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HOUSE BILL NO. 1222

Offered January 22, 1996

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 3 of Chapter 3 of Title 58.1 a section numbered 58.1-339.2 and in Article 13 of Chapter 3 a section numbered 58.1-439.4, relating to an income tax credit for best management agricultural practices.

Patrons—Phillips, Bloxom, Bryant, Cox, Davies, Ingram, Katzen, Kilgore, Orrock, Parrish, Ruff, Thomas, Weatherholtz and Wilkins

Referred to Committee on Finance

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 3 of Chapter 3 of Title 58.1 a section numbered 58.1-339.2 and in Article 13 of Chapter 3 a section numbered 58.1-439.4 as follows:

§ 58.1-339.2. Best management practices tax credit.

A. For all taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 1997, any individual engaged in agricultural production for market who has in place a soil conservation plan approved by the local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed by § 58.1-320 of an amount equaling twenty-five percent of the first \$70,000 expended for best management practices by the individual. As used in this section, "best management practice" means a practice approved by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board (VSWCB) which will provide a significant improvement to water quality in the state's streams and rivers and the Chesapeake Bay and is consistent with other state and federal programs that address agricultural, nonpoint-source-pollution management. Eligible practices shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1. Livestock- and poultry-waste management;*
- 2. Soil erosion control;*
- 3. Nutrient and sediment filtration and detention;*
- 4. Nutrient management; and*
- 5. Pest management and pesticide handling.*

A detailed list of the standards and criteria for practices eligible for credit shall be found in the most recently approved "Virginia Agricultural BMP Implementation Manual" published by the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

B. Any practice approved by the local Soil and Water Conservation District Board shall be completed within the taxable year in which the credit is claimed. After the practice installation has been completed, the local SWCD Board shall certify the practice as approved and completed, and eligible for credit. The applicant shall forward the certification to the Department of Taxation on forms provided by the Department. The credit shall be allowed only for expenditures made by the taxpayer from funds of his own sources.

C. The amount of such credit shall not exceed \$17,500 or the total amount of the tax imposed by this chapter, whichever is less, in the year the project was completed, as certified by the Board. If the amount of the credit exceeds the taxpayer's liability for such taxable year, the excess may be carried over for credit against income taxes in the next five taxable years until the total amount of the tax credit has been taken.

D. For purposes of this section, the amount of any credit attributable to best management practices by a partnership or electing small business corporation (S Corporation) shall be allocated to the individual partners or shareholders in proportion to their ownership or interest in the partnership or S Corporation.

§ 58.1-439.4. Best management practices tax credit.

A. For all taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 1997, any corporation engaged in agricultural production for market who has in place a soil conservation plan approved by the local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed by § 58.1-400 of an amount equaling twenty-five percent of the first \$70,000 expended for best management practices by the corporation. As used in this section, "best management practice" means a practice approved by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board (VSWCB) which will provide a significant improvement to water quality in the state's streams and rivers and the Chesapeake Bay and is consistent with other state and federal programs that address agricultural, nonpoint-source-pollution management. Eligible practices shall include, but are not limited to,

- 1. Livestock- and poultry-waste management;*

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- 60 2. Soil erosion control;
61 3. Nutrient and sediment filtration and detention;
62 4. Nutrient management; and
63 5. Pest management and pesticide handling.

64 A detailed list of the standards and criteria for practices eligible for credit shall be found in the
65 most recently approved "Virginia Agricultural BMP Implementation Manual" published by the
66 Department of Conservation and Recreation.

67 B. Any practice approved by the local Soil and Water Conservation District Board shall be
68 completed within the taxable year in which the credit is claimed. After the practice installation has been
69 completed, the local SWCD Board shall certify the practice as approved and completed, and eligible for
70 credit. The applicant shall forward the certification to the Department of Taxation on forms provided by
71 the Department. The credit shall be allowed only for expenditures made by the taxpayer from funds of
72 his own sources.

73 C. The amount of such credit shall not exceed \$17,500 or the total amount of the tax imposed by this
74 chapter, whichever is less, in the year the project was completed, as certified by the Board. If the
75 amount of the credit exceeds the taxpayer's liability for such taxable year, the excess may be carried
76 over for credit against income taxes in the next five taxable years until the total amount of the tax credit
77 has been taken.

78 D. For purposes of this section, the amount of any credit attributable to best management practices
79 by a partnership or electing small business corporation (S Corporation) shall be allocated to the
80 individual partners or shareholders in proportion to their ownership or interest in the partnership or S
81 Corporation.