

SENATE BILL 150

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

INTRODUCED BY

Peter Wirth

AN ACT

RELATING TO TAXATION; CREATING THE LOCAL NEWS PRINTER INCOME
TAX CREDIT AND LOCAL NEWS PRINTER CORPORATE INCOME TAX CREDIT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. A new section of the Income Tax Act is enacted
to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] LOCAL NEWS PRINTER INCOME TAX CREDIT.--

A. For taxable years prior to January 1, 2031, a
taxpayer who is not a dependent of another individual and is
an owner of a local news printer that employs a qualified
employee may claim a credit against the taxpayer's tax
liability imposed pursuant to the Income Tax Act in an amount
provided in Subsection B of this section. The tax credit
provided by this section may be referred to as the "local news
printer income tax credit".

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1 B. The amount of tax credit shall be in an amount
2 equal to the wages paid to each qualified employee employed by
3 a local news printer in the taxable year for which the tax
4 credit is claimed, not to exceed:

5 (1) ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for a
6 qualified employee working an average of twenty hours or more
7 per week in the taxable year; and

8 (2) five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for a
9 qualified employee working an average of less than twenty hours
10 per week in the taxable year.

11 C. A taxpayer shall apply for certification of
12 eligibility for the tax credit from the department on forms and
13 in the manner prescribed by the department. A taxpayer shall
14 not be eligible to receive a tax credit for more than one
15 hundred qualified employees whom the taxpayer employs as a
16 local news printer and, except as provided in Subsections F and
17 G of this section, only one tax credit shall be certified for
18 each qualified employee employed by a local news printer per
19 taxable year. The total annual aggregate amount of local news
20 printer income tax credits and local news printer corporate
21 income tax credits that may be certified in a calendar year
22 shall not exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000). Completed
23 applications shall be considered in the order received.

24 D. If the department determines that the taxpayer
25 meets the requirements of this section, the department shall

1 issue a dated certificate of eligibility to the taxpayer
2 providing the amount of tax credit for which the taxpayer is
3 eligible and the taxable years in which the credit may be
4 claimed.

5 E. That portion of tax credit that exceeds a
6 taxpayer's income tax liability in the taxable year in which
7 the credit is claimed shall be refunded to the taxpayer.

8 F. Married individuals filing separate returns for
9 a taxable year for which they could have filed a joint return
10 may each claim only one-half of the tax credit that would have
11 been claimed on a joint return.

12 G. A taxpayer may be allocated the right to claim
13 the tax credit in proportion to the taxpayer's ownership
14 interest if the taxpayer owns an interest in a business entity
15 that is taxed for federal income tax purposes as a partnership
16 or limited liability company and the business entity has met
17 all requirements to be eligible for the credit. The total
18 credit claimed by all members of the partnership or limited
19 liability company shall not exceed the allowable credit
20 pursuant to this section.

21 H. A taxpayer allowed to claim a tax credit
22 pursuant to this section shall claim the tax credit in a manner
23 required by the department.

24 I. The credit provided by this section shall be
25 included in the tax expenditure budget pursuant to Section
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1 7-1-84 NMSA 1978, including the total annual aggregate cost of
2 the credit.

3 J. As used in this section:

4 (1) "local news organization" means an entity
5 that:

6 (a) provides a print or digital
7 publication that engages professionals who regularly gather,
8 prepare, collect, photograph, record, direct the recording of,
9 produce, write, edit, report or publish news or information
10 that concerns state or local events or other matters of public
11 interest for dissemination to the state or a local community
12 through reporting activities, including conducting interviews,
13 observing current events or analyzing documents;

14 (b) pays at least one individual, either
15 through employment or by contract with the entity, as a
16 qualified employee;

17 (c) in the case of print publications,
18 has published at least one print publication per month over the
19 previous thirty-six months and holds a valid United States
20 postal service periodical permit or has at least thirty percent
21 of its content dedicated to state or local news;

22 (d) in the case of digital-only
23 entities, has published at least five originally produced
24 stories about the state or a local community per week over the
25 previous thirty-six months and has at least fifty percent of

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1 its digital audience in New Mexico, averaged over a twelve-
2 month period;

3 (e) discloses in the entity's print
4 publication or on the entity's website the entity's beneficial
5 ownership or, in the case of a not-for-profit entity, the
6 entity's board of directors;

7 (f) in the case of an organization that
8 demonstrates to the department that the organization has been
9 granted exemption from the federal income tax by the United
10 States commissioner of internal revenue as organizations
11 described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code,
12 has declared the coverage of state or local news as the stated
13 mission in the organization's filings with the federal internal
14 revenue service;

15 (g) has not received more than ten
16 percent of the entity's gross receipts for the previous year
17 from political action committees or other entities described in
18 Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code, or from an
19 organization that has been granted exemption from the federal
20 income tax by the United States commissioner of internal
21 revenue as an organization described in Section 501(c)(4) or
22 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code; and

23 (h) is not a publicly traded entity or
24 is no more than forty-nine percent owned, directly or
25 indirectly, by a publicly traded entity or subsidiary;

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1 (2) "local news printer" means an entity that:

2 (a) provides manufacturing, production
3 and printing services using a web press designed and optimized
4 for printing newspapers for a local news organization;

5 (b) has been engaging in the business of
6 manufacturing, producing and printing newspapers for at least
7 five years;

8 (c) employs at least five qualified
9 employees; and

10 (d) is not a publicly traded entity or
11 is no more than forty-nine percent owned, directly or
12 indirectly, by a publicly traded entity or subsidiary;

13 (3) "qualified employee" means a person who:

14 (a) is paid by a local news printer to
15 regularly perform duties related to pre-press, press and post-
16 press newspaper production to prepare newspapers for transition
17 to delivery and distribution personnel;

18 (b) works at a physical location in New
19 Mexico; and

20 (c) works as a qualified employee for
21 the local news printer for at least twenty-five percent of the
22 taxable year in which the credit is claimed; and

23 (4) "wages" means compensation paid by a local
24 news printer to a qualified employee through the organization's
25 payroll system, including those wages that the qualified

1 employee elects to defer or redirect or the qualified
2 employee's contribution to a 401(k) or cafeteria plan program.
3 "Wages" does not mean benefits or the organization's share of
4 payroll taxes, social security or medicare contributions,
5 federal or state unemployment insurance contributions or
6 workers' compensation."

7 SECTION 2. A new section of the Corporate Income and
8 Franchise Tax Act is enacted to read:

9 "[NEW MATERIAL] LOCAL NEWS PRINTER CORPORATE INCOME TAX
10 CREDIT.--

11 A. For taxable years prior to January 1, 2031, a
12 taxpayer that is an owner of a local news printer that employs
13 a qualified employee may claim a credit against the taxpayer's
14 tax liability imposed pursuant to the Corporate Income and
15 Franchise Tax Act in an amount provided in Subsection B of this
16 section. The tax credit provided by this section may be
17 referred to as the "local news printer corporate income tax
18 credit".

19 B. The amount of tax credit shall be in an amount
20 equal to the wages paid to each qualified employee employed by
21 a local news printer in the taxable year for which the tax
22 credit is claimed, not to exceed:

23 (1) ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for a
24 qualified employee working an average of twenty hours or more
25 per week in the taxable year; and

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1 (2) five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for a
2 qualified employee working an average of less than twenty hours
3 per week in the taxable year.

4 C. A taxpayer shall apply for certification of
5 eligibility for the tax credit from the department on forms and
6 in the manner prescribed by the department. A taxpayer shall
7 not be eligible to receive a tax credit for more than one
8 hundred qualified employees whom the taxpayer employs as a
9 local news printer and only one tax credit shall be certified
10 for each qualified employee employed by a local news printer
11 per taxable year. The total annual aggregate amount of local
12 news printer corporate income tax credits and local news
13 printer income tax credits that may be certified in a calendar
14 year shall not exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000).
15 Completed applications shall be considered in the order
16 received.

17 D. If the department determines that the taxpayer
18 meets the requirements of this section, the department shall
19 issue a dated certificate of eligibility to the taxpayer
20 providing the amount of tax credit for which the taxpayer is
21 eligible and the taxable years in which the credit may be
22 claimed.

23 E. That portion of tax credit that exceeds a
24 taxpayer's income tax liability in the taxable year in which
25 the credit is claimed shall be refunded to the taxpayer.

1 F. A taxpayer allowed to claim a tax credit
2 pursuant to this section shall claim the tax credit in a manner
3 required by the department.

4 G. The credit provided by this section shall be
5 included in the tax expenditure budget pursuant to Section
6 7-1-84 NMSA 1978, including the total annual aggregate cost of
7 the credit.

8 H. As used in this section:

9 (1) "local news organization" means an entity
10 that:

11 (a) provides a print or digital
12 publication that engages professionals who regularly gather,
13 prepare, collect, photograph, record, direct the recording of,
14 produce, write, edit, report or publish news or information
15 that concerns state or local events or other matters of public
16 interest for dissemination to the state or a local community
17 through reporting activities, including conducting interviews,
18 observing current events or analyzing documents;

19 (b) pays at least one individual, either
20 through employment or by contract with the entity, as a
21 qualified employee;

22 (c) in the case of print publications,
23 has published at least one print publication per month over the
24 previous thirty-six months and holds a valid United States
25 postal service periodical permit or has at least thirty percent

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1 of the entity's content dedicated to state or local news;

2 (d) in the case of digital-only
3 entities, has published at least five originally produced
4 stories about the state or a local community per week over the
5 previous thirty-six months and has at least fifty percent of
6 the entity's digital audience in New Mexico, averaged over a
7 twelve-month period;

8 (e) discloses in the entity's print
9 publication or on the entity's website the entity's beneficial
10 ownership or, in the case of a not-for-profit entity, the
11 entity's board of directors;

12 (f) in the case of an organization that
13 demonstrates to the department that the organization has been
14 granted exemption from the federal income tax by the United
15 States commissioner of internal revenue as organizations
16 described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code,
17 has declared the coverage of state or local news as the stated
18 mission in the organization's filings with the federal internal
19 revenue service;

20 (g) has not received more than ten
21 percent of the entity's gross receipts for the previous year
22 from political action committees or other entities described in
23 Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code, or from an
24 organization that has been granted exemption from the federal
25 income tax by the United States commissioner of internal

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1 revenue as an organization described in Section 501(c)(4) or
2 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code; and

3 (h) is not a publicly traded entity or
4 is no more than forty-nine percent owned, directly or
5 indirectly, by a publicly traded entity or subsidiary;

6 (2) "local news printer" means an entity that:

7 (a) provides manufacturing, production
8 and printing services using a web press designed and optimized
9 for printing newspapers for a local news organization;

10 (b) has been engaging in the business of
11 manufacturing, producing and printing newspapers for at least
12 five years;

13 (c) employs at least five qualified
14 employees; and

15 (d) is not a publicly traded entity or
16 is no more than forty-nine percent owned, directly or
17 indirectly, by a publicly traded entity or subsidiary;

18 (3) "qualified employee" means a person who:

19 (a) is paid by a local news printer to
20 regularly perform duties related to pre-press, press and post-
21 press newspaper production to prepare newspapers for transition
22 to delivery and distribution personnel;

23 (b) works at a physical location in New
24 Mexico; and

25 (c) works as a qualified employee for

1 the local news printer for at least twenty-five percent of the
2 taxable year in which the credit is claimed; and

3 (4) "wages" means compensation paid by a local
4 news printer to a qualified employee through the organization's
5 payroll system, including those wages that the qualified
6 employee elects to defer or redirect or the qualified
7 employee's contribution to a 401(k) or cafeteria plan program.
8 "Wages" does not mean benefits or the organization's share of
9 payroll taxes, social security or medicare contributions,
10 federal or state unemployment insurance contributions or
11 workers' compensation."

12 SECTION 3. APPLICABILITY.--The provisions of this act
13 apply to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

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