credits for a single taxable year. No taxpayer**  
116 **shall amend a return for a taxable year prior to January 1, 2022, to claim more in credits earned**  
117 **under the provisions of § 58.1-433.1 of the Code of Virginia than such taxpayer stated on such**

118 return before amending it.

119 3. That the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, in coordination with the Virginia  
120 Coalfield Economic Development Authority, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership  
121 Authority, the Virginia Employment Commission, the Southwest Virginia Workforce Development  
122 Board, and the Council on Environmental Justice, shall convene a stakeholder process, which shall  
123 include public meetings and public comment opportunities, and provide an interim report to the  
124 General Assembly no later than September 1, 2021, and a final report on December 1, 2021, on  
125 recommendations for how the Commonwealth can provide economic transition support to the  
126 coalfield region, with a particular focus on workforce redevelopment, economic diversification,  
127 reclamation of coal-impacted lands and brownfields, community revitalization, infrastructure  
128 improvements, and clean energy development.

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