STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 53rd Legislature (2012)

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2326 By: Lockhart

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7 SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

An Act relating to revenue and taxation; creating the Rural Value Added Quality Jobs Act; stating legislative intent; defining terms; creating Incentive Approval Committee; specifying membership and duties of Committee; providing for quarterly incentive payments to certain establishments; specifying amount of payments; specifying application procedures; providing eligibility requirements; requiring Oklahoma Department of Commerce determine applicant eligibility; requiring cost benefit analysis; limiting eligibility based on result of analysis; allowing Oklahoma Tax Commission to require additional information; allowing Tax Commission to audit to verify eligibility; providing that agreement exists under certain conditions; allowing municipalities to receive portion of payments under certain circumstances; requiring Tax Commission approval; creating Rural Value Added Quality Jobs Incentive Payment Fund; authorizing Tax Commission to withhold portion of income taxes for deposit into fund; providing for determination of withheld amount; limiting permissible uses of funds; limiting liability of state; requiring filing of claim for payment within certain time period; restating gross payroll requirements; restating limit on amount of payments; allowing eligibility of expansion; providing extraordinary adverse business circumstance procedures; providing time limitation for application for additional incentives; requiring Tax Commission to issue certain warrant; providing ineligibility for certain other incentives based on participation; providing exception; allowing certain incentive simultaneously; requiring certain determination

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1 letter; requiring Department of Commerce and Tax Commission to promulgate certain rules; prohibiting 2 certain act; providing punishment; requiring Department of Commerce to prepare certain report; 3 providing for codification; and providing an effective date. 4 5 6 7

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified 9 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3951 of Title 68, unless there 10 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Rural Value Added Quality Jobs Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3952 of Title 68, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

It is the intent of the Legislature that:

- The State of Oklahoma provide appropriate incentives to support establishments of basic industries that hold the promise of significant development of the rural economy of the State of Oklahoma;
- The amount of incentives provided pursuant to this act in connection with a particular establishment:

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- a. be directly related to the jobs created as a result of the establishment locating in rural areas of the State of Oklahoma, and
 - b. not exceed the estimated net direct state benefits that will accrue to the state as a result of the establishment locating in rural areas of the State of Oklahoma;
- 3. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce and the Oklahoma Tax

 Commission implement the provisions of this act and exercise all

 powers as authorized in this act. The exercise of powers conferred

 by this act shall be deemed and held to be the performance of

 essential public purposes; and
- 4. Nothing herein shall be construed to constitute a guarantee or assumption by the State of Oklahoma of any debt of any individual, company, corporation or association nor to authorize the credit of the State of Oklahoma to be given, pledged or loaned to any individual, company, corporation or association.
- SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3953 of Title 68, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
 - A. As used in the Rural Value Added Quality Jobs Act:
 - 1. "Basic industry" means those activities:

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a. defined or classified in the NAICS Manual under Section Nos. 11, 22, 23, 31, 32, 33, 42, 44, 45, 48, 49, 51, 53, 54, 55, 56, 61, 62 and 81, and

- b. related to extraction of crude petroleum and natural gas defined or classified in the NAICS Manual under Industry Group No. 2111, subject to the limitations provided in subsection B of this section;
- 2. "Change-in-control event" means the transfer to one or more unrelated establishments or unrelated persons, of either:
 - a. beneficial ownership of more than fifty percent (50%) in value and more than fifty percent (50%) in voting power of the outstanding equity securities of the transferred establishment, or
 - b. more than fifty percent (50%) in value of the assets of an establishment.

A transferor shall be treated as related to a transferee if more than fifty percent (50%) of the voting interests of the transferor and transferee are owned, directly or indirectly, by the other or are owned, directly or indirectly, by the same person or persons, unless such transferred establishment has an outstanding class of equity securities registered under Sections 12(b) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, in which event the transferor and transferee will be treated as unrelated; provided, an establishment applying for the Rural Value Added Quality Jobs Act as

a result of a change-in-control event is required to apply within one hundred eighty (180) days of the change-in-control event to qualify for consideration. An establishment entering the Rural Value Added Quality Jobs Act as the result of a change-in-control event shall be required to maintain a level of new direct jobs as agreed to in its contract with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and to pay new direct jobs an average annualized wage which equals or exceeds one hundred twenty-five percent (125%) of the average county wage as that percentage is determined by the Oklahoma State Data Center based upon the most recent U.S. Department of Commerce data for the county in which the new jobs are located. For purposes of this paragraph, healthcare premiums paid by the applicant for individuals in new direct jobs shall not be included in the annualized wage. Such establishment entering the Rural Value Added Quality Jobs Act as the result of a change-in-control event shall be required to retain the contracted average annualized wage and maintain the contracted maintenance level of new direct jobs numbers as certified by the Oklahoma Tax Commission. If the required average annualized wage or the required new direct jobs numbers do not equal or exceed such contracted level during any quarter, the quarterly incentive payments shall not be made and shall not be resumed until such time as such requirements are met. An establishment described in this paragraph shall be required to repay all incentive payments received under the Rural Value Added Quality

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Jobs Act if the establishment is determined by the Oklahoma Tax

Commission to no longer have business operations in the state within

three (3) years from the beginning of the calendar quarter for which

the first incentive payment claim is filed;

3. "New direct job":

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means full-time-equivalent employment in this state of a. a resident of this state in an establishment which has qualified to receive an incentive payment pursuant to the provisions of the Rural Value Added Quality Jobs Act which employment did not exist in this state prior to the date of approval by the Department of the application of the establishment pursuant to the provisions of Section 4 of this act; provided, that if an application of an establishment is approved by the Department of Commerce after a change-in-control event and the Director of the Department of Commerce determines that the jobs located at such establishment are likely to leave the state, "new direct job" shall include employment that existed in this state prior to the date of application which is retained in this state by the new establishment following a change-incontrol event, if such job otherwise qualifies as a new direct job, and

shall include full-time-equivalent employment in this b. state of employees who are employed by an employment agency or similar entity other than the establishment which has qualified to receive an incentive payment and who are leased or otherwise provided under contract to the qualified establishment, if such job did not exist in this state prior to the date of approval by the Department of the application of the establishment or the job otherwise qualifies as a new direct job following a change-in-control event. A job shall be deemed to exist in this state prior to approval of an application if the activities and functions for which the particular job exists have been ongoing at any time within six (6) months prior to such approval;

- 4. "Estimated direct state benefits" means the tax revenues projected by the Department to accrue to the state as a result of new direct jobs;
- 5. "Estimated direct state costs" means the costs projected by the Department to accrue to the state as a result of new direct jobs. Such costs shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a. the costs of education of new state resident children,

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the costs of public health, public safety and 1 b. transportation services to be provided to new state residents,

- the costs of other state services to be provided to C. new state residents, and
- the costs of other state services; d.

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- "Estimated net direct state benefits" means the estimated 6. direct state benefits less the estimated direct state costs;
- 7. "Net benefit rate" means the estimated net direct state benefits computed as a percentage of gross payroll; provided:
 - the net benefit rate may be variable and shall not exceed five percent (5%), and
 - b. in no event shall incentive payments, cumulatively, exceed the estimated net direct state benefits;
- 8. "Gross payroll" means wages, as defined in Section 2385.1 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes, for new direct jobs;
 - 9. "Establishment" means any business or governmental a. entity, no matter what legal form, including, but not limited to, a sole proprietorship; partnership; limited liability company; corporation or combination of corporations which have a central parent corporation which makes corporate management decisions such as those involving consolidation, acquisition, merger or expansion; federal agency; political

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subdivision of the State of Oklahoma; or trust authority; provided, distinct, identifiable subunits of such entities may be determined to be an establishment, for all purposes of the Rural Value Added Quality Jobs Act, by the Department subject to the following conditions:

- (1) within three (3) years of the first complete calendar quarter following the start date, the entity must have a minimum payroll of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) and the subunit must also have or will have a minimum payroll of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00),
- or produces a product which is demonstratively independent and separate from the entity's other activities, services or products and could be conducted or produced in the absence of any other activity, service or production of the entity,
- (3) has an accounting system capable of tracking or facilitating an audit of the subunit's payroll, expenses, revenue and production. Limited interunit overlap of administrative and purchasing functions shall not disqualify a

subunit from consideration as an establishment by
the Department,

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- (4) the entity has not previously had a subunit determined to be an establishment pursuant to this section, and
- (5) it is determined by the Department that the entity will have a probable net gain in total employment within the incentive period.
- b. The Department may promulgate rules to further limit the circumstances under which a subunit may be considered an establishment. The Department shall promulgate rules to determine whether a subunit of an entity achieves a net gain in total employment. The Department shall establish criteria for determining the period of time within which such gain must be demonstrated and a method for determining net gain in total employment;
- 10. "NAICS Manual" means any manual, book or other publication containing the North American Industry Classification System, United States, 1997, promulgated by the Office of Management and Budget of the United States of America, or the latest revised edition;
- 11. "SIC Manual" means the 1987 revision to the Standard Industrial Classification Manual, promulgated by the Office of Management and Budget of the United States of America;

- 12. "Start date" means the date on which an establishment may begin accruing benefits for the creation of new direct jobs, which date shall be determined by the Department;
- 13. "Effective date" means the date of approval of a contract under which incentive payments will be made pursuant to the Rural Value Added Quality Jobs Act, which shall be the date the signed and accepted incentive contract is received by the Department; provided, an approved project may have a start date which is different from the effective date; and
- 14. "Qualifying county" means a county in this state with an unemployment rate of eight percent (8%) or greater at the time of application or at any time within the year immediately preceding application according to the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission.
- B. The Incentive Approval Committee is hereby created and shall consist of the Director of the Office of State Finance, the Director of the Department and one member of the Oklahoma Tax Commission appointed by the Tax Commission, or a designee from each agency approved by such member. It shall be the duty of the Committee to determine, upon initial application on a form approved by the Committee, if an establishment is engaged in a basic industry as defined in this section.

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SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3954 of Title 68, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

- A. Except as otherwise provided in subsection I of this section, an establishment which meets the qualifications specified in the Rural Value Added Quality Jobs Act may receive quarterly incentive payments for a ten-year period from the Oklahoma Tax Commission pursuant to the provisions of the Rural Value Added Quality Jobs Act. The amount of such payments shall be equal to the net benefit rate multiplied by the actual gross payroll of new direct jobs for a calendar quarter as verified by the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission.
- B. In order to receive incentive payments, an establishment shall apply to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. The application shall be on a form prescribed by the Department and shall contain such information as may be required by the Department to determine if the applicant is qualified. An establishment may apply for an effective date for a project, which shall not be more than twenty-four (24) months from the date the application is submitted to the Department.
- C. Except as otherwise provided by subsection D or E of this section, in order to qualify to receive such payments, the establishment applying shall be required to:
 - 1. Be located in a qualifying county;

2. Be engaged in a basic industry;

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- 3. Have an annual gross payroll for new direct jobs projected by the Department to equal or exceed Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) within three (3) years of the first complete calendar quarter following the start date; and
- 4. Have a number of full-time-equivalent employees subject to the tax imposed by Section 2355 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes and working an annual average of thirty (30) or more hours per week in new direct jobs located in this state equal to or in excess of eighty percent (80%) of the total number of new direct jobs.
- D. Except as otherwise provided by subsection E of this section, in order to qualify to receive incentive payments as authorized by the Rural Value Added Quality Jobs Act, in addition to other qualifications specified herein, an establishment shall be required to pay new direct jobs an average annualized wage which equals or exceeds:
- 1. One hundred ten percent (110%) of the average county wage as determined by the Oklahoma State Data Center based on the most recent U.S. Department of Commerce data for the county in which the new direct jobs are located. For purposes of this paragraph, health care premiums paid by the applicant for individuals in new direct jobs shall be included in the annualized wage; or
- 2. One hundred percent (100%) of the average county wage as that percentage is determined by the Oklahoma State Data Center

based upon the most recent U.S. Department of Commerce data for the county in which the new jobs are located. For purposes of this paragraph, health care premiums paid by the applicant for individuals in new direct jobs shall not be included in the annualized wage.

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Provided, no average wage requirement shall exceed Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), in any county. This maximum wage threshold shall be indexed and modified from time to time based on the latest Consumer Price Index year-to-date percent change release as of the date of the annual average county wage data release from the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

- E. 1. As used in this subsection, "opportunity zone" means one or more census tracts in which, according to the most recent federal decennial census, at least thirty percent (30%) of the residents have annual gross household incomes from all sources below the poverty guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. An establishment which is otherwise qualified to receive incentive payments and which locates its principal business activity in an opportunity zone shall not be subject to the requirements of subsection D of this section.
 - 2. As used in this subsection:
 - a. "negative economic event" means:
 - (1) a man-made disaster or natural disaster as defined in Section 683.3 of Title 63 of the

Oklahoma Statutes, resulting in the loss of a significant number of jobs within a particular county of this state, or

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- number of jobs within a particular county of this state have been lost due to an establishment changing its structure, consolidating with another establishment, closing or moving all or part of its operations out of this state, and
- b. "significant number of jobs" means Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) data, as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, for a county which are equal to or in excess of five percent (5%) of the total amount of Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) data for that county for the calendar year, or most recent twelve-month period in which employment is measured, preceding the event.

An establishment which is otherwise qualified to receive incentive payments and which locates in a county in which a negative economic event has occurred within the eighteen-month period preceding the start date shall not be subject to the requirements of subsection D of this section; provided, an establishment shall not be eligible to receive incentive payments based upon a negative

economic event with respect to jobs that are transferred from one county of this state to another.

- F. The Department shall determine if the applicant is qualified to receive incentive payments.
- G. If the applicant is determined to be qualified by the Department, the Department shall conduct a cost/benefit analysis to determine the estimated net direct state benefits and the net benefit rate applicable for a ten-year period beginning with the first complete calendar quarter following the start date and to estimate the amount of gross payroll for a ten-year period beginning with the first complete calendar quarter following the start date. In conducting such cost/benefit analysis, the Department shall consider quantitative factors, such as the anticipated level of new tax revenues to the state along with the added cost to the state of providing services, and such other criteria as deemed appropriate by the Department. In no event shall incentive payments, cumulatively, exceed the estimated net direct state benefits.
- H. Upon approval of such an application, the Department shall notify the Oklahoma Tax Commission and shall provide it with a copy of the contract and the results of the cost/benefit analysis. The Tax Commission may require the qualified establishment to submit such additional information as may be necessary to administer the provisions of the Rural Value Added Quality Jobs Act. The approved establishment shall file quarterly claims with the Tax Commission

1 and shall continue to file such quarterly claims during the ten-year incentive period to show its continued eligibility for incentive payments, as provided in Section 6 of this act, or until it is no 3 longer qualified to receive incentive payments. The establishment 5 may be audited by the Tax Commission to verify such eligibility. Once the establishment is approved, an agreement shall be deemed to 6 exist between the establishment and the State of Oklahoma, requiring 7 the continued incentive payment to be made as long as the 9 establishment retains its eligibility as defined in and established pursuant to this section and Sections 3 and 6 of this act and within 10 the limitations contained in the Rural Value Added Quality Jobs Act, 11 12 which existed at the time of such approval.

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I. A municipality in which an establishment eligible to receive quarterly incentive payments pursuant to the provisions of this section is located may file a claim with the Tax Commission for up to twenty-five percent (25%) of the amount of such payment. The amount of such claim shall not exceed amounts paid by the municipality for direct costs of municipal infrastructure improvements to provide water and sewer service to the establishment. Such claim shall not be approved by the Tax Commission unless the municipality and the establishment have entered into a written agreement for such claims to be filed by the municipality prior to submission of the application of the establishment pursuant to the provisions of this section. If such

claim is approved, the amount of the payment to the establishment made pursuant to the provisions of Section 6 of this act shall be reduced by the amount of the approved claim by the municipality and the Tax Commission shall issue a warrant to the municipality in the amount of the approved claim in the same manner as warrants are issued to qualifying establishments.

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SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3955 of Title 68, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

There is hereby created within the State Treasury a special fund for the Oklahoma Tax Commission to be designated the "Rural Value Added Quality Jobs Incentive Payment Fund". The Oklahoma Tax Commission is hereby authorized and directed to withhold a portion of the taxes levied and collected pursuant to Section 2355 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes for deposit into the fund. The amount deposited shall equal the sum of an amount determined by multiplying the net benefit rate provided by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce by the gross payroll as determined pursuant to the provisions of subsection A of Section 6 of this act. All of the amounts deposited in such fund shall be used and expended by the Tax Commission solely for the purposes and in the amounts authorized by the Rural Value Added Quality Jobs Act. The liability of the State of Oklahoma to make the incentive payments under this act shall be limited to the balance contained in the fund created by this section.

SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3956 of Title 68, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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- As soon as practicable after the end of the first complete calendar quarter following the start date, the establishment shall file a claim for the payment with the Oklahoma Tax Commission and shall specify the actual number and gross payroll of new direct jobs for the establishment for the calendar quarter. The Tax Commission shall verify the actual gross payroll for new direct jobs for the establishment for such calendar quarter. If the Tax Commission is not able to provide such verification utilizing all available resources, the Tax Commission may request such additional information from the establishment as may be necessary or may request the establishment to revise its claim. An establishment may file for an extension of the initial filing date with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. Any such extension shall be based solely upon an extraordinary adverse business circumstance which prevented the establishment from hiring the new direct jobs as projected. an establishment fails to file claims as required by this section, it shall forfeit the right to receive any incentive payments after three (3) years from the start date.
- B. If the actual verified gross payroll for four (4) consecutive calendar quarters does not equal or exceed the applicable total required by Section 4 of this act within three (3)

years of the start date or does not equal or exceed the applicable total required by Section 4 of this act at any other time during the ten-year period after the start date the incentive payments shall not be made and shall not be resumed until such time as the actual verified gross payroll equals or exceeds the amounts specified in Section 4 of this act.

- C. If the average annualized wage required for an establishment does not equal or exceed the amount specified in paragraph 1 or 2 of subsection D of Section 4 of this act during any calendar quarter, the incentive payments shall not be made and shall not be resumed until such time as such requirements are met.
- D. In no event shall incentive payments, cumulatively, exceed the estimated net direct state benefits.
- E. An establishment that has qualified pursuant to Section 4 of this act may receive payments only in accordance with the provisions of the law under which it initially applied and was approved. If an establishment that is receiving incentive payments expands, it may apply for additional incentive payments based on the gross payroll anticipated from the expansion only, pursuant to Section 4 of this act. Provided, an establishment which has suffered an extraordinary adverse business circumstance, as certified by the Incentive Approval Committee, may be allowed to voluntarily withdraw from the Rural Value Added Quality Jobs Act, repay to the Tax Commission the total amount of incentive payments received pursuant to the

provisions of this section, plus interest at the rate specified in Section 727.1 of Title 12 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and reapply to the Department for a new incentive contract if the establishment qualifies pursuant to the provisions of the Rural Value Added Quality Jobs Act. Any funds received by the Tax Commission pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall be apportioned in the manner that income tax revenues are apportioned.

- F. An establishment that is receiving incentive payments may not apply for additional incentive payments for any new projects until twelve (12) quarters after receipt of the first incentive payment, or until the establishment's actual verified gross payroll for new direct jobs equals or exceeds Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) during any four-consecutive-calendar-quarter period, whichever comes first. After meeting the requirements of this subsection, an establishment may apply for additional incentive payments based upon the gross payroll anticipated from an expansion only.
- G. As soon as practicable after verification of the actual gross payroll as required by this section and except as otherwise provided by subsection I of Section 4 of this act, the Tax Commission shall issue a warrant to the establishment in the amount of the net benefit rate multiplied by the actual gross payroll as determined pursuant to subsection A of this section for the calendar quarter.

SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3957 of Title 68, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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- A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a qualified establishment receives an incentive payment pursuant to the provisions of the Rural Value Added Quality Jobs Act, neither the qualified establishment nor its contractors or subcontractors shall be eligible to receive the credits or exemptions provided for in the following provisions of law in connection with the activity for which the incentive payment was received:
- 1. Paragraphs 16 and 17 of Section 1357 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
 - 2. Paragraph 7 of Section 1359 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
 - 3. Section 2357.4 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes; except as provided in subsection B of this section;
 - 4. Section 2357.7 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
 - 5. Section 2-11-303 of Title 27A of the Oklahoma Statutes;
 - 6. Section 2357.22 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
 - 7. Section 2357.31 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
 - 8. Section 54003 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
 - 9. Section 54006 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
 - 10. Section 625.1 of Title 36 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

- 1 11. Subsections C and D of Section 2357.59 of Title 68 of the 2 Oklahoma Statutes:
 - 12. Section 2357.13 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
 - 13. Section 4201 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes; or
 - 14. Section 3601 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

- B. Any establishment which has qualified to receive quarterly incentive payments pursuant to subsection B of Section 4 of this act for a ten-year period with a project start date after January 1, 2013, shall be eligible to receive the credit provided for in Section 2357.4 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes if such establishment:
- 1. Qualifies for the credit allowed pursuant to paragraph 1 of subsection B of Section 2357.4 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes based on an investment made after January 1, 2013;
 - 2. Pays an average annualized wage which equals or exceeds the average state wage as determined by the Oklahoma State Data Center based on the most recent U.S. Department of Commerce data; and
 - 3. Obtains a determination letter from the Oklahoma Department of Commerce that the business activity of the entity will result in a positive net benefit rate.
 - C. For purposes of the exception provided for in this section:
- 1. "Estimated direct state benefits" has the meaning set out in paragraph 4 of subsection A of Section 3 of this act;

2. "Estimated indirect state benefits" means the indirect new tax revenues projected by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce to accrue to the state, including, but not limited to, revenue generated from ancillary support jobs directly related to the primary business;

- 3. "Estimated direct state costs" has the meaning set out in paragraph 5 of subsection A of Section 3 of this act; and
- 4. "Estimated indirect state costs" means the costs projected by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce to accrue to the state as a result of new indirect jobs. Such costs shall include, but not be limited to, costs enumerated in paragraph 3 of this subsection.
- D. Any establishment which has qualified to receive quarterly incentive payments pursuant to subsection B of Section 4 of this act for a ten-year period with a project start date after January 1, 2013, shall be eligible to receive the credit provided for in Section 2357.4 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes pursuant to the provisions of this section if such establishment obtains a determination letter from the Oklahoma Department of Commerce that the business activity of the entity will result in a positive net benefit rate, to be computed by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce using a methodology which provides for the analysis of estimated direct state benefits, estimated indirect state benefits, estimated direct state costs and estimated indirect state costs. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce shall use such information as it determines

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to be relevant for the analysis required by this subsection
including, but not limited to, the type of business activity in
which the entity is engaged or will be engaged, amount of capital
investment, type of assets acquired or utilized by the business
entity, economic impact of the business activity within the relevant
geographic region and such other factors as the Department
determines to be relevant. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce may
use information regarding the business entity alone or in
conjunction with relevant information regarding other business
activity in a geographically relevant area surrounding the principal
business location of the primary business entity in order to perform
the computation of the net benefit rate. If the result of the
analysis is a positive net benefit rate, the establishment shall be
allowed to qualify to receive quarterly incentive payments pursuant
to subsection B of Section 3604 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes
for a ten-year period and shall be eligible to receive the credit
provided for in Section 2357.4 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes.
The Oklahoma Department of Commerce shall transmit a determination
letter to the authorized representative of the establishment and
shall also transmit a copy of the determination letter to the
Oklahoma Tax Commission, regardless of whether the result is a
positive or negative net benefit rate.
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SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3958 of Title 68, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The Oklahoma Department of Commerce and the Oklahoma Tax

Commission shall promulgate rules necessary to implement their respective duties and responsibilities under the provisions of this act.

SECTION 9. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3959 of Title 68, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Any person making an application, claim for payment or any report, return, statement or other instrument or providing any other information pursuant to the provisions of this act who willfully makes a false or fraudulent application, claim, report, return, statement, invoice or other instrument or who willfully provides any false or fraudulent information, or any person who willfully aids or abets another in making such false or fraudulent application, claim, report, return, statement, invoice or other instrument or who willfully aids or abets another in providing any false or fraudulent information, upon conviction, shall be guilty of a felony punishable by the imposition of a fine of not less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) and not more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), or imprisonment in the custody of the Department of Corrections for not less than two (2) years and not more than five (5) years, or by

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    both such fine and imprisonment. Any person convicted of a
    violation of this section shall be liable for the repayment of all
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    incentive payments which were paid to the establishment. Interest
    shall be due on such payments at the rate of ten percent (10%) per
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    in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3960 of Title 68, unless there
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    is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
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        The Oklahoma Department of Commerce shall prepare triennially a
10
    report which shall include, but not be limited to, documentation of
11
    the new direct jobs created under the Rural Value Added Quality Jobs
12
    Act and a fiscal analysis of the costs and benefits of the program
13
    to the state. The report shall be submitted to the President Pro
    Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives
14
15
    and the Governor of this state no later than March 1, 2016, and
```

19 SECTION 11. This act shall become effective January 1, 2013.

every three (3) years thereafter. The report may be used for the

purpose of determining whether to continue or sunset the Rural Value

21 53-2-9734 CJB 02/24/12

Added Quality Jobs Act.

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