1	HOUSE BILL 65
2	50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012
3	INTRODUCED BY
4	Ray Begaye
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10	AN ACT
11	RELATING TO TAXATION; ENACTING THE SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENT
12	SCHOLARSHIP ACT; PROVIDING FOR TUITION SCHOLARSHIP
13	ORGANIZATIONS TO GRANT EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS TO SPECIAL
14	NEEDS STUDENTS TO ATTEND CERTAIN SCHOOLS; CREATING INCOME TAX
15	AND CORPORATE INCOME TAX CREDITS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO TUITION
16	SCHOLARSHIP ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS
17	FOR SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS TO ATTEND CERTAIN SCHOOLS OF THE
18	STUDENT'S PARENTS' CHOICE.
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20	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:
21	SECTION 1. [ <u>NEW MATERIAL</u> ] SHORT TITLESections 1
22	through 5 of this act may be cited as the "Special Needs
23	Student Scholarship Act".
24	SECTION 2. [ <u>NEW MATERIAL</u> ] DEFINITIONSAs used in the
25	Special Needs Student Scholarship Act:
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A. "certification document" means the document issued by the department to an organization verifying that the organization is a tuition scholarship organization and contributions to that organization for special needs student scholarships may be claimed as a special needs student scholarship tax credit;

7 Β. "contribution receipt" means a document developed by the taxation and revenue department pursuant to 8 9 the Special Needs Student Scholarship Act and provided to a tuition scholarship organization that in turn provides the 10 document to an individual or corporate contributor that is a 11 12 taxpayer that intends to claim a special needs student scholarship tax credit as a receipt for a contribution to the 13 14 tuition scholarship organization;

C. "department" means the public education department;

D. "educational scholarship" means a tuition grant or other grant of funds to a special needs student to cover all or part of the costs of that student at a qualified school, including transportation costs;

E. "eligible student" means a special needs student who attended a public school for the semester prior to first receiving an educational scholarship pursuant to the Special Needs Student Scholarship Act;

F. "parent" means a guardian, custodian or other .188150.1

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person with authority to act on behalf of a child;

G. "qualified school" means a public or nonpublic elementary, middle or secondary school located in New Mexico to which a parent has chosen to send a special needs student;

H. "relative" means a person related by affinity or consanguinity to the third degree;

I. "special needs student" means a student who has or is eligible to have an individual education plan as defined in Section 1401 of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 or a plan created pursuant to Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or who is living in foster care;

J. "special needs student scholarship tax credit" means the special needs student scholarship income tax credit provided in the Income Tax Act and the special needs student scholarship corporate income tax credit provided in the Corporate Income and Franchise Tax Act;

K. "tuition grant" means a grant of funds for the purpose of covering the costs of tuition for a qualified school; and

L. "tuition scholarship organization" means an organization that provides educational scholarships to students attending qualified schools of their parents' choice and that meets the criteria established in the Special Needs Student Scholarship Act.

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1 SECTION 3. [NEW MATERIAL] TUITION SCHOLARSHIP 2 ORGANIZATION--CERTIFICATION.--3 An organization may seek certification from the Α. 4 department as a tuition scholarship organization by submitting 5 an application for certification to the department. To be certified as a tuition scholarship 6 Β. 7 organization by the department, the organization shall provide 8 documentation as deemed appropriate by the department to verify 9 that: 10 the tuition scholarship organization has (1) been granted an exemption from federal income tax as an 11 12 organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the federal 13 Internal Revenue Code of 1986; 14 (2) the tuition scholarship organization has awarded or intends to award educational scholarships to special 15 needs students who are attending or plan to attend qualified 16 17 schools; 18 (3) the scholarships are funded from 19 contributions that the tuition scholarship organization has 20 received in or prior to the current calendar year or anticipates receiving during the remainder of the calendar year 21 and: 22 at least ninety percent of the 23 (a) contributions received during a calendar year for which the 24 25 tuition scholarship organization issues a contribution receipt .188150.1

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to an individual or corporate taxpayer for purposes of obtaining a special needs student scholarship tax credit is awarded by the organization as educational scholarships and all revenue from interest or investments is expended solely on educational scholarships; and

6 (b) a scholarship award to an eligible
7 student shall not exceed eighty percent of the three-year
8 rolling average of the state equalization guarantee
9 distribution for the respective level of an eligible student as
10 calculated for the associated program units;

(4) the tuition scholarship organization distributes periodic scholarship payments as checks that are issued to an eligible student's parent, that are mailed to the qualified school in which the eligible student is enrolled and that require the endorsement of the parent prior to deposit of the check;

(5) educational scholarships awarded by the tuition scholarship organization are portable during the school year and can be used at any qualified school that accepts the eligible student according to a parent's wishes; provided that the scholarship shall be prorated between schools based on the number of days attended at each school by the eligible student;

(6) criminal background checks on all of the tuition scholarship organization's employees and board members have been conducted by the organization, with the understanding

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that individuals who might reasonably pose a risk to the sound fiscal management of the funds of the organization shall be excluded from employment or governance, and all pertinent findings on employees and board members have been provided to the department for review and approval;

the tuition scholarship organization has (7) in place systems to provide for financial accountability, including independent annual audits that shall be submitted to 8 the department in the form of a financial information report that complies with generally accepted accounting procedures as specified by the department and is certified to be free of material misstatements by the certified public accountant who performed the audit; and

(8) the tuition scholarship organization is financially viable and receives or is likely to receive donations of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) or more during a school year by filing with the department prior to the start of the school year a surety bond payable to the state in an amount equal to the aggregate amount of contributions expected to be received during the school year.

SECTION 4. [NEW MATERIAL] TUITION SCHOLARSHIP ORGANIZATION--DUTIES.--

No later than thirty days prior to the start of Α. a new school year or the start of a new semester, a tuition scholarship organization shall provide to the department the .188150.1 - 6 -

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1 names of eligible students who received scholarships, the 2 respective levels of the students that have special education needs and the students' previous school district or charter 3 school affiliation. The tuition scholarship organization shall 4 5 provide verification that the eligible students have been awarded a tuition scholarship and have enrolled in a public or 6 7 nonpublic school for the new school year or the new semester. 8 Β. A tuition scholarship organization shall ensure 9 that a school participating in the tuition scholarship organization's scholarship program certifies that the school: 10 is in compliance with all health and (1)11 12 safety laws or rules that apply to schools; holds a valid occupancy permit as required (2) 13 14 by applicable laws; does not discriminate in admissions on the (3) 15 basis of race, color or national origin; 16 provides academic accountability to 17 (4) parents of the students in the program by regularly reporting 18 19 to the parent on the student's academic and developmental 20 progress; ensures that every school employee with (5) 21 unsupervised access to students has undergone a background 22 check as described in Subsection B of Section 22-10A-5 NMSA 23 1978; 24 has no paid staff or board members who are 25 (6) .188150.1 - 7 -

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1 also staff or board members of the tuition scholarship 2 organization or who are relatives of the staff or board members 3 of the tuition scholarship organization; and is a qualified school and, if the school 4 (7) 5 has more applications for educational scholarships from eligible students than positions available for students 6 7 receiving scholarships, the school fills the available scholarship positions only by using a random selection process. 8 9 C. By June 1 of each year beginning in 2013, a tuition scholarship organization shall report the following 10 information to the department and the taxation and revenue 11 12 department: the name and address of the tuition (1)13 14 scholarship organization; the total number and dollar amount of (2) 15 contributions received for which contribution receipts were 16 issued during the calendar year ending on December 31 of the 17 prior year; 18 the total number and dollar amount of all 19 (3)20 educational scholarships awarded during the calendar year ending on December 31 of the prior year; and 21 (4) the total number and dollar amount of 22 educational scholarships awarded to eligible students during 23 the calendar year ending on December 31 of the prior year. 24 D. A tuition scholarship organization shall: 25 .188150.1 - 8 -

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1 (1) provide to each individual and corporate 2 contributor of funds dedicated for educational scholarships a contribution receipt that shall be completed according to 3 taxation and revenue department requirements; 4 5 maintain a list by the sequential number (2) on the contribution receipt identifying to whom each copy is 6 7 issued, the amount and date of the contribution and any other information deemed necessary by the taxation and revenue 8 9 department to allow the contributor to receive a special needs student scholarship tax credit; and 10 account for all copies of contribution (3) 11 12 receipts damaged, destroyed, lost or otherwise unusable. SECTION 5. [NEW MATERIAL] DEPARTMENT--DUTIES.--13 14 Α. The department shall administer the Special Needs Student Scholarship Act. 15 The department shall: Β. 16 provide the name of each certified tuition 17 (1)scholarship organization to the taxation and revenue department 18 19 by no later than thirty days after issuing the certification 20 document to the tuition scholarship organization; upon notification by the tuition 21 (2) scholarship organization, calculate the associated program 22 units for an eligible student receiving an educational 23 scholarship that would have been generated under the funding 24 formula using the current year unit value and determine the 25 .188150.1 - 9 -

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dollar amount of that student's program cost, if that student were to have enrolled in the student's previous school for the new school year or the new semester;

4 (3) if an eligible student receiving an
5 educational scholarship withdraws prior to the start of a new
6 school year, deduct that student's program cost from the
7 student's previous school district or charter school state
8 equalization guarantee distribution allocation prior to
9 distribution;

(4) if an eligible student receiving an educational scholarship withdraws between semesters, make a prorated reduction in the school district's or charter school's distribution for the remainder of the school year and not distribute the funds attributed to the adjustments, which shall remain undistributed and shall revert to the general fund at the end of the fiscal year;

(5) engage an auditor to conduct a financial and program audit of a tuition scholarship organization, at the expense of the tuition scholarship organization, if there is evidence of fraud or failure to comply with the Special Needs Student Scholarship Act;

(6) deny, suspend or revoke the certification of a tuition scholarship organization for purposes of the special needs student scholarship tax credit if the department determines that the organization has intentionally and

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1 substantially failed to comply with the requirements of the 2 Special Needs Student Scholarship Act; and notify the taxation and revenue department 3 (7) if the certification of an organization as a tuition 4 scholarship organization is denied, suspended or revoked within 5 ten days of the denial, suspension or revocation. 6 7 SECTION 6. A new section of the Income Tax Act is enacted to read: 8 9 "[NEW MATERIAL] SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP INCOME TAX CREDIT.--10 A taxpayer who files a New Mexico income tax 11 Α. 12 return and is not a dependent of another taxpayer may claim, 13 and the department may approve, a credit against the income tax 14 liability of the taxpayer for a contribution made to a tuition scholarship organization. The credit may be approved in an 15 amount equal to ninety percent of the total contributions made 16 by the taxpayer to a tuition scholarship organization for which 17 18 contribution receipts have been provided by that organization 19 during the taxable year but shall not exceed fifty percent of 20 the taxpayer's income tax liability for the taxable year. The credit provided in this section may be referred to as the 21 "special needs student scholarship income tax credit". 22 Β. The purpose of the special needs student 23

scholarship income tax credit is to encourage individuals and businesses to contribute money to tuition scholarship

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organizations that provide scholarships for special needs students to attend public or nonpublic schools that are chosen by the students' parents.

C. To ensure that the department receives the information needed to allow a special needs student scholarship income tax credit, the department shall develop a contribution receipt that requests all of the information needed by the department to determine if a credit is due. The contribution receipts shall be sequentially numbered, and a charge, not to exceed fifty cents (\$.50) per numbered copy, may be charged by the department to the tuition scholarship organization.

D. Upon receiving notice from the public education department that an organization has been certified as a tuition scholarship organization, the taxation and revenue department shall provide sequentially numbered copies of contribution receipts to a tuition scholarship organization to be distributed by the tuition scholarship organization to its contributors to indicate the recipient, date and value of a contribution to the tuition scholarship organization and other information required by the taxation and revenue department.

E. The department shall require a taxpayer claiming the special needs student scholarship income tax credit to submit the numbered copy of the contribution receipt from the tuition scholarship organization to which the taxpayer contributed money with the taxpayer's application for the .188150.1

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1 credit provided by this section.

F. The special needs student scholarship income tax credit shall not be allowed for a contribution that is included for the taxable year in the taxpayer's itemized deductions, as defined in Section 63 of the Internal Revenue Code.

G. A husband and wife who file separate returns for a taxable year in which they could have filed a joint return may each claim only one-half of the special needs student scholarship income tax credit that would have been allowed on a joint return.

A taxpayer who otherwise qualifies for and Η. claims a special needs student scholarship income tax credit for a contribution made to a tuition scholarship organization by a partnership or other business association of which the taxpayer is a member may claim a credit only in proportion to the taxpayer's interest in the partnership or business The total credit claimed in the aggregate by all association. members of the partnership or business association in a taxable year with respect to a contribution made to a tuition scholarship organization, including special needs student scholarship corporate income tax credits claimed by a corporate member of the partnership or business association, shall not exceed the maximum credit that would have been allowable pursuant to this section if claimed by a single taxpayer.

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I. Any amount of the special needs student

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scholarship income tax credit allowed by the department that exceeds fifty percent of the income tax liability of the taxpayer in the taxable year in which the credit is first claimed may be carried forward for three consecutive taxable years.

J. The maximum annual aggregate of special needs student scholarship income tax credits and special needs student scholarship corporate income tax credits shall not exceed five million dollars (\$5,000,000). An application for the special needs student scholarship income tax credit or the special needs student scholarship corporate income tax credit shall be considered in the order in which the application is received by the department. Any special needs student scholarship income tax credit application or special needs student scholarship corporate income tax credit application that is unable to be taken in the year it is submitted due to the aggregate maximum limit being met in any taxable year shall be placed in a queue by the date on which the application was received to be paid first in the subsequent taxable year before the new applications for that taxable year are allowed.

K. The department shall compile a report annually for the revenue stabilization and tax policy committee that sets forth the number of taxpayers approved to receive special needs student scholarship income tax credits, the aggregate amount of credits approved and the average and median amounts .188150.1

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of credits approved. The department shall determine every three years beginning in 2015 whether the special needs student scholarship income tax credit is performing the purpose for which it was created.

L. A taxpayer that claims a special needs student scholarship income tax credit pursuant to the Income Tax Act shall not also claim a special needs student scholarship corporate income tax credit pursuant to the Corporate Income and Franchise Tax Act or any other similar tax credit for the same contribution to a tuition scholarship organization. The special needs student scholarship income tax credit shall be applied to the taxpayer's tax liability before application of any other tax credit claimed for the taxable year by the taxpayer.

M. Acceptance of the special needs student scholarship income tax credit is authorization to the department to disclose the amount of the tax credit claimed by the taxpayer as needed to report fully as required by this section to the revenue stabilization and tax policy committee of the legislature.

N. As used in this section:

 (1) "contribution receipt" means the document developed by the department and issued pursuant to the Special Needs Student Scholarship Act by a tuition scholarship organization to a contributor;

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1 (2) "parent" means a guardian, custodian or 2 other person with authority to act on behalf of a child; "special needs student" means a student 3 (3) who has or is eligible to have an individual education plan as 4 defined in Section 1401 of the federal Individuals with 5 Disabilities Education Act of 2004 or a plan created pursuant 6 7 to Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or who is living in foster care; and 8 "tuition scholarship organization" means 9 (4) an organization that provides educational scholarships to 10 students attending qualified schools of their parents' choice 11 12 and that meets the requirements of the Special Needs Student 13 Scholarship Act." SECTION 7. A new section of the Corporate Income and 14 Franchise Tax Act is enacted to read: 15 "[NEW MATERIAL] SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP 16 CORPORATE INCOME TAX CREDIT .--17 18 Α. A taxpayer that files a New Mexico corporate 19 income tax return may claim, and the department may approve, a 20 credit against the corporate income tax liability of the taxpayer for a contribution made to a tuition scholarship 21 organization. The credit may be approved in an amount equal to 22 ninety percent of the total contributions made by the taxpayer 23 to a tuition scholarship organization for which contribution 24 receipts have been provided by that organization during the 25 .188150.1

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taxable year but shall not exceed fifty percent of the taxpayer's corporate income tax liability for the taxable year. The credit provided in this section may be referred to as the "special needs student scholarship corporate income tax credit".

B. The purpose of the special needs student scholarship corporate income tax credit is to encourage corporations to contribute money to tuition scholarship organizations that provide scholarships for special needs students to attend public or nonpublic schools that are chosen by the students' parents.

C. To ensure that the department receives the information needed to allow a special needs student scholarship corporate income tax credit, the department shall develop a contribution receipt that requests all of the information needed by the department to determine if a credit is due. The contribution receipts shall be sequentially numbered, and a charge, not to exceed fifty cents (\$.50) per numbered copy, may be charged by the department to the tuition scholarship organization.

D. Upon receiving notice from the public education department that an organization has been certified as a tuition scholarship organization, the taxation and revenue department shall provide sequentially numbered copies of contribution receipts to a tuition scholarship organization to be

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distributed by the tuition scholarship organization to its contributors to indicate the recipient, date and value of a contribution to the tuition scholarship organization and other information required by the taxation and revenue department.

E. The department shall require a taxpayer claiming the special needs scholarship corporate income tax credit to submit the numbered copy of the certification document from the tuition scholarship organization to which the taxpayer contributed money with the taxpayer's application for the credit provided by this section.

F. The special needs student scholarship corporate income tax credit shall not be allowed for a contribution that is included for the taxable year in the taxpayer's itemized deductions, as defined in Section 63 of the Internal Revenue Code.

G. Any amount of the special needs student scholarship corporate income tax credit allowed by the department that exceeds fifty percent of the corporate income tax liability of the taxpayer in the taxable year in which the credit is first claimed may be carried forward for three consecutive taxable years.

H. The annual aggregate of special needs student scholarship corporate income tax credits and special needs student scholarship income tax credits shall not exceed five million dollars (\$5,000,000). An application for the special .188150.1

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needs student scholarship corporate income tax credit or the special needs student scholarship income tax credit shall be considered in the order in which the application is received by the department. Any special needs student scholarship corporate income tax credit application or special needs student scholarship income tax credit application that is unable to be taken in the year it is submitted due to the aggregate maximum limit being met in any taxable year shall be placed in a queue by the date on which the application was received to be paid first in the subsequent taxable year before the new applications for that taxable year are allowed.

I. The department shall compile a report annually for the revenue stabilization and tax policy committee that sets forth the number of taxpayers approved to receive special needs student scholarship corporate income tax credits, the aggregate amount of credits approved and the average and median amounts of credits approved. The department shall determine every three years beginning in 2015 whether the special needs student scholarship corporate income tax credit is performing the purpose for which it was created.

J. A taxpayer that claims a special needs student scholarship corporate income tax credit pursuant to the Corporate Income and Franchise Tax Act shall not also claim a special needs student scholarship income tax credit pursuant to the Income Tax Act or any other similar tax credit for the same .188150.1

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contribution to a tuition scholarship organization. The special needs student scholarship corporate income tax credit shall be applied to the taxpayer's tax liability before application of any other tax credit claimed for the taxable year by the taxpayer.

K. Acceptance of the special needs student
scholarship corporate income tax credit is authorization to the
department to disclose the amount of the tax credit claimed by
the taxpayer as needed to report fully as required by this
section to the revenue stabilization and tax policy committee
of the legislature.

L. As used in this section:

(1) "contribution receipt" means the document issued pursuant to the Special Needs Student Scholarship Act by a tuition scholarship organization to a contributor;

(2) "parent" means a guardian, custodian or other person with authority to act on behalf of a child;

(3) "special needs student" means a student who has or is eligible to have an individual education plan as defined in Section 1401 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 or a plan created pursuant to Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or who is living in foster care; and

(4) "tuition scholarship organization" means an organization that provides educational scholarships to.188150.1

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1 students attending qualified schools of their parents' choice 2 pursuant to the Special Needs Student Scholarship Act." Section 22-8-12.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978, 3 SECTION 8. Chapter 128, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read: 4 "22-8-12.1. MEMBERSHIP PROJECTIONS AND BUDGET 5 REQUESTS . - -6 7 Each local school board or governing body of a Α. 8 state-chartered charter school shall submit annually, on or before October 15, to the department: 9 an estimate for the succeeding fiscal year 10 (1)of: 11 12 (a) the membership of qualified students 13 to be enrolled in the basic program; 14 (b) the full-time-equivalent membership of students to be enrolled in approved early childhood 15 education programs; and 16 the membership of students to be 17 (c) 18 enrolled in approved special education programs, adjusted for 19 deductions due to student participation in the scholarship 20 programs of the Special Needs Student Scholarship Act; all other information necessary to 21 (2) calculate program costs; and 22 any other information related to the 23 (3) financial needs of the school district or state-chartered 24 25 charter school as may be requested by the department. .188150.1 - 21 -

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1 All information requested pursuant to Subsection Β. 2 A of this section shall be submitted on forms prescribed and furnished by the department and shall comply with the 3 department's rules and procedures. 4 C. The department shall: 5 review the financial needs of each school 6 (1)7 district or state-chartered charter school for the succeeding 8 fiscal year; and 9 (2) submit annually, on or before November 30, to the secretary of finance and administration the 10 recommendations of the department for: 11 12 (a) amendments to the public school finance formula; 13 14 (b) appropriations for the succeeding fiscal year to the public school fund for inclusion in the 15 executive budget document; and 16 appropriations for the succeeding 17 (c) fiscal year for pupil transportation and instructional 18 materials." 19 20 SECTION 9. APPLICABILITY.--The provisions of Sections 6 and 7 of this act apply to taxable years beginning on or after 21 January 1, 2013 but before January 1, 2017. 22 SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE DATE.--23 Α. The effective date of the provisions of Sections 24 25 1 through 5 and 8 of this act is July 1, 2012. .188150.1 - 22 -

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	1	B. The effective date of the provisions of Sections
[ <del>bracketed material</del> ] = delete	2	6 and 7 of this act is January 1, 2013.
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