

# ASSEMBLY, No. 5340

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 5, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman VINCENT PRIETO**

**District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)**

**Assemblyman JON M. BRAMNICK**

**District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)**

**Assemblywoman ELIANA PINTOR MARIN**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Senator RAYMOND J. LESNIAK**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Senator SAMUEL D. THOMPSON**

**District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Provides tax credits for certain business headquarters located in State.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/9/2018)

1 AN ACT concerning tax credits for certain business headquarters  
2 located in this State and supplementing P.L.1974, c.80 (C.34:1B-  
3 1 et seq.).

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

7  
8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. (1) the Grow New Jersey Assistance Program (Grow  
10 Program) is the State's premier job creation and retention business  
11 incentive program that offers eligible businesses creating or  
12 retaining jobs in New Jersey tax credits for making certain capital  
13 investments at certain locations in the State;

14 (2) according to the New Jersey Economic Development  
15 Authority (authority), the State agency that administers the Grow  
16 Program, as of the end of July 2017, the authority approved 229  
17 projects, amounting to more than \$4.4 billion in tax credits to be  
18 awarded after these businesses create or retain jobs and make  
19 capital investments;

20 (3) the authority reports that, collectively, these eligible  
21 businesses are to make a total capital investment of \$3.85 billion,  
22 create 28,800 new full-time jobs, retain 30,420 jobs at risk of  
23 leaving the State, and create 15,730 estimated construction jobs,  
24 having an estimated net benefit to the State of \$13.4 billion; and

25 (4) although the Grow Program is achieving its intended result of  
26 having businesses locate in the commercial areas of the State's  
27 cities and shuttered suburban office parks, thereby revitalizing these  
28 commercial areas, the State has opportunities from time to time to  
29 attract corporate headquarters that have the effect of transforming  
30 the economy of a region of the State.

31 b. Therefore, the Legislature determines that it is in the  
32 economic interest of the residents of this State that a new, enhanced  
33 business incentive program be created to supplement the Grow  
34 Program, where an eligible business creating at least 30,000 new,  
35 full-time, high-paying jobs and making a capital investment of at  
36 least \$3 billion at a site in this State, be awarded an enhanced  
37 amount of tax credits by the authority for undertaking the  
38 construction of a corporate headquarters that has the effect of  
39 transforming the economy of a region of the State.

40  
41 2. As used in P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
42 Legislature as this bill):

43 "Affiliate" means an entity that directly or indirectly controls, is  
44 under common control with, or is controlled by the business.  
45 Control exists in all cases in which the entity is a member of a  
46 controlled group of corporations as defined pursuant to section 1563  
47 of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. s.1563) or the entity is an  
48 organization in a group of organizations under common control as

1 defined pursuant to subsection (b) or (c) of section 414 of the  
2 Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. s.414). A taxpayer may establish  
3 by clear and convincing evidence, as determined by the Director of  
4 the Division of Taxation in the Department of the Treasury, that  
5 control exists in situations involving lesser percentages of  
6 ownership than required by those statutes.

7 "Authority" means the New Jersey Economic Development  
8 Authority established by section 4 of P.L.1974, c.80 (C.34:1B-4).

9 "Business" means an applicant proposing to own or lease  
10 premises in a transformative corporate headquarters that is a  
11 corporation that is subject to the tax imposed pursuant to section 5  
12 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5), sections 2 and 3 of P.L.1945,  
13 c.132 (C.54:18A-2 and C.54:18A-3), section 1 of P.L.1950, c.231  
14 (C.17:32-15), or N.J.S.17B:23-5. A business shall include an  
15 affiliate of the business if that business applies for a credit based  
16 upon any capital investment made by or full-time employees of an  
17 affiliate.

18 "Capital investment" in a transformative corporate headquarters  
19 means expenses by a business or any affiliate of the business  
20 incurred after application for:

21 a. site preparation and construction, repair, renovation,  
22 improvement, equipping, or furnishing on real property or of a  
23 building, structure, facility, or improvement to real property; and

24 b. obtaining and installing furnishings and machinery,  
25 apparatus, or equipment, including but not limited to material goods  
26 subject to bonus depreciation under sections 168 and 179 of the  
27 federal Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. s.168 and s.179), for the  
28 operation of a business on real property or in a building, structure,  
29 facility, or improvement to real property.

30 In addition to the foregoing, if a business acquires or leases a  
31 transformative corporate headquarters, the capital investment made  
32 or acquired by the seller or owner, as the case may be, if pertaining  
33 primarily to the premises of the transformative corporate  
34 headquarters, shall be considered a capital investment by the  
35 business and, if pertaining generally to the transformative corporate  
36 headquarters being acquired or leased, shall be allocated to the  
37 premises of the transformative corporate headquarters on the basis  
38 of the gross leasable area of the premises in relation to the total  
39 gross leasable area in the transformative corporate headquarters.  
40 The capital investment described herein may include any capital  
41 investment made or acquired within 24 months prior to the date of  
42 application so long as the amount of capital investment made or  
43 acquired by the business, any affiliate of the business, or any owner  
44 after the date of application equals at least 50 percent of the amount  
45 of capital investment, allocated to the premises of the  
46 transformative corporate headquarters being acquired or leased on  
47 the basis of the gross leasable area of the premises in relation to the  
48 total gross leasable area in the transformative corporate  
49 headquarters made or acquired prior to the date of application.

1 "Commitment period" means the period of time that is one and a  
2 half times the eligibility period for each applicable phase  
3 agreement.

4 "Director" means the Director of the Division of Taxation in the  
5 Department of the Treasury.

6 "Eligibility period" means the period in which a business may  
7 claim a tax credit under the Transformative Headquarters Economic  
8 Assistance Program for a given project phase, beginning with the  
9 tax period in which the authority accepts certification of the  
10 business that it has met the capital investment and employment  
11 requirements of the respective phase of the program and extending  
12 thereafter for a term of not more than 10 years, with the term to be  
13 determined solely at the discretion of the applicant.

14 "Eligible position" or "full-time job" means a new full-time  
15 position at a transformative corporate headquarters, which the  
16 business has filled with a full-time employee of that business.

17 "Full-time employee" means a person:

18 a. who is employed by a business for consideration for at least  
19 35 hours a week, or who renders any other standard of service  
20 generally accepted by custom or practice as full-time employment;  
21 and

22 b. who is provided, by the business, with employee health  
23 benefits under a health benefits plan authorized pursuant to State or  
24 federal law.

25 "Full-time employee" shall not include any person who works as  
26 an independent contractor or on a consulting basis for the business.  
27 Full-time employee shall also not include any person who, at the  
28 time of the transformative corporate headquarters application,  
29 works in New Jersey for consideration for at least 35 hours per  
30 week, or who renders any other standard of service generally  
31 accepted by custom or practice as full-time employment but who  
32 prior to the application was not provided, by the business, with  
33 employee health benefits under a health benefits plan authorized  
34 pursuant to State or federal law.

35 "Government entity" means the State government, a local unit of  
36 government, or a State or local government agency or authority.

37 "Incentive agreement" means the contract between the business  
38 and the authority, which sets forth the terms and conditions under  
39 which the business shall be eligible to receive the incentives  
40 authorized pursuant to the Transformative Headquarters Economic  
41 Assistance Program.

42 "Incentive phase agreement" means a sub-agreement of the  
43 incentive agreement that governs the timing, capital investment,  
44 employment levels, and other applicable details of the respective  
45 phase.

46 "Incentive phase agreement effective date" means the date the  
47 authority issues a tax credit for a portion of the total tax credits  
48 awarded proportionate to the number of new full-time jobs created  
49 during the respective phase, based on documentation submitted by a

1 business pursuant to subsection a. of section 6 of P.L. , c. (C. )  
2 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

3 "Minimum environmental and sustainability standards" means  
4 standards established by the authority in accordance with the green  
5 building manual prepared by the Commissioner of Community  
6 Affairs pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2007, c.132 (C.52:27D-130.6),  
7 regarding the use of renewable energy, energy-efficient technology,  
8 and non-renewable resources in order to reduce environmental  
9 degradation and encourage long-term cost reduction.

10 "New full-time job" means an eligible position created by the  
11 business at the transformative corporate headquarters that did not  
12 previously exist in this State.

13 "Program" means the "Transformative Headquarters Economic  
14 Assistance Program" established pursuant to section 3 of P.L. ,  
15 c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

16 "Providing public infrastructure" means:

17 a. undertaking and paying for the construction of public  
18 infrastructure;

19 b. contributing money or paying debt service for the  
20 construction of public infrastructure; or

21 c. deeding land to a government entity for use as public  
22 infrastructure.

23 "Public infrastructure" means:

24 a. buildings and structures such as: schools; fire houses; police  
25 stations; recreation centers; public works garages; and water and  
26 sewer treatment and pumping facilities;

27 b. open space with improvements such as: athletic fields;  
28 playgrounds; and planned parks;

29 c. open space without improvements;

30 d. public transportation facilities such as: train stations and  
31 public parking facilities; and

32 e. sidewalks, streets, roads, ramps, and jug handles.

33 To qualify as "public infrastructure," the facilities, land, or both,  
34 shall have a minimum fair market value of \$5,000,000; provided,  
35 however, that multiple lands and facilities, valued individually at  
36 less than \$5,000,000, that are part of the same redevelopment  
37 project may be aggregated to achieve the minimum \$5,000,000  
38 requirement. In the case of open space without improvements, the  
39 land shall have a minimum fair market value of at least \$1,000,000  
40 prior to its dedication as open space.

41 "Qualified business facility" means within any building, complex  
42 of buildings or structural components of buildings, and all  
43 machinery and equipment, at one or more sites zoned for that  
44 purpose located anywhere within this State, used in connection with  
45 the operation of a business.

46 "Transformative corporate headquarters" or "headquarters"  
47 means the corporate headquarters of a business that is a qualified  
48 business facility at which the business intends to create at least

1 30,000 new full-time jobs and make at least \$3,000,000,000 in  
2 capital investment.

3  
4 3. a. The Transformative Headquarters Economic Assistance  
5 Program is hereby established as a program under the jurisdiction of  
6 the New Jersey Economic Development Authority and shall be  
7 administered by the authority. The purpose of the program shall be  
8 to encourage economic development and job creation in New Jersey  
9 by providing tax credits to a business establishing a transformative  
10 corporate headquarters in this State, at which at least 30,000 new  
11 full-time jobs will be created and at least \$3,000,000,000 in capital  
12 investment will be made. To implement this purpose, the program  
13 may provide tax credits claimed by an eligible business for an  
14 eligibility period not to exceed 10 years per project phase.

15 b. To be eligible for any tax credits pursuant to P.L. , c.  
16 (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), a business's chief  
17 executive officer or equivalent officer shall demonstrate to the  
18 authority, at the time of application, that:

19 (1) the business, expressly including its landlord or seller, will  
20 make, acquire, or lease a capital investment equal to, or greater  
21 than, \$3,000,000,000 at a transformative corporate headquarters at  
22 which it intends to create new full-time jobs in an amount equal to  
23 or greater than 30,000;

24 (2) the transformative corporate headquarters shall be  
25 constructed in accordance with the minimum environmental and  
26 sustainability standards as determined by the authority;

27 (3) (a) the capital investment resultant from the award of tax  
28 credits and the resultant creation of full-time jobs will yield a net  
29 positive benefit to the State equaling at least 115 percent of the  
30 requested tax credit allocation amount where the net positive  
31 benefit determination shall be calculated for each phase and based  
32 on the benefits generated during a period of up to 50 years  
33 following completion of each phase of the transformative corporate  
34 headquarters, as determined by the authority, and shall equal at least  
35 115 percent of the requested tax credit allocation amount;

36 (b) an individual phase may generate a net benefit of less than  
37 115 percent of the tax credit allocation amount, provided that the  
38 total of all phases calculated up to that point, including the current  
39 phase, is at least 115 percent; and

40 (c) the calculation of future phases of the headquarters shall not  
41 be used to claim a net positive benefit to the State equaling at least  
42 115 percent of the requested tax credit allocation amount towards  
43 the calculation of the current phase; and

44 (4) the award of tax credits will be a material factor in the  
45 business's decision to create at least 30,000 new full-time jobs at the  
46 headquarters for eligibility under the program.

47 c. The minimum capital investment required to be eligible  
48 under the program shall be \$120 per square foot of gross leasable  
49 area for construction of a transformative corporate headquarters.

1 d. To assist the authority in determining whether a proposed  
2 capital investment will yield a net positive benefit, the business's  
3 chief executive officer, or equivalent officer, shall submit a  
4 certification to the authority indicating:

5 (1) that any projected creation of new full-time jobs at a  
6 transformative corporate headquarters would not occur but for the  
7 provision of tax credits under the program; and

8 (2) that the business's chief executive officer, or equivalent  
9 officer, has reviewed the information submitted to the authority and  
10 that the representations contained therein are accurate, provided  
11 however, that in satisfaction of the provisions of paragraphs (2) and  
12 (3) of subsection b. of this section, the certification shall indicate  
13 that the provision of tax credits under the program is a material  
14 factor in the business decision to create the minimum number of  
15 new full-time jobs set forth in the business's application and make a  
16 minimum amount of capital investment of \$3,000,000,000 at a  
17 transformative corporate headquarters.

18 In the event that this certification by the business's chief  
19 executive officer, or equivalent officer, is found to be willfully  
20 false, the authority may revoke any award of tax credits in their  
21 entirety, which revocation shall be in addition to any other criminal  
22 or civil penalties that the business and the officer may be subject to.

23

24 4. The authority shall require an eligible business to enter into  
25 an incentive agreement prior to the issuance of tax credits. The  
26 incentive agreement shall include, but not be limited to, the  
27 following:

28 a. a detailed description of the proposed transformative  
29 corporate headquarters, including the phases for completion of the  
30 headquarters and the number of new full-time jobs that are  
31 approved for tax credits;

32 b. an incentive phase agreement which for each phase,  
33 identifies a description of the phase, the expected capital investment  
34 and number of new full-time jobs, and the time following  
35 acceptance of the incentive agreement when each phase is to begin  
36 and be completed, with the awarding of tax credits under the  
37 incentive agreement to be predicated on the number of full-time  
38 jobs created through the fulfillment of each incentive phase  
39 agreement;

40 c. the eligibility period of the tax credits for each phase,  
41 including the first year for which the tax credits may be claimed;

42 d. personnel information that will enable the authority to  
43 administer the program;

44 e. (1) a requirement that the applicant maintain each phase of  
45 the headquarters at a location in New Jersey for the commitment  
46 period and a provision to permit the authority to recapture all or  
47 part of any tax credits awarded, at its discretion, if the business does  
48 not remain in compliance with this provision for the required term

- 1 according to the incentive phase agreement schedule required  
2 pursuant to subsection b. of this section;
- 3 (2) a provision which requires the applicant to complete a  
4 number of phases of the headquarters equal to 30,000 new full-time  
5 jobs and \$3,000,000,000 in capital investment prior to the 20th year  
6 following authority approval of the incentive agreement and a  
7 provision setting forth the requirements pursuant to subsection c. of  
8 section 8 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature  
9 as this bill) in the event the headquarters fails to achieve the  
10 required employment level of new full-time jobs or capital  
11 investment by the 20th year of the incentive agreement;
- 12 (3) a provision that up to \$25,000,000 of the tax credits awarded  
13 to the business may be sold annually, pursuant to subsection c. of  
14 section 7 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature  
15 as this bill), to a third party, provided that the maximum amount of  
16 tax credits the business may sell shall be \$500,000,000, and that the  
17 proceeds from the sales of tax credit are used for providing public  
18 infrastructure;
- 19 (4) a provision that each phase shall have a minimum  
20 investment of \$300,000,000 and that the first phase shall employ a  
21 minimum of 5,000 new full-time jobs; and
- 22 (5) in the instance of the business terminating an existing  
23 incentive agreement in order to participate in an incentive  
24 agreement authorized pursuant to the P.L. , c. (C. )  
25 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the permitted recapture  
26 may be calculated to recognize the period of time that the business  
27 was in compliance prior to termination.
- 28 f. a method for the business to certify that the business has met  
29 the employment and capital investment requirements of the  
30 program, pursuant to incentive phase agreements and the incentive  
31 agreement towards the headquarters completion and job creation  
32 schedule, and to report annually to the authority the number of new  
33 full-time employees against which the tax credits are to be made;
- 34 g. a provision permitting an audit of the payroll records of the  
35 business from time to time, as the authority deems necessary;
- 36 h. a provision which permits the authority to amend the  
37 agreement; and
- 38 i. a provision establishing the conditions under which the  
39 agreement may be terminated.
- 40
- 41 5. a. The total amount of the tax credit awarded for an eligible  
42 business for each new full-time job shall be \$10,000 per year for 10  
43 years. The total tax credit amount shall be calculated and credited  
44 to the business annually for each year of the eligibility period  
45 following the creation of the full-time job pursuant to the incentive  
46 phase agreements.
- 47 b. Following the enactment of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
48 before the Legislature as this bill), there shall be no monetary cap



1 on the value of credits approved by the authority attributable to the  
2 program.

3  
4 6. a. (1) A business shall submit an application for tax credits  
5 to the authority prior to July 1, 2019. If the business requests  
6 additional time to submit its application, the authority shall have the  
7 discretion to grant one six-month extension of this deadline. A  
8 business shall submit its documentation indicating that it has met  
9 the capital investment and employment requirements for the first  
10 phase, as specified in the incentive agreement and the incentive  
11 phase agreement, for certification of its tax credit amount within  
12 three years following the date of approval of its application by the  
13 authority. The authority shall have the discretion to grant two, one-  
14 year extensions of this deadline.

15 (2) Full-time employment for a tax period shall be determined  
16 as the average of the monthly full-time employment for the tax  
17 period.

18 b. In conducting its annual review, the authority may require a  
19 business to submit any information determined by the authority to  
20 be necessary and relevant to its review.

21  
22 7. a. The total tax credit amount calculated and credited to the  
23 business annually for each year of the eligibility period may be  
24 applied against the tax liability otherwise due and required to be  
25 paid by the business pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162  
26 (C.54:10A-5), sections 2 and 3 of P.L.1945, c.132 (C.54:18A-2 and  
27 54:18A-3), section 1 of P.L.1950, c.231 (C.17:32-15), or  
28 N.J.S.17B:23-5 for the privilege period or the tax accounting period  
29 of the business that coincides with the year of the business's  
30 eligibility period for which the tax credit has been issued.

31 b. The order of priority of the application of the tax credit  
32 issued to a business by the authority pursuant to section 5 of P.L. ,  
33 c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), and any  
34 other tax credits allowed by law, shall be as prescribed by the  
35 director. The amount of the tax credit applied under this section  
36 against the tax imposed pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162  
37 (C.54:10A-5), sections 2 and 3 of P.L.1945, c.132 (C.54:18A-2 and  
38 54:18A-3), section 1 of P.L.1950, c.231 (C.17:32-15), or  
39 N.J.S.17B:23-5 for the privilege period or the tax accounting  
40 period, with any other credits allowed by law, shall not reduce the  
41 tax liability otherwise due and required to be paid to an amount less  
42 than zero. If the tax credit issued to a business exceeds the amount  
43 of tax otherwise due and required to be paid, the amount of that  
44 excess may be carried over, if necessary, to the 50 privilege periods  
45 or tax accounting periods following the privilege period or taxable  
46 year for which the tax credit is first allowed to be applied.

47 c. A business issued an annual installment of a tax credit may  
48 apply to the authority and the director for a tax credit transfer  
49 certificate in lieu of the business being allowed any amount of the

1 tax credit against the tax liability otherwise due and required to be  
2 paid by the business, subject to the limitations on the annual and  
3 total amounts of tax credits that may be sold pursuant to paragraph  
4 (3) of subsection e. of section 4 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
5 before the Legislature as this bill). The tax credit transfer  
6 certificate, upon receipt thereof by the business from the authority  
7 and the director, may be sold or assigned, in full or in part, to any  
8 other person that may have a tax liability pursuant to section 5 of  
9 P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5), sections 2 and 3 of P.L.1945, c.132  
10 (C.54:18A-2 and 54:18A-3), section 1 of P.L.1950, c.231 (C.17:32-  
11 15), or N.J.S.17B:23-5. The certificate issued to the business shall  
12 include a statement waiving the business's right to claim that  
13 amount of the annual installment of the tax credit against the taxes  
14 that the business has elected to sell or assign. The sale or  
15 assignment of any amount of a tax credit transfer certificate allowed  
16 pursuant to this subsection shall not be sold or exchanged for  
17 consideration received by the business of less than 75 percent of the  
18 transferred tax credit amount. The amount of any tax credit transfer  
19 certificate used by a purchaser or assignee against a tax liability  
20 otherwise due and required to be paid shall be subject to the same  
21 limitations and conditions that apply to the use of the credit by the  
22 business that was issued the annual installment of the tax credit.

23

24 8. a. If, in any tax period, the number of new full-time  
25 employees employed by the business at the headquarters drops  
26 below 80 percent of the number of new full-time jobs specified in  
27 the incentive phase agreements for all phases completed, then the  
28 business shall forfeit its credit amount for that tax period and each  
29 subsequent tax period, until the first tax period for which  
30 documentation demonstrating the restoration of the number of full-  
31 time employees employed by the business at the headquarters to 80  
32 percent of the number of jobs specified in the incentive phase  
33 agreements for all phases completed.

34 b. If the headquarters is sold by the owner in whole or in part  
35 during the eligibility period, the new owner shall not acquire the  
36 capital investment of the seller and the seller shall forfeit all credits  
37 for the tax period in which the sale occurs and all subsequent tax  
38 periods, provided however, that any credits of the business shall  
39 remain unaffected.

40 c. If the headquarters fails to achieve an employment level of  
41 30,000 new full-time jobs or a capital investment of at least  
42 \$3,000,000,000 by the 20th year of the incentive agreement, then  
43 the business shall not receive any tax credits for an incomplete  
44 phase, and for a completed phase, if the total employment achieved  
45 is between:

46 (1) 20,000 and 29,999 new full-time jobs, the amount of tax  
47 credits shall be reduced to \$7,000 per employee per year;

48 (2) 10,000 and 19,999 new full-time jobs, the amount of tax  
49 credits shall be reduced to \$5,000 per employee per year; and

1 (3) 5,000 and 9,999 new full-time jobs, the amount of tax credits  
2 shall be reduced to \$3,000 per employee per year.

3 The business shall repay any amount of tax credits allowed prior  
4 to the 20th year of the incentive agreement that is in excess of the  
5 amount calculated based on the reduced tax credit first by forfeiting  
6 any tax credit amounts carried over, pursuant to subsection b. of  
7 section 7 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature  
8 as this bill), and then by payment of current funds.

9  
10 9. a. The chief executive officer of the authority, in  
11 consultation with the Director of the Division of Taxation in the  
12 Department of the Treasury, shall adopt rules and regulations  
13 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410  
14 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) as are necessary to implement P.L. , c.  
15 (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), including but not  
16 limited to:

17 (1) examples of and the determination of capital investment at  
18 the headquarters;

19 (2) the determination of the limits, if any, on the expense or type  
20 of furnishings that may constitute capital improvements;

21 (3) the promulgation of procedures and forms necessary to apply  
22 for a tax credit, including the enumeration of the certification  
23 procedures and allocation of tax credits for different phases of a  
24 headquarters; and

25 (4) provisions for tax credit applicants to be charged an initial  
26 application fee and ongoing service fees to cover the administrative  
27 costs related to the tax credit.

28 b. Through regulation, the authority shall establish standards  
29 by which a headquarters shall be constructed or renovated in  
30 compliance with the minimum environmental and sustainability  
31 standards.

32  
33 10. This act shall take effect immediately.

34  
35  
36 STATEMENT

37  
38 The Grow New Jersey Assistance Program (Grow Program) is  
39 the State's premier job creation and retention business incentive  
40 program that offers eligible businesses creating or retaining jobs in  
41 New Jersey tax credits for making certain capital investments at  
42 certain locations in the State. Although the Grow Program is  
43 achieving its intended result of having businesses locate to the  
44 commercial areas of the State's cities and shuttered suburban office  
45 parks, thereby revitalizing these commercial areas, the State has  
46 opportunities from time to time to attract corporate headquarters  
47 that have the effect of transforming the economy of a region of the  
48 State by establishing a new business incentive program that  
49 complements the Grow Program.

1 This bill establishes a “Transformative Headquarters Economic  
2 Assistance Program” (program) under the jurisdiction of the New  
3 Jersey Economic Development Authority (authority). The purpose  
4 of this new business incentive program is to encourage economic  
5 development and new job creation in New Jersey at a corporate  
6 headquarters (headquarters) that is transformational to the regional  
7 economy, where at least 30,000 new full-time jobs are created and  
8 at least \$3 billion in capital investment is made. The program  
9 provides tax credits claimed by an eligible business for an  
10 eligibility period not to exceed 10 years for each phase of the  
11 headquarters.

12 To be eligible for tax credits under the bill, an eligible business's  
13 chief executive officer or equivalent officer is to demonstrate to the  
14 authority, at the time of application, that:

15 (1) the business will make, acquire, or lease a capital investment  
16 equal to, or greater than, \$3 billion at a headquarters at which it will  
17 create at least 30,000 new full-time jobs;

18 (2) the headquarters is to be constructed in accordance with the  
19 minimum environmental and sustainability standards;

20 (3) the capital investment resultant from the award of tax credits  
21 and the resultant creation of new full-time jobs will yield a net  
22 positive benefit to the State equaling at least 115 percent of the  
23 requested tax credit allocation amount where the net positive  
24 benefit determination shall be calculated for each phase of the  
25 headquarters based on the benefits generated during a period of up  
26 to 50 years following completion of the headquarters; and

27 (4) the award of tax credits will be a material factor in the  
28 business's decision to create at least 30,000 new full-time jobs for  
29 eligibility under the program.

30 The bill requires a business to submit an application for tax  
31 credits to the authority prior to July 1, 2019. If the business  
32 requests additional time to submit its application, the authority is to  
33 have the discretion to grant one six-month extension of this  
34 deadline.

35 Under the bill, the authority is to require an eligible business to  
36 enter into an incentive agreement prior to the issuance of tax  
37 credits. The incentive agreement is to include, but not be limited  
38 to:

39 (1) a detailed description of the proposed headquarters,  
40 including the phases for completion of the headquarters and the  
41 number of new full-time jobs that are approved for tax credits;

42 (2) the eligibility period of the tax credits for each phase,  
43 including the first year for which the tax credits may be claimed;

44 (3) personnel information that will enable the authority to  
45 administer the program;

46 (4) a requirement that the applicant maintain the headquarters at  
47 a location in New Jersey for the commitment period and a provision  
48 to permit the authority to recapture all or part of any tax credits

1 awarded, at its discretion, if the business does not remain in  
2 compliance with this provision for the required term;

3 (5) a provision that up to \$25,000,000 of the tax credits awarded  
4 to the business may be sold annually to a third party, provided that  
5 the maximum amount of tax credits the business may sell shall be  
6 \$500,000,000 and that the proceeds are used for providing public  
7 infrastructure;

8 (6) a method for the business to certify that it has met the  
9 employment and capital investment requirements of the program  
10 pursuant to a phased-in headquarters completion and new full-time  
11 job creation employment schedule and to report annually to the  
12 authority the number of new full-time employees against which the  
13 tax credits are to be made;

14 (7) a provision permitting an audit of the payroll records of the  
15 business from time to time, as the authority deems necessary; and

16 (8) a provision which permits the authority to amend the  
17 agreement and provisions establishing the conditions under which  
18 the agreement may be terminated.

19 The total amount of the tax credit for an eligible business for  
20 each new full-time job is \$10,000 per year for up to 10 years. The  
21 total tax credit amount is to be calculated and credited to the  
22 business annually for each year of the eligibility period. There is no  
23 monetary cap on the value of credits approved by the authority  
24 attributable to the program. If the tax credit issued to a business  
25 exceeds the amount of tax otherwise due and required to be paid,  
26 the amount of that excess may be carried over, if necessary, to the  
27 50 tax periods following the taxable year for which the tax credit is  
28 first allowed to be applied.

29 If, in any tax period, the number of new full-time employees  
30 employed by the business at its headquarters drops below 80  
31 percent of the number of new full-time jobs specified in the  
32 incentive phase agreements for all phases completed, then the  
33 business is to forfeit its credit amount for that tax period and each  
34 subsequent tax period, until the first tax period for which  
35 documentation demonstrating the restoration of the number of full-  
36 time employees employed by the business at the headquarters to 80  
37 percent of the number of jobs specified in the incentive phase  
38 agreements for all phases completed.