1	INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2011-090	
2	State of Arkansas As Engrossed: H3/8/11 H3/9/11	
3	88th General Assembly A Bill	
4	Regular Session, 2011 HOUSE BILL 1495	
5		
6	By: Representative Nickels	
7	Filed with: Interim House Committee on Revenue and Ta	xation
8	pursuant to A.C.A. §10-	3-217
9	For An Act To Be Entitled	
10	AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS SMALL BUSINESS TAX	
11	FAIRNESS ACT; TO REQUIRE COMBINED REPORTING FOR	
12	INCOME TAX PURPOSES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.	
13		
14		
15	Subtitle	
16	TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS SMALL BUSINESS TAX	
17	FAIRNESS ACT AND TO REQUIRE COMBINED	
18	REPORTING FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES.	
19		
20		
21	BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:	
22		
23	SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 26, Chapter 51, is amended to add as	n
24	additional subchapter to read as follows:	
25	<u>Subchapter 24 — Arkansas Small Business Tax Fairness Act</u>	
26		
27	<u>26-51-2401. Title.</u>	
28	This subchapter shall be known as the "Arkansas Small Business Tax	
29	Fairness Act".	
30		
31	<u>26-51-2402.</u> Definitions.	
32	As used in this subchapter:	
33	(1) "Combined group" means the group of persons whose income	and
34	apportionment factors are required to be taken into account under § 26-51	
35	2403 in determining the taxpayer member's share of the net business incom	e or
36	loss to be apportioned to the state.	

1	(2)(A) "Corporation" means an organization of any kind treated
2	as a corporation for tax purposes under this chapter, wherever located, that
3	if it were doing business in this state, would be a taxpayer.
4	(B) "Corporation" includes the business conducted by a
5	partnership that is directly or indirectly held by a corporation to the
6	extent of the corporation's distributive share of the partnership income,
7	inclusive of guaranteed payments to the extent prescribed by law;
8	(3) "Doing business in a tax haven" means being engaged in
9	activity sufficient for the tax haven jurisdiction to impose a tax under
10	United States constitutional standards;
11	(4) "Partnership" means a general partnership, a limited
12	partnership, or an organization of any kind that is treated as a partnership
13	for tax purposes under this chapter;
14	(5) "Person" means:
15	(A) An individual;
16	(B) A firm;
17	(C) A partnership or a general partner of a partnership;
18	(D) A limited liability company;
19	(E) A registered limited liability partnership;
20	(F) A foreign limited liability partnership;
21	(G) An association;
22	(H) A corporation regardless of whether the corporation is
23	or would be, if doing business in this state, subject to the Income Tax Act
24	of 1929, § 26-51-101 et seq.;
25	(I) A company;
26	(J) A syndicate;
27	(K) An estate;
28	(L) A trust or trustee;
29	(M) A trustee in bankruptcy;
30	(N) A receiver;
31	(0) An executor or administrator; and
32	(P) An organization of any kind;
33	(6) "Tax haven" means a jurisdiction that, during the tax year,
34	exhibits the following characteristics:
35	(A) Has no tax or a nominal effective tax on the relevant
36	income;

1	(B) Has laws or practices that prevent effective exchange
2	of information for tax purposes with other governments on taxpayers
3	benefiting from the tax regime;
4	(C)(i) Has a tax regime that lacks transparency.
5	(ii) A tax regime lacks transparency if:
6	(a) The details of legislative, legal, or
7	administrative provisions are not open and apparent or are not consistently
8	applied among similarly situated taxpayers; or
9	(b) The information needed by tax authorities
10	to determine a taxpayer's correct tax liability, such as accounting records
11	and underlying documentation, is not adequately available;
12	(D) Facilitates the establishment of foreign-owned
13	entities without the need for a local and substantive presence or prohibits
14	foreign-owned entities from having a commercial impact on the local economy;
15	(E) Explicitly or implicitly excludes the jurisdiction's
16	resident taxpayers from taking advantage of the tax regime's benefits or
17	prohibits enterprises that benefit from the regime from operating in the
18	jurisdiction's domestic market; or
19	(F) Has a tax regime that is favorable for tax avoidance
20	based upon an overall assessment of relevant factors, including without
21	limitation whether the jurisdiction has a significant untaxed offshore
22	financial sector or other services sector relative to its overall economy;
23	(7) "Unitary business" means a single economic enterprise that
24	is made up of either separate parts of a single business entity or a commonly
25	controlled group of business entities that are sufficiently interdependent,
26	integrated, and interrelated through their activities so as to provide a
27	synergy and mutual benefit that produces a sharing or exchange of value among
28	them and a significant flow of value to the separate parts; and
29	(8) "United States" means the fifty (50) states of the United
30	States, the District of Columbia, and the territories and possessions of the
31	<u>United States.</u>
32	
33	26-51-2403. Combined reporting required — Discretion of director
34	(a)(1) A combined report shall be filed by one (1) of the following
35	taxpayers engaged in a unitary business with one (1) or more other
36	corporations:

1	(A) The federal consolidated parent corporation; or
2	(B) A subsidiary with a nexus to Arkansas, if the federal
3	consolidated parent is not a member of the combined group.
4	(2) The combined report required under subdivision (a)(1) of
5	this section shall include the following information for all corporations
6	that are members of the unitary business:
7	(A) The income determined under § 26-51-2406;
8	(B) The apportionment factors determined under:
9	(i) The Uniform Division of Income for Tax Purposes
10	Act, § 26-51-701 et seq.;
11	(ii) The apportionment and allocation requirements
12	under §§ 26-51-1401-26-51-1405; and
13	(iii) The combined reporting requirements under §
14	26-51-2405; and
15	(3) Any other information required by the Director of the
16	Department of Finance and Administration.
17	(b)(1) To reflect proper apportionment of income of entire unitary
18	businesses, the combined report shall include the income and apportionment
19	factors of any person not included under subsection (a) of this section who
20	<u>is a member of a unitary business.</u>
21	(2) The director may require the filing of a combined report by
22	persons that are not or would not be, if doing business in this state,
23	subject to the Income Tax Act of 1929, § 26-51-101 et seq.
24	(3) If the director determines that the reported income or loss
25	of a taxpayer engaged in a unitary business with any person not included
26	under subsection (a) of this section represents an avoidance or evasion of
27	tax by the taxpayer, all or part of the income and apportionment factors of
28	the person shall be included in the taxpayer's combined report.
29	(4) With respect to inclusion of apportionment factors under
30	this subsection (b), the director may require:
31	(A) The exclusion of any one (1) or more of the factors;
32	(B) The inclusion of one (1) or more additional factors
33	that will fairly represent the taxpayer's business activity in the state; or
34	(C) The employment of any other method to properly
35	<pre>reflect:</pre>
36	(i) The total amount of income subject to

1	apportionment; and
2	(ii) An equitable allocation and apportionment of
3	the taxpayer's income.
4	
5	26-51-2404. Determination of taxable income using combined report.
6	(a) The use of a combined report does not affect the separate
7	identities of the taxpayer members of the combined group.
8	(b)(1) Each taxpayer member is responsible for tax based on the
9	taxpayer member's taxable income or loss apportioned or allocated to
10	Arkansas, including without limitation the taxpayer member's apportioned
11	share of business income of the combined group.
12	(2) Business income of the combined group is calculated as a
13	summation of the individual net business incomes of all members of the
14	combined group.
15	(3) A member's net business income is determined by removing all
16	but business income, expense, and loss from that member's total income under
17	this subchapter and multiplying the remainder by the combined apportionment
18	factors of all members of the combined group.
19	
20	26-51-2405. Income subject to tax — Application of tax credits —
21	<u>Deductions</u> after apportionment.
22	(a) Each taxpayer member is responsible for tax based on the taxpayer
23	member's taxable income or loss apportioned or allocated to Arkansas,
24	including without limitation the taxpayer member's:
25	(1) Share of business income that is apportioned to Arkansas of
26	each of the combined groups of which it is a member, as determined under §
27	<u>26-51-2406</u> ;
28	(2) Share of business income that is apportioned to Arkansas of
29	a distinct business activity conducted within and without Arkansas wholly by
30	the taxpayer member, as determined under the Uniform Division of Income for
31	Tax Purposes Act, § 26-51-701 et seq., and the apportionment and allocation
32	requirements under §§ 26-51-1401-26-51-1405;
33	(3) Income from a business conducted wholly by the taxpayer
34	member entirely within Arkansas;
35	(4) Income sourced to Arkansas from the sale or exchange of
36	capital or assets;

1	(5) Nonbusiness income or loss allocable to Arkansas, as
2	determined under the Uniform Division of Income for Tax Purposes Act, § 26-
3	51-701 et seq., and the apportionment and allocation requirements under §§
4	26-51-1401-26-51-1405; and
5	(6)(A) Net operating loss carryover.
6	(B)(i) If the taxable income computed under this
7	subchapter results in a loss for a combined group, the combined group has an
8	Arkansas net operating loss.
9	(ii) A net operating loss of the combined group is
10	applied as a deduction in a subsequent year only to the extent that the
11	combined group has Arkansas source positive net income.
12	(C)(i) Only a taxpayer member that joins a combined group
13	and has a net operating loss from a tax year before the taxpayer member
14	joined the combined group is subject to the carryover provisions of § 26-51-
15	427, the net operating loss limitations, and the separate return limitation
16	year restriction.
17	(ii) Separate return limitation year restrictions
18	allow the net operating loss of a member that joins a combined return to
19	offset the combined income of all corporations that were members of the same
20	federal consolidated group when the net operating loss was created or that
21	were members of the same Arkansas combined group when the net operating loss
22	was created.
23	(b)(1) A tax credit earned by a member may be applied against the
24	total tax liability of the combined group.
25	(2)(A) A charitable contribution made by a taxpayer member of
26	the combined group is available as a deduction of the combined group subject
27	to the limitations of 26 U.S.C. § 170, as it existed on January 1, 2011.
28	(B) A charitable contribution under subdivision (b)(2)(A)
29	of this section is subtracted from the business income of the combined group
30	before apportionment, and the remaining balance is treated as a nonbusiness
31	expense allocable to the nonbusiness income of the combined group subject to
32	the income limitations of 26 U.S.C. § 170, as it existed on January 1, 2011.
33	(C) A charitable contribution under subdivision (b)(2)(A)
34	of this section that is disallowed under the income limitations of this
35	subsection is allowed as a carryover deduction for up to five (5) years in
36	accordance with 26 U.S.C. § 170, as it existed on January 1, 2011.

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2	26-51-2406. Determination of share of business income of a combined
3	group.
4	The taxpayer's share of the business income to be apportioned to
5	Arkansas of each combined group of which it is a member is the product of:
6	(1) The business income of the combined group, as determined
7	under § 26-51-2407; and
8	(2)(A) The taxpayer member's apportionment percentage, as
9	determined under the Uniform Division of Income for Tax Purposes Act, § 26-
10	51-701 et seq., and the apportionment and allocation requirements under §§
11	26-51-1401-26-51-1405, including:
12	(i) In each numerator, the taxpayer's property,
13	payroll, or sales factor associated with the combined group's unitary
14	business in this state; and
15	(ii) In the denominator, the property, payroll, or
16	sales factor of all members of the combined group, including the taxpayer,
17	that are associated with the combined group's unitary business wherever
18	<u>located.</u>
19	(B) The property, payroll, and sales factors of a
20	partnership are included in the determination of the partner's apportionment
21	percentage in proportion to a ratio the numerator of which is the amount of
22	the partner's distributive share of partnership's unitary income included in
23	the income of the combined group under § 26-51-2407 and the denominator of
24	which is the amount of the partnership's total unitary income.
25	
26	26-51-2407. Determination of business income of the combined group.
27	(a) The business income of a combined group is determined under this
28	section.
29	(b) To determine the business income of the combined group, subtract
30	any income and add any expense or loss other than the business income,
31	expense, or loss of the combined group from the total income of the combined
32	group, as determined under subsection (c) of this section.
33	(c)(l) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the total income
34	of the combined group is the sum of the income of each member of the combined
35	group, as determined under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. § 1
36	et seq., as it existed on January 1, 2011, as if the member were not

1	consolidated for federal purposes.
2	(2) The income of each member of the combined group is
3	determined as follows:
4	(A) For a member incorporated in the United States or
5	included in a consolidated federal corporate income tax return, the income to
6	be included in the total income of the combined group is the taxable income
7	for the corporation after making appropriate adjustments under the Income Tax
8	Act of 1929, § 26-51-101 et seq.; and
9	(B)(i) For a member not included in subdivision (c)(2)(A)
10	of this section, the income to be included in the total income of the
11	combined group is determined as follows:
12	(a) A profit and loss statement shall be
13	prepared for each foreign branch or corporation in the currency in which the
14	books of account of the branch or corporation are regularly maintained;
15	(b) Adjustments shall be made to the profit
16	and loss statement to conform it to the accounting principles generally
17	accepted in the United States for the preparation of profit and loss
18	statements except as modified by this subchapter;
19	(c) Except as otherwise provided in this
20	subchapter, the profit and loss statement of each member of the combined
21	group and the related apportionment factors shall be expressed in United
22	States dollars.
23	(d) Income apportioned to Arkansas shall be
24	expressed in United States dollars.
25	(ii)(a) In lieu of the procedures in subdivision
26	(c)(2)(B)(i) of this section and subject to the determination of the Director
27	of the Department of Finance and Administration that it reasonably
28	approximates income as determined under the Income Tax Act of 1929, § 26-51-
29	101 et seq., a member not included in subdivision (c)(2)(A) of this section
30	may determine its income on the basis of the consolidated profit and $loss$
31	statement that includes the member and that is prepared for filing with the
32	United States Securities and Exchange Commission by related corporations.
33	(b) If the member is not required to file with
34	the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, the director may allow
35	the use of a consolidated profit and loss statement prepared for reporting to
36	shareholders and subject to review by an independent auditor.

1	(c) If the profit and loss statements in this
2	subdivision (c)(2)(B)(ii) of this section do not reasonably approximate
3	income as determined under this chapter, the director may accept profit and
4	loss statements with appropriate adjustments to approximate the income as
5	determined under this chapter.
6	(d) If a unitary business includes income from a partnership, the
7	income included in the total income of the combined group is the member of
8	the combined group's direct and indirect distributive share of the
9	partnership's unitary business income.
10	(e)(1) Dividends paid by a member of the combined group to another
11	member of the combined group shall be eliminated from the income of the
12	recipient to the extent the dividends are paid out of the earnings and
13	profits of the unitary business included in the combined report, in the
14	current or a prior year.
15	(2) Subdivision (e)(1) of this section does not apply to
16	dividends received from members of the unitary business that are not a part
17	of the combined group.
18	(f)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, business
19	income from an intercompany transaction between members of the same combined
20	group is deferred in the same manner as in 26 CFR § 1.1502-13, as it existed
21	on January 1, 2011.
22	(2) Deferred business income resulting from an intercompany
23	transaction between members of a combined group is restored to the income of
24	the seller and is apportioned as business income earned immediately before
25	the event if any of the following events occur:
26	(A) The object of a deferred intercompany transaction is:
27	(i) Resold by the buyer to an entity that is not a
28	member of the combined group;
29	(ii) Resold by the buyer to an entity that is a
30	member of the combined group for use outside the unitary business in which
31	the buyer and seller are engaged; or
32	(iii) Converted by the buyer to a use outside the
33	unitary business in which the buyer and seller are engaged; or
34	(B) The buyer and seller are no longer members of the same
35	combined group regardless of whether the members remain unitary.
36	(g) An expense of a member of the unitary group that is directly or

1 indirectly attributable to the nonbusiness or exempt income of another member 2 of the unitary group is allocated to the other member as corresponding nonbusiness or exempt expense as appropriate. 3 4 5 26-51-2408. Designation of surety. 6 (a)(1)(A)(i) Members of a combined reporting group shall annually 7 designate one (1) taxpayer member of the combined group to file a single 8 return in the form and manner prescribed by the Director of the Department of 9 Finance and Administration, in lieu of each member filing its own respective 10 return. (ii) The surety designated under this section shall 11 12 be either: 13 (a) The federal consolidated parent 14 corporation; or 15 (b) A subsidiary with a nexus to Arkansas, if 16 the federal consolidated parent is not a member of the combined group. 17 (B) The taxpayer designated to file the single return 18 under subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section: 19 (i) Consents to act as surety with respect to the 20 tax liability of all other taxpayers properly included in the combined 21 report; and 22 (ii) Agrees to act as agent on behalf of those 23 taxpayers for the year of the election for tax matters relating to the 24 combined report for that year. 25 (2) The designation of a surety under subdivision (a)(1) of this 26 section does not change the respective liability of the group members. 27 (b) If for any reason the taxpayer designated as a surety under subsection (a) of this section is unwilling or unable to perform the surety's 28 responsibilities, tax liability shall be assessed against all of the taxpayer 29 30 members. 31 26-51-2409. Water's-edge election. 32 (a) Taxpayer members of a unitary group that meet the requirements of 33 34 § 26-51-2410 may elect to determine each member's apportioned share of the 35 net business income or loss of the combined group under a water's-edge 36 election.

1 (b) Under the water's-edge election, taxpayer members shall take into 2 account the income and apportionment factors of only the following members of 3 the combined group: 4 (1) The entire income and apportionment factors of any member 5 incorporated in the United States or formed under the laws of the United 6 States; 7 (2) The entire income and apportionment factors of any member, 8 regardless of the place incorporated or formed, if the average of its 9 property, payroll, and sales factors within the United States is twenty percent (20%) or more; 10 (3) The entire income and apportionment factors of any member 11 12 that is a domestic international sales corporation as described in 26 U.S.C. 13 §§ 991-994, as they existed on January 1, 2011; 14 (4) The portion of the income of a member not described in 15 subdivisions (b)(1)-(3) of this section that is derived from or attributable to sources within the United States, as determined under the Internal Revenue 16 17 Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. § 1 et seq., as it existed on January 1, 2011, and 18 the related apportionment factors; 19 (5)(A) The income of a member that is a controlled foreign 20 corporation, as defined under 26 U.S.C. § 957, as it existed on January 1, 21 2011, to the extent the income is described under 26 U.S.C. § 952, as it 22 existed on January 1, 2011, not excluding lower-tier subsidiaries' 23 distributions of income that were previously taxed and the apportionment 24 factors related to the income. 25 (B) An item of income received by a controlled foreign 26 corporation is excluded if the income was subject to an effective rate of 27 income tax imposed by a foreign country greater than ninety percent (90%) of the maximum rate of tax specified in 26 U.S.C. § 11, as it existed on January 28 29 1, 2011; 30 (6) The income and apportionment factors of a member that earns 31 income, directly or indirectly, from intangible property or service-related 32 activities that are deductible against the business income of other members 33 of the combined group; and 34 (7)(A) The entire income and apportionment factors of any member 35 that is doing business in a tax haven.

(B) If the member's business activity within a tax haven

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is entirely outside the scope of the laws, provisions, and practices that 1 2 cause the jurisdiction to be a tax haven under § 26-51-2402, the activity of 3 the member shall be treated as not having been conducted in a tax haven. 4 5 26-51-2410. Initiation and withdrawal of water's-edge election. 6 (a)(1) A water's-edge election is effective only if made on a timely 7 filed, original return for the tax year by each member of the unitary 8 business subject to tax under the Income Tax Act of 1929, § 26-51-101 et seq. 9 (2) The Director of the Department of Finance and Administration 10 shall develop rules governing the impact, if any, on the scope or application of a water's-edge election, including without limitation termination or 11 12 deemed election resulting from a change in the composition of the unitary 13 group, the combined group, the taxpayer members, and any other similar 14 change. 15 (b) In the discretion of the director, a water's-edge election may be disregarded in whole or in part, and the income and apportionment factors of 16 17 any member of the taxpayer's unitary group may be included in the combined 18 report without regard to the provisions of this section if: 19 (1) A member of the unitary group fails to comply with this 20 subchapter; or 21 (2) A person otherwise not included in the water's-edge combined 22 group was designated with the substantial objective of avoiding state income 23 tax. 24 (c)(l) A water's-edge election is binding for and applicable to the 25 tax year in which it is made and all tax years thereafter for a period of ten 26 (10) years. 27 (2)(A) A water's-edge election may be withdrawn or reinstituted 28 after withdrawal before the expiration of the ten-year period only upon 29 written request for reasonable cause based on extraordinary hardship due to 30 unforeseen changes in state tax statutes, law, or policy, and only with the 31 written permission of the director. 32 (B) If the director grants a withdrawal of election, the director shall impose reasonable conditions to prevent the evasion of tax or 33 34 to clearly reflect income for the election period before or after the 35 withdrawal.

(3)(A) Upon the expiration of the ten-year period, a taxpayer

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1	may withdraw from the water's edge election.
2	(B) Withdrawal under this section shall be made in writing
3	within one (1) year of the expiration of the election.
4	(C) Withdrawal under this section is binding for a period
5	of ten (10) years subject to the conditions that applied to the original
6	election under this section.
7	(D) If no withdrawal is properly made, the water's edge
8	election shall be in place for an additional ten-year period subject to the
9	conditions that applied to the original election under this section.
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11	24-51-2411. Rules.
12	The Director of the Department of Finance and Administration shall
13	promulgate rules to implement this subchapter.
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15	SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 26-51-419(b), concerning deductions for
16	charitable contributions, is amended to read as follows:
17	(b) The provisions of subsection Subsection (a) of this section shall apply applies to a corporation that files
18	an Arkansas consolidated corporation <u>combined</u> income tax return pursuant to § 26-51-805, provided that each
19	member of the affiliated group shall follow the provisions of § 26-51-805(f) and calculate its contribution limits
20	separately under the Arkansas Small Business Tax Fairness Act, § 26-51-2401 et seq., in accordance with § 26-51-
21	<u>2405</u> .
22	
23	SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 26-51-804(a), concerning income tax returns
24	for corporations, is amended to read as follows:
25	(a)(1) Every corporation subject to taxation under this act shall make
26	a return stating specifically the items of its gross income and the
27	deductions and credits allowed by this act.
28	(2) Corporations that are members of a unitary business under
29	the Arkansas Small Business Tax Fairness Act, § 26-51-2401 et seq., shall
30	file a combined return.
31	(3) Corporations that are not members of a unitary business
32	under the Arkansas Small Business Tax Fairness Act, § 26-51-2401 et seq.,
33	shall file returns on either a consolidated basis or a separate entity basis.
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35	SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 26-51-805(a), concerning consolidated
36	income tax returns for corporations, is amended to read as follows:

1	(a)(1) $\underline{(A)}$ All corporations which \underline{that} are eligible members of an
2	affiliated group, as that term is defined in 26 U.S.C. § 1504(a) and (b), as
3	of it existed on January 1, 1989, which affiliated group files a federal
4	consolidated corporate income tax return pursuant to 26 U.S.C. §§ 1501-1505
5	as of January 1, 1989, may elect to shall file a consolidated combined
6	Arkansas corporate income tax return under the Arkansas Small Business Tax
7	Fairness Act, § 26-51-2401 et seq., if the affiliated group files a federal
8	consolidated corporate income tax return under 26 U.S.C. §§ 1501-1505, as
9	they existed on January 1, 1989.
10	(B) Corporations that are not members of a unitary
11	business under the Arkansas Small Business Tax Fairness Act, § 26-51-2401 et
12	seq., shall file returns on either a consolidated basis or a separate entity
13	<u>basis.</u>
14	(2) However, only corporations in the affiliated group that have
15	gross income from sources within the State of Arkansas that is subject to
16	taxation under the provisions of the Arkansas Income Tax Act <u>of 1929</u> , as
17	amended, § 26-51-101 et seq., shall be eligible to file consolidated
18	corporate income tax returns in Arkansas.
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20	SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This act is effective for tax years
21	beginning on or after January 1, 2012.
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23	/s/Nickels
24	
25	Referred by the Arkansas House of Representatives
26	Prepared by: JLL/VJF
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