By: Keffer

H.B. No. 3928

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED 1 AN ACT 2 relating to technical changes to the revised franchise tax. 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS: SECTION 1. Section 171.0001, Tax Code, as effective January 4 5 1, 2008, is amended by amending Subdivisions (8), (9), (10), and 6 (17) and adding Subdivisions (11-a) and (13-a) to read as follows: 7 (8) "Controlling interest" means: (A) for a corporation, either 80 percent or more, 8 9 owned directly or indirectly, of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the corporation, or 80 percent or more, 10 owned directly or indirectly, of the beneficial ownership interest 11 12 in the voting stock of the corporation; [and] (B) for a partnership, association, trust, or 13 14 other entity other than a limited liability company, 80 percent or more, owned directly or indirectly, of the capital, profits, or 15 16 beneficial interest in the partnership, association, trust, or 17 other entity; and 18 (C) for a limited liability company, either 80 percent or more, owned directly or indirectly, of the total 19 membership interest of the limited liability company or 80 percent 20 21 or more, owned directly or indirectly, of the beneficial ownership interest in the membership interest of the limited liability 22 23 company. (9) "Internal Revenue Code" means the Internal Revenue 24

1 Code of 1986 in effect for the federal tax year beginning on January 2 1, 2007 [2006], not including any changes made by federal law after 3 that date, and any regulations adopted under that code applicable 4 to that period. 5 "Lending institution": (10)6 (A) means a depository institution, or the subsidiary or affiliate of that depository institution, whose 7 8 deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation 9 and: (i) [an entity that makes loans and] is 10 regulated by the Federal Reserve Board, the Office of the 11 12 Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or the Office of Thrift Supervision; or 13 (ii) is licensed by, registered with, or 14 15 otherwise regulated by the Texas Department of Banking, the Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner, the Department of Savings and 16 17 Mortgage Lending, the Credit Union Department, or any comparable regulatory body; and 18 (B) includes an entity that makes loans and is 19 regulated by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, or an entity 20 21 that is a "broker" or "dealer" as defined by the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 at 15 U.S.C. Section 78c. 22 (11-a) "Natural person" means a human being or the 23 24 estate of a human being. The term does not include a purely legal entity given recognition as the possessor of rights, privileges, or 25 26 responsibilities, such as a corporation, limited liability

H.B. No. 3928

27 <u>company</u>, partnership, or trust.

(13-a) "Security" has the meaning assigned by Section 1 2 475(c)(2), Internal Revenue Code, and includes instruments described by Sections 475(e)(2)(B), (C), and (D) of that code. 3 (17) "Unitary business" means a single economic 4 enterprise that is made up of separate parts of a single entity or 5 of a commonly controlled group of entities that are sufficiently 6 7 interdependent, integrated, and interrelated through their 8 activities so as to provide a synergy and mutual benefit that produces a sharing or exchange of value among them and a significant 9 flow of value to the separate parts. In determining whether a 10 unitary business exists, the comptroller shall consider any 11 relevant factor, including whether: 12 the activities of the group members [+ 13 (A) 14 [(i)] are in the same general line, such as 15 manufacturing, wholesaling, retailing of tangible personal property, insurance, transportation, or finance; [or] 16 17 (B) the activities of the group members [(ii)] are steps in a vertically structured enterprise or process, such as 18 the steps involved in the production of natural resources, 19 including exploration, mining, refining, and marketing; or [and] 20 21 <u>(C)</u> [(B)] the members are functionally integrated through the exercise of strong centralized management, 22 such as authority over purchasing, financing, product line, 23 24 personnel, and marketing. SECTION 2. Section 171.0002, Tax Code, as effective January 25 26 1, 2008, is amended to read as follows:

27 Sec. 171.0002. DEFINITION OF TAXABLE ENTITY. (a) Except as

otherwise provided by this section, "taxable entity" means a 1 2 partnership, limited liability partnership, corporation, banking corporation, savings and loan association, limited liability 3 company, business trust, professional association, business 4 association, joint venture, joint stock company, holding company, 5 or other legal entity. The term includes a combined group. A joint 6 not include joint operating or co-ownership 7 venture does 8 arrangements meeting the requirements of Treasury Regulation 9 Section 1.761-2(a)(3) that elect out of federal partnership treatment as provided by Section 761(a), Internal Revenue Code. 10

11

a sole proprietorship;

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12

(2) a general partnership:

(b)

14 (A) the direct ownership of which is entirely composed of natural persons; and 15

"Taxable entity" does not include:

(B) the liability of which is not limited under a 16 17 statute of this state or another state, including by registration as a limited liability partnership; 18

a passive entity as defined by Section 171.0003; 19 (3) 20 or

21 (4) an entity that is exempt from taxation under Subchapter B. 22

"Taxable entity" does not include an entity that is: 23 (c) 24 (1)a grantor trust as defined by Sections 671 and 25 7701(a)(30)(E), Internal Revenue Code, all of the grantors and beneficiaries of which are natural persons or charitable entities 26 as described in Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code, excluding 27

H.B. No. 3928 1 a trust taxable as a business entity pursuant to Treasury Regulation Section 301.7701-4(b); 2 an estate of a natural person as defined by Section 3 (2) 4 7701(a)(30)(D), Internal Revenue Code, excluding an estate taxable 5 as a business entity pursuant to Treasury Regulation Section 6 301.7701-4(b); 7 (3) an escrow; 8 (4)[a family limited partnership that is a passive 9 entity in which at least 80 percent of the interests are held, 10 directly or indirectly, by members of the same family, including an individual's ancestors, lineal descendants, spouse, and brothers 11 and sisters by the whole or half blood, and the estate of any of 12 these persons, and that is a limited partnership: 13 14 [(A) formed pursuant to the Texas Revised Limited 15 Partnership Act (Article 6132a-1, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes); [(B) formed pursuant to the limited partnership 16 17 law of any other state; or [(C) treated as a partnership for federal income 18 19 tax purposes; 20 [(5) a passive investment partnership that is a 21 passive entity and that is: [(A) formed pursuant to the Texas Revised Limited 22 Partnership Act (Article 6132a-1, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes); 23 24 [(B) formed pursuant to the limited partnership 25 law of any other state; or [(C) formed pursuant to the limited partnership 26 27 laws of any foreign country;

H.B. No. 3928 [(6) a passive investment partnership that is a 1 2 passive entity and is a general partnership; 3 [(7) a trust that is a passive entity: 4 [(A) that is taxable as a trust under Section 5 641, Internal Revenue Code; [(B) all of the beneficiaries of which are 6 7 natural persons or charitable entities as defined in Section 8 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code; 9 [(C) that is not a trust taxable as a business entity pursuant to Treasury Regulation Section 301.7701-4(b); and 10 [(D) that is organized as a trust and is 11 described in Section 7701(a)(30)(E), Internal Revenue Code; 12 [(8)] a real estate investment trust (REIT) as defined 13 by Section 856, Internal Revenue Code, and its "qualified REIT 14 15 subsidiary" entities as defined by Section 856(i)(2), Internal Revenue Code, provided that: 16 (A) a REIT with any amount of its assets in direct 17 holdings of real estate, other than real estate it occupies for 18 business purposes, as opposed to holding interests in limited 19 partnerships or other entities that directly hold the real estate, 20 21 is a taxable entity; and a limited partnership or other entity that 22 (B) directly holds the real estate as described in Paragraph (A) is not 23 24 exempt under this subdivision, without regard to whether a REIT holds an interest in it; [or] 25 (5) [(9)] a real estate mortgage investment conduit 26 (REMIC), as defined by Section 860D, Internal Revenue Code; 27

(6) a nonprofit self-insurance trust created under 1 2 Chapter 2212, Insurance Code, or a predecessor statute; (7) a trust qualified under Section 401(a), Internal 3 4 <u>Revenue Co</u>de; or 5 (8) a trust or other entity that is exempt under 6 Section 501(c)(9), Internal Revenue Code. An entity that can file as a sole proprietorship for 7 (d) 8 federal tax purposes is not a sole proprietorship for purposes of 9 Subsection (b)(1) and is not exempt under that subsection if the entity is formed in a manner under the statutes of this state, [or] 10 another state, or a foreign country that limit the liability of the 11 12 entity. SECTION 3. Section 171.0004(e), Tax Code, as effective 13 14 January 1, 2008, is amended to read as follows: 15 (e) For purposes of this section: (1) the ownership of a royalty interest or 16 а nonoperating working interest in mineral rights does not constitute 17 conduct of an active trade or business; [and] 18 19 (2) payment of compensation to employees or independent contractors for financial or legal services reasonably 20 21 necessary for the operation of the entity does not constitute conduct of an active trade or business; and 22 (3) holding a seat on the board of directors of an 23 24 entity does not by itself constitute conduct of an active trade or 25 business. SECTION 4. Section 171.001, Tax Code, as effective January 26 1, 2008, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows: 27

H.B. No. 3928

H.B. No. 3928 (c) The tax imposed under this section or Section 171.0011 1 2 is not imposed on an entity if, during the period on which the report is based, the entity qualifies as a passive entity as defined 3 4 by Section 171.0003. SECTION 5. Section 171.0011(b), Tax Code, as effective 5 6 January 1, 2008, is amended to read as follows: 7 (b) The additional tax is equal to the appropriate rate 8 under Section 171.002 of the taxable entity's taxable margin 9 computed on the period beginning on the day after the last day for which the tax imposed on taxable margin or net taxable earned 10 surplus was computed and ending on the date the taxable entity is no 11 longer subject to the tax imposed under this chapter. 12 SECTION 6. Sections 171.002(a), (b), (c), and (d), Tax 13 14 Code, as effective January 1, 2008, are amended to read as follows: 15 (a) Subject to Section 171.003 and except as provided by 16 Subsection (b), the rate of the franchise tax is one percent [per 17 year of privilege period] of taxable margin. The rate of the franchise tax is 0.5 percent [per year of 18 (b) privilege period] of taxable margin for those taxable entities 19 primarily engaged in retail or wholesale trade. 20 21 (c) A taxable entity is primarily engaged in retail or wholesale trade only if: 22 (1) the total revenue from its activities in retail or 23 24 wholesale trade is greater than the total revenue from its 25 activities in trades other than the retail and wholesale trades; except as provided by Subsection (c-1), less than 26 (2) 50 percent of the total revenue from activities in retail or 27

H.B. No. 3928 wholesale trade comes from the sale of products it produces or 1 2 products produced by an entity that is part of an affiliated group 3 to which the taxable entity also belongs; and (3) the taxable entity does not provide retail or 4 5 wholesale utilities, including telecommunications services, [and] electricity, or gas. 6 A taxable entity is not required to pay any tax and is 7 (d) 8 not considered to owe any tax for a period if: 9 (1) the amount of tax computed for the taxable entity 10 is less than \$1,000; or (2) the amount of the taxable entity's total revenue 11 from its entire business is less than or equal to \$300,000 or the 12 amount determined under Section 171.006 per 12-month period on 13 14 which margin is based. 15 SECTION 7. The heading to Section 171.006, Tax Code, as effective January 1, 2008, is amended to read as follows: 16 Sec. 171.006. ADJUSTMENT OF ELIGIBILITY FOR NO TAX DUE 17 [EXEMPTION] AND COMPENSATION DEDUCTION. 18 SECTION 8. Section 171.101(d), Tax Code, as effective 19 January 1, 2008, is amended to read as follows: 20 (d) An election under Subsection (a)(1)(B)(ii) shall be 21 made by the taxable entity on its annual report and is effective 22 only for that annual report. A taxable entity shall notify the 23 24 comptroller of its election not later than the due date of the annual [The election may be changed by filing an amended] report. 25 26 SECTION 9. Section 171.1011, Tax Code, as effective January 27 1, 2008, is amended by amending Subsections (b), (c), (d), (g-3),

1 (n), and (o) and adding Subsection (t) to read as follows:

2 (b) In this section, a reference to an amount <u>reportable as</u> 3 <u>income</u> [entered] on a line number on an Internal Revenue Service 4 form includes the corresponding amount <u>reportable as income</u> 5 [entered] on a variant of the form, or a subsequent form, with a 6 different line number. [The comptroller shall adopt rules as 7 necessary to accomplish the legislative intent prescribed by this 8 subsection and Subsection (a).]

9 (c) Except as provided by this section, and subject to 10 Section 171.1014, for the purpose of computing its taxable margin 11 under Section 171.101, the total revenue of a taxable entity is:

12 (1) for a taxable entity treated for federal income13 tax purposes as a corporation, an amount computed by:

(A) adding:

(i) the amount <u>reportable as income</u>
 [entered] on line 1c, Internal Revenue Service Form 1120; and

17 (ii) the amounts <u>reportable as income</u> 18 [entered] on lines 4 through 10, Internal Revenue Service Form 19 1120; and

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(B) subtracting:

(i) bad debt expensed for federal income tax purposes that corresponds to items of gross receipts included in Subsection (c)(1)(A) for the current reporting period or a past reporting period;

(ii) to the extent included in Subsection (c)(1)(A), foreign royalties and foreign dividends, including amounts determined under Section 78 or Sections 951-964, Internal

1 Revenue Code; 2 (iii) to the extent included in Subsection 3 (c)(1)(A), net distributive income from a taxable entity [partnerships and from trusts and limited liability companies] 4 5 treated as a partnership or [partnerships for federal income tax purposes and net distributive income from limited liability 6 companies and corporations treated] as <u>an</u> 7 S corporation 8 [corporations] for federal income tax purposes; 9 (iv) allowable deductions from Internal Revenue Service Form 1120, Schedule C, to the extent the relating 10 dividend income is included in total revenue; 11 (v) to the extent included in Subsection 12 (c)(1)(A), items of income attributable to an entity that is a 13 14 disregarded entity for federal income tax purposes; and 15 (vi) to the extent included in Subsection (c)(1)(A), other amounts authorized by this section; 16 17 (2) for a taxable entity treated for federal income tax purposes as a partnership, an amount computed by: 18 adding: 19 (A) 20 (i) the amount reportable as income 21 [entered] on line 1c, Internal Revenue Service Form 1065; (ii) the amounts reportable as income 22 [entered] on lines 4 through 7, Internal Revenue Service Form 1065; 23 24 and 25 (iii) the amounts reportable as income 26 [entered] on lines 2, 3a, and 5 [2] through 11, Internal Revenue Service Form 1065, Schedule K; and 27

1 (B) subtracting: 2 (i) bad debt expensed for federal income 3 tax purposes that corresponds to items of gross receipts included in Subsection (c)(2)(A) for the current reporting period or a past 4 5 reporting period; 6 (ii) to the extent included in Subsection 7 (c)(2)(A), foreign royalties and foreign dividends, including 8 amounts determined under Section 78 or Sections 951-964, Internal 9 Revenue Code; (iii) to the extent included in Subsection 10 (c)(2)(A), net distributive income from a taxable entity 11 [partnerships and from trusts and limited liability companies] 12 treated as a partnership or [partnerships for federal income tax 13 purposes and net distributive income from limited liability 14 15 companies and corporations treated] as S corporation an [corporations] for federal income tax purposes; 16 17 (iv) to the extent included in Subsection (c)(2)(A), items of income attributable to an entity that is a 18 disregarded entity for federal income tax purposes; and 19 (v) to the extent included in Subsection 20 21 (c)(2)(A), other amounts authorized by this section; or for a taxable entity other than a taxable entity 22 (3) treated for federal income tax purposes as a corporation or 23 24 partnership, an amount determined in a manner substantially equivalent to the amount for Subdivision (1) or (2) determined by 25 26 rules that the comptroller shall adopt. 27 (d) Subject to Section 171.1014, a taxable entity

1 [corporation] that is part of a federal consolidated group shall 2 compute its total revenue under Subsection (c) as if it had filed a 3 separate return for federal income tax purposes.

4 (g-3) A taxable entity that provides legal services shall
5 exclude from its total revenue[, to the extent included under
6 Subsection (c)(1)(A), (c)(2)(A), or (c)(3)]:

(1) to the extent included under Subsection (c)(1)(A),
(c)(2)(A), or (c)(3), the following flow-through funds that are
mandated by law, contract, or fiduciary duty to be distributed to
the claimant by the claimant's attorney or to other entities on
behalf of a claimant by the claimant's attorney:

12 (A) damages due the claimant; 13 (B) funds subject to a lien or other contractual 14 obligation arising out of the representation, other than fees owed 15 to the attorney;

16 (C) funds subject to a subrogation interest or 17 other third-party contractual claim; and

18 (D) fees paid an attorney in the matter who is not
19 a member, partner, shareholder, or employee of the taxable entity;

20 (2) <u>to the extent included under Subsection (c)(1)(A)</u>,
21 <u>(c)(2)(A)</u>, or (c)(3), reimbursement of the taxable entity's
22 expenses incurred in prosecuting a claimant's matter that are
23 specific to the matter and that are not general operating expenses;
24 and

(3) the actual out-of-pocket expenses of the attorney,
not to exceed \$500 per case, of providing pro bono legal services to
a person, but only if the attorney maintains records of the pro bono

H.B. No. 3928
1 services for auditing purposes in accordance with the manner in
2 which those services are reported to the State Bar of Texas.

3 (n) Except as provided by Subsection (o), a taxable entity 4 that is a health care provider shall exclude from its total 5 revenue[, to the extent included under Subsection (c)(1)(A), 6 (c)(2)(A), or (c)(3)]:

7 (1) to the extent included under Subsection (c)(1)(A),
8 (c)(2)(A), or (c)(3), the total amount of payments the health care
9 provider received:

(A) under the Medicaid program, Medicare
 program, Indigent Health Care and Treatment Act (Chapter 61, Health
 and Safety Code), and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP);

(B) for professional services provided in
 relation to a workers' compensation claim under Title 5, Labor
 Code; and

16 (C) for professional services provided to a
 17 beneficiary rendered under the TRICARE military health system; and

18 (2) the actual cost to the health care provider for any 19 uncompensated care provided, but only if the provider maintains 20 records of the uncompensated care for auditing purposes and, if the 21 provider later receives payment for all or part of that care, the 22 provider adjusts the amount excluded for the tax year in which the 23 payment is received.

(o) A health care provider that is a health care institution
shall exclude from its total revenue[, to the extent included under
Subsection (c)(1)(A), (c)(2)(A), or (c)(3),] 50 percent of the
amounts described by Subsection (n).

1	(t) The comptroller shall adopt rules as necessary to
2	accomplish the legislative intent prescribed by this section.
3	SECTION 10. Section 171.1011(1)(1), Tax Code, as effective
4	January 1, 2008, is amended to read as follows:
5	(1) "Sales commission" means:
6	(A) any form of compensation paid to a person for
7	engaging in an act for which a license is required by Chapter 1101,
8	Occupations Code; <u>or</u> [and]
9	(B) compensation paid to a sales representative
10	by a principal in an amount that is based on the amount or level of
11	certain orders for or sales of the principal's product and that the
12	principal is required to report on Internal Revenue Service Form
13	1099-MISC.
14	SECTION 11. Section 171.1012(a)(3)(A), Tax Code, as
15	effective January 1, 2008, is amended to read as follows:
16	(A) "Tangible personal property" means:
17	(i) personal property that can be seen,
18	weighed, measured, felt, or touched or that is perceptible to the
19	senses in any other manner;
20	(ii) films, sound recordings, videotapes,
21	live and prerecorded television and radio programs, books, and
22	other similar property embodying words, ideas, concepts, images, or
23	sound, without regard to the means or methods of distribution or the
24	medium in which the property is embodied, [by the creator of the
25	<pre>property] for which, as costs are incurred in producing the</pre>
26	property, it is intended or is reasonably likely that any
27	[tangible] medium in which the property is embodied will be

H.B. No. 3928 1 mass-distributed by the creator or any one or more third parties in 2 a form that is not substantially altered; and 3 (iii) a computer program, as defined by 4 Section 151.0031. SECTION 12. Sections 171.1012(c), (g), (h), and (k), Tax 5 Code, as effective January 1, 2008, are amended to read as follows: 6 7 (c) The cost of goods sold includes all direct costs of 8 acquiring or producing the goods, including: labor costs; 9 (1)10 (2)cost of materials that are an integral part of specific property produced; 11 cost of materials that are consumed in 12 (3) the ordinary course of performing production activities; 13 14 (4) handling costs, including costs attributable to 15 processing, assembling, repackaging, and inbound transportation 16 costs; 17 (5) storage costs, including the costs of carrying, storing, or warehousing property, subject to Subsection (e); 18 19 (6) depreciation, depletion, and amortization, reported on the federal income tax return on which the report under 20 21 this chapter is based, to the extent associated with and necessary for the production of goods, including recovery described by 22 Section 197, Internal Revenue Code; 23 24 (7) the cost of renting or leasing equipment, 25 facilities, or real property directly used for the production of the goods, including pollution control equipment and intangible 26 27 drilling and dry hole costs;

(8) the cost of repairing and maintaining equipment,
 facilities, or real property directly used for the production of
 the goods, including pollution control devices;

4 (9) costs attributable to research, experimental,
5 engineering, and design activities directly related to the
6 production of the goods[, including all research or experimental
7 expenditures described by Section 174, Internal Revenue Code];

8 (10) geological and geophysical costs incurred to 9 identify and locate property that has the potential to produce 10 minerals;

(11) (11) taxes paid in relation to acquiring or producing any material, or taxes paid in relation to services that are a direct cost of production;

14 (12) the cost of producing or acquiring electricity 15 sold; and

16 (13) a contribution to a partnership in which the 17 taxable entity owns an interest that is used to fund activities, the 18 costs of which would otherwise be treated as cost of goods sold of 19 the partnership, but only to the extent that those costs are related 20 to goods distributed to the taxable entity as goods-in-kind in the 21 ordinary course of production activities rather than being sold.

(g) A taxable entity that is allowed a subtraction by this section for a cost of goods sold and that is subject to Section 263A, 460, or 471, Internal Revenue Code, <u>may</u> [shall] capitalize that cost in the same manner and to the same extent that the taxable entity <u>capitalized that cost on its federal income tax return or may</u> <u>expense those costs</u> [is required or allowed to capitalize the cost

under federal law and regulations], except for costs excluded under 1 Subsection (e), or in accordance with Subsections (c), (d), and 2 If the taxable <u>entity elects to capitalize costs</u>, it must 3 (f). 4 capitalize each cost allowed under this section that it capitalized on its federal income tax return. If the taxable entity later 5 6 elects to begin expensing a cost that may be allowed under this section as a cost of goods sold, the entity may not deduct any cost 7 8 in ending inventory from a previous report. If the taxable entity 9 elects to expense a cost of goods sold that may be allowed under this section, a cost incurred before the first day of the period on 10 which the report is based may not be subtracted as a cost of goods 11 12 sold. If the taxable entity elects to expense a cost of goods sold and later elects to capitalize that cost of goods sold, a cost 13 14 expensed on a previous report may not be capitalized.

(h) A taxable entity shall determine its cost of goods sold, except as otherwise provided by this section, in accordance with the methods <u>used on the federal income tax return on which the</u> <u>report under this chapter is based</u> [permitted by federal statutes and regulations]. This subsection does not affect the type or category of cost of goods sold that may be subtracted under this section.

(k) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, if the taxable entity is a lending institution that offers loans to the public and elects to subtract cost of goods sold, the entity, other than an entity primarily engaged in an activity described by category 5932 of the 1987 Standard Industrial Classification Manual published by the federal Office of Management and Budget, may

1 subtract as a cost of goods sold an amount equal to interest
2 expense.

H.B. No. 3928

3 SECTION 13. Sections 171.1013(a), (b), and (c), Tax Code, 4 as effective January 1, 2008, are amended to read as follows:

5 (a) Except as otherwise provided by this section, "wages and 6 cash compensation" means the amount entered in the Medicare wages 7 and tips box of Internal Revenue Service Form W-2 or any subsequent 8 form with a different number or designation that substantially 9 provides the same information. The term also includes, to the 10 extent not included above:

(1) net distributive income from partnerships and from trusts and limited liability companies treated as partnerships for federal income tax purposes, but only if the person receiving the distribution is a natural person;

15 (2) net distributive income from limited liability 16 companies and corporations treated as S corporations for federal 17 income tax purposes, but only if the person receiving the 18 distribution is a natural person; [and]

19 (3) stock awards and stock options deducted for20 federal income tax purposes; and

21 (4) net distributive income from a limited liability 22 company treated as a sole proprietorship for federal income tax 23 purposes, but only if the person receiving the distribution is a 24 natural person.

(b) Subject to Section 171.1014, a taxable entity that elects to subtract compensation for the purpose of computing its taxable margin under Section 171.101 may subtract an amount equal

1 to:

(1) subject to the limitation in Subsection (c), all
wages and cash compensation paid by the taxable entity to its
officers, directors, owners, partners, and employees; and

(2) the cost of all benefits, to the extent deductible 5 6 for federal income tax purposes, the taxable entity provides to its 7 officers, directors, owners, partners, and employees, including 8 workers' compensation benefits, health care, employer 9 contributions made to employees' health savings accounts, and retirement [to the extent deductible for federal income tax 10 11 purposes].

Notwithstanding the actual amount of wages and cash 12 (C) compensation paid by a taxable entity to its officers, directors, 13 14 owners, partners, and employees, a taxable entity may not include 15 more than \$300,000, or the amount determined under Section 171.006, per 12-month period on which margin is based, for any person in the 16 17 amount of wages and cash compensation it determines under this section [Section 171.101]. If a person is paid by more than one 18 entity of a combined group, the combined group may not subtract in 19 relation to that person a total of more than \$300,000, or the amount 20 21 determined under Section 171.006, per 12-month period on which margin is based. 22

SECTION 14. Section 171.1014, Tax Code, as effective January 1, 2008, is amended by amending Subsections (b), (d), and (f) and adding Subsections (d-1), (h), and (i) to read as follows: (b) The combined group is a single taxable entity for purposes of the application of the tax imposed under this chapter,

1 including Section 171.002(d).

(d) For purposes of Section 171.101, a combined group shall
make an election to subtract either cost of goods sold or
compensation that applies to all of its members. <u>Regardless of the</u>
<u>election, the taxable margin of the combined group may not exceed 70</u>
<u>percent of the combined group's total revenue from its entire</u>
business, as provided by Section 171.101(a)(1)(A).

8 (d-1) A member of a combined group may claim as cost of goods 9 sold those costs that qualify under Section 171.1012 if the goods 10 for which the costs are incurred are owned by another member of the 11 combined group.

12 (f) For purposes of Section 171.101, a combined group that13 elects to subtract compensation shall determine that amount by:

(1) determining the compensation for each of its members as provided by Section 171.1013 as if each member were an individual taxable entity, subject to the limitation prescribed by Section 171.1013(c);

18 (2) adding the amounts of compensation determined19 under Subdivision (1) together; and

(3) subtracting from the amount determined under
Subdivision (2) any compensation amounts paid from one member of
the combined group to another member of the combined group, but only
to the extent the corresponding item of total revenue was
subtracted under Subsection (c)(3).

(h) Each taxable entity that is part of a combined group
 report shall, for purposes of determining margin and apportionment,
 include its activities for the same period used by the combined

1 group.

2 (i) Each member of the combined group shall be jointly and 3 severally liable for the tax of the combined group.

4 SECTION 15. Section 171.1015, Tax Code, as effective 5 January 1, 2008, is amended to read as follows:

6 Sec. 171.1015. REPORTING FOR CERTAIN PARTNERSHIPS IN TIERED PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENT. (a) In this section, "tiered partnership 7 8 arrangement" means an ownership structure in which all of the 9 interests in one partnership, trust, or limited liability company that is treated for federal income taxes as a partnership or a 10 limited liability company treated as an S corporation for federal 11 income tax purposes (a "lower tier entity" [an "upper tier 12 partnership"]) are owned by one or more other taxable entities (an 13 "upper [a "lower] tier entity"). A tiered partnership arrangement 14 15 may have two or more tiers.

(b) In addition to the tax it is required to pay under this 16 17 chapter on its own taxable margin, a taxable entity that is an upper [a lower] tier entity may pay the tax on the taxable margin of a 18 lower tier entity [higher tier partnership] if the lower tier 19 entity [higher tier partnership] submits a report to the 20 comptroller showing the amount of taxable margin that each higher 21 [lower] tier entity that owns it should include within the higher 22 [lower] tier entity's own taxable margin, according to the profits 23 24 interest of the higher [lower] tier entity. [An upper tier partnership is not required to pay tax under this chapter on any 25 26 taxable margin reported under this section.

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(c) This section does not apply to that percentage of the

1 taxable margin attributable to a <u>higher</u> [lower] tier entity by <u>a</u>
2 <u>lower tier entity</u> [an upper tier partnership] if the <u>higher</u> [lower]
3 tier entity is not subject to the tax under this chapter. In this
4 case, the <u>lower tier entity</u> [higher tier partnership] is liable for
5 the tax on its taxable margin.

6 (d) The comptroller shall adopt rules to administer this7 section.

8 SECTION 16. Section 171.111, Tax Code, as effective January 9 1, 2008, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 171.111. TEMPORARY CREDIT ON TAXABLE MARGIN. 10 (a) On the first report originally due under this chapter on or after 11 January 1, 2008, [Not later than March 1, 2007,] a taxable entity 12 must [may] notify the comptroller in writing of its intent to 13 14 [preserve its right to] take a credit in an amount allowed by this 15 section on the tax due on taxable margin. The taxable entity may thereafter elect to claim the credit for the current year and future 16 17 year at or before the original due date of any report due after January 1, 2008 [2007], until the taxable entity revokes the 18 election or this section expires, whichever is earlier. A taxable 19 entity may claim the credit for not more than 10 [20] consecutive 20 21 privilege periods beginning with the first report originally due under this chapter on or after January 1, 2008 [2007]. A taxable 22 entity may make only one election under this section and the 23 24 election may not be conveyed, assigned, or transferred to another entity. 25

(b) The credit allowed under this section for any privilegeperiod is computed by:

determining the amount of the business loss 1 (1) carryforwards of the taxable entity under Section 171.110(e), as 2 that section applied to annual reports originally due before 3 January 1, 2008, that were not exhausted on a report originally due 4 under this chapter before January 1, 2008[, as of the end of the 5 taxable entity's accounting year ending in 2006, of the difference 6 between (i) the taxable entity's deductible temporary differences 7 and net operating loss carryforwards, net of related valuation 8 9 allowance amounts, shown on the taxable entity's books and records on the last day of its taxable year ending in 2006, and (ii) the 10 taxable entity's taxable temporary differences as shown on those 11 books and records on that date. The amount of other net deferred 12 tax items may be less than zero. For the purpose of computing the 13 amount of the taxable entity's other net deferred tax items, any 14 credit carryforward allowed under this chapter shall be excluded 15 from the amount of deductible temporary differences to the extent 16 such credit carryforward amount, net of any related valuation 17 allowance amount, is otherwise included in the taxable entity's 18 deductible temporary differences, net of related valuation 19 allowance amounts, shown on the taxable entity's books and records 20 21 on the last day of the taxable entity's taxable year ending in 2006]; 22

H.B. No. 3928

(2) [apportioning the amount determined under
Subdivision (1) to this state in the same manner taxable margin is
apportioned under Section 171.106 on the first report due on or
after January 1, 2007;

27

[(3)] multiplying the amount determined under

1 Subdivision (1) [(2)] by 10 percent; and

(3) [(4)] multiplying the amount determined under
Subdivision (2) [(3)] by the <u>appropriate</u> tax rate prescribed by
Section <u>171.002</u>, as that section applies to an annual report
originally due on or after January 1, 2008 [171.002(a)(2)].

(c) [A taxable entity that notifies the comptroller of its 6 intent to preserve its right to take a credit allowed by this 7 8 section shall submit with its notice of intent a statement of the amount determined under Subsection (b)(1). The comptroller may 9 request that the taxable entity submit, with each [in the] annual 10 report [for each succeeding privilege period] in which the taxable 11 entity is eligible to take a credit, information relating to the 12 amount determined under Subsection (b)(1). The taxable entity 13 14 shall submit in the form and content the comptroller requires any 15 information relating to [the assets and liabilities that determine the amount of the credit,] the amount determined under Subsection 16 (b)(1)[$_{\tau}$] or any other matter relevant to the computation of the 17 credit for which the taxable entity is eligible. 18

19 (d) A credit that a taxable entity is entitled to under this 20 section does not convey, and may not be assigned or transferred, in 21 relation to a transaction in which the taxable entity is purchased 22 by another entity.

23 (d-1) Subject to Subsection (a), a taxable entity may carry 24 forward unused credits. A taxable entity may not claim credits 25 under this section unless the taxable entity was subject to a report 26 based on net taxable earned surplus originally due before January 27 <u>1, 2008.</u>

1 (e) This section expires September 1, <u>2017</u> [2026].

2 SECTION 17. Section 171.1121(b), Tax Code, as effective 3 January 1, 2008, is amended to read as follows:

4 (b) Except as otherwise provided by this section, a taxable
5 entity shall use the same accounting methods to apportion margin as
6 used in computing <u>margin</u> [reportable federal taxable income].

7 SECTION 18. Section 171.1532(b), Tax Code, as effective
8 January 1, 2008, is amended to read as follows:

9 (b) The tax covering the regular annual period, other than a regular annual period included on the initial report, is based on 10 the business done by the taxable entity during the period beginning 11 with the day after the last date upon which taxable margin or net 12 taxable earned surplus on a previous report was based and ending 13 14 with its last accounting period ending date for federal income tax 15 purposes in the year before the year in which the report is originally due. 16

SECTION 19. Section 171.201(a), Tax Code, as effectiveJanuary 1, 2008, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Section 171.2022, a taxable entity
on which the franchise tax is imposed shall file an initial report
with the comptroller containing:

(1) <u>financial</u> information <u>of the taxable entity</u> <u>necessary to compute the tax under this chapter</u> [showing the financial condition of the taxable entity on the day that is the <u>last day of a calendar month and that is nearest to the end of the</u> taxable entity's first year of business];

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(2) the name and address of:

H.B. No. 3928 each officer, director, and manager of the 1 (A) 2 taxable entity; 3 (B) for a limited partnership, each general 4 partner; 5 (C) for a general partnership or limited 6 liability partnership, each managing partner or, if there is not a 7 managing partner, each partner; or for a trust, each trustee; 8 (D) the name and address of the agent of the taxable 9 (3) entity designated under Section 171.354; and 10 (4) other information required by the comptroller. 11 SECTION 20. Sections 171.203(a), (b), (d), and (e), Tax 12 Code, as effective January 1, 2008, are amended to read as follows: 13 14 (a) A corporation or limited liability company on which the 15 franchise tax is imposed, regardless of whether the corporation or limited liability company is required to pay any tax, shall file a 16 17 report with the comptroller containing: (1) the name of each corporation or limited liability 18 company in which the corporation or limited liability company 19 filing the report owns a 10 percent or greater interest and the 20 percentage owned by the corporation or limited liability company; 21 the name of each corporation or limited liability 22 (2) company that owns a 10 percent or greater interest in the 23 corporation or limited liability company filing the report; 24 25 (3) the name, title, and mailing address of each person who is an officer or director of the corporation or limited 26 liability company on the date the report is filed and the expiration 27

1 date of each person's term as an officer or director, if any; 2 agent of (4) the name and address of the the corporation or limited liability company designated under Section 3 4 171.354; and (5) the address of the corporation's or limited 5 6 liability company's principal office and principal place of 7 business. 8 (b) The corporation or limited liability company shall file 9 the report once a year on a form prescribed by the comptroller. The corporation or limited liability company shall send 10 (d) a copy of the report to each person named in the report under 11 Subsection (a)(3) who is not currently employed by the corporation 12 or limited liability company or a related corporation or limited 13 liability company listed in Subsection (a)(1) or (2). An officer or 14 15 director of the corporation or limited liability company or another

16 authorized person must sign the report under a certification that:
17 (1) all information contained in the report is true

18 and correct to the best of the person's knowledge; and

19 (2) a copy of the report has been mailed to each person20 identified in this subsection on the date the return is filed.

21 (e) If a person's name is included in a report under Subsection (a)(3) and the person is not an officer or director of 22 the corporation or limited liability company on the date the report 23 24 is filed, the person may file with the comptroller a sworn statement 25 disclaiming the person's status as shown on the report. The comptroller shall maintain a record of statements filed under this 26 subsection and shall make that information available on request 27

H.B. No. 3928 s the comptroller uses for other requests

using the same procedures the comptroller uses for other requests
 for public information.

3 SECTION 21. Section 171.204, Tax Code, is amended by adding 4 Subsection (c) to read as follows:

5 (c) The comptroller may require any entity to file 6 information as necessary to verify that the entity is not subject to 7 the tax imposed under this chapter.

8 SECTION 22. Subchapter G, Chapter 171, Tax Code, is amended 9 by adding Section 171.3015 to read as follows:

Sec. 171.3015. FORFEITURE OF CERTIFICATE OR REGISTRATION OF TAXABLE ENTITY. The comptroller may, for the same reasons and using the same procedures the comptroller uses in relation to the forfeiture of a corporation's charter or certificate of authority, forfeit the certificate or registration of a taxable entity.

15 SECTION 23. Section 171.309, Tax Code, is amended to read as 16 follows:

Sec. 171.309. FORFEITURE BY SECRETARY OF STATE. The secretary of state may forfeit the charter, [or] certificate, or <u>registration of a taxable entity</u> [of authority of a corporation] if:

(1) the secretary receives the comptroller's certification under Section 171.302 [of this code]; and

(2) the <u>taxable entity</u> [corporation] does not revive
its forfeited [corporate] privileges within 120 days after the date
that the [corporate] privileges were forfeited[; and

26 [(3) the corporation does not have assets from which a 27 judgment for any tax, penalty, or court costs imposed by this

1 chapter may be satisfied].

2 SECTION 24. Section 17, Chapter 1, Acts of the 79th 3 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, 2006, is amended to read as 4 follows:

5 Sec. 17. [(a) The repeal of Section 171.111, Tax Code, by
6 this Act does not affect a credit that accrued under that section
7 before the effective date of this Act.

8 [(b)] A corporation that has any unused credits established [accrued] before the effective date of this Act under Section 9 171.111, Tax Code, may claim those unused credits on or with the tax 10 report for the period in which the credits were established 11 [accrued], and the former law under which the corporation 12 established [accrued] the credits is continued in effect for 13 14 purposes of determining the amount of the credits the corporation 15 may claim and the manner in which the corporation may claim the 16 credits.

SECTION 25. Sections 18(b) through (f), Chapter 1, Acts of the 79th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, 2006, are amended to read as follows:

20 (b) This section does not affect a credit authorized by a 21 provision listed in Subsection (a) of this section that <u>was</u> 22 <u>established</u> [accrued] under Chapter 171, Tax Code, before the 23 effective date of this Act or a credit that continues to accrue 24 under Section 19 of this Act.

(c) A corporation that has any unused credits <u>established</u>
[accrued] before the effective date of this Act under a provision
other than Subchapter O, P, or Q, Chapter 171, Tax Code, may claim

those unused credits on or with the tax report for the period in which the credits were <u>established</u> [accrued], and the former law under which the corporation <u>established</u> [accrued] the credits is continued in effect for purposes of determining the amount of the credits the corporation may claim and the manner in which the corporation may claim the credits.

A corporation that has any unused credits established 7 (d) 8 [accrued] before the effective date of this Act under Subchapter O, Chapter 171, Tax Code, may claim those unused credits on or with the 9 tax report for the period in which the credit was established 10 However, if the corporation was allowed to carry 11 [accrued]. forward unused credits under that subchapter, the corporation may 12 continue to apply those credits on or with each consecutive report 13 until the earlier of the date the credit would have expired under 14 15 the terms of Subchapter O, Chapter 171, Tax Code, had it continued in existence, or December 31, 2027, and the former law under which 16 17 the corporation established [accrued] the credits is continued in effect for purposes of determining the amount of the credits the 18 corporation may claim and the manner in which the corporation may 19 claim the credits. 20

(e) A corporation that has any unused credits <u>established</u>
[accrued] before the effective date of this Act under Subchapter P,
Chapter 171, Tax Code, may claim those unused credits on or with the
tax report for the period in which the credit was <u>established</u>
[accrued]. However, if the corporation was allowed to carry
forward unused credits under that subchapter, the corporation may
continue to apply those credits on or with each consecutive report

until the earlier of the date the credit would have expired under the terms of Subchapter P, Chapter 171, Tax Code, had it continued in existence, or December 31, 2012, and the former law under which the corporation <u>established</u> [accrued] the credits is continued in effect for purposes of determining the amount of the credits the corporation may claim and the manner in which the corporation may claim the credits.

8 (f) A corporation that has any unused credits established 9 [accrued] before the effective date of this Act under Subchapter Q, Chapter 171, Tax Code, may claim those unused credits on or with the 10 tax report for the period in which the credit was established 11 However, if the corporation was allowed to carry 12 [accrued]. forward unused credits under that subchapter, the corporation may 13 14 continue to apply those credits on or with each consecutive report 15 until the earlier of the date the credit would have expired under the terms of Subchapter Q, Chapter 171, Tax Code, had it continued 16 17 in existence, or December 31, 2012, and the former law under which the corporation established [accrued] the credits is continued in 18 effect for purposes of determining the amount of the credits the 19 corporation may claim and the manner in which the corporation may 20 claim the credits. 21

SECTION 26. (a) Section 22, Chapter 1, Acts of the 79th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, 2006, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsections (b-1), (b-2), and (g) to read as follows:

(b) For an entity becoming subject to the franchise taxunder this Act:

H.B. No. 3928 1 (1) margin or gross receipts occurring before June 1, 2 2006, may not be considered for purposes of determining taxable 3 margin or for apportionment purposes; and 4 (2) an entity subject to the franchise tax on January 5 1, 2008, that was not previously subject to the tax and for which January 1, 2008, is not the beginning date, shall file an annual 6 report due May 15, 2008, based on the period: 7 8 (A) if the entity has an accounting period that ends on or after January 1, 2007, and before June 1, 2007: 9 (i) beginning on the later of: 10 June 1, 2006; or 11 (a) 12 (b) the date the entity was organized in this state or, if a foreign entity, the date it began doing 13 14 business in this state; and 15 (ii) ending on the date that accounting period ends in 2007; 16 17 (B) if the entity has an accounting period that ends on or after June 1, 2007, and before December 31, 2007: 18 (i) beginning on the date that accounting 19 20 period begins; and 21 (ii) ending on the date that accounting period ends in 2007; and 22 if the entity has an accounting period that 23 (C) 24 ends on December 31, 2007, or if the entity does not have an accounting period that ends in 2007: 25 beginning on the later of: 26 (i) January 1, 2007; or 27 (a)

H.B. No. 3928 the date the entity was organized 1 (b) in the state or, if a foreign entity, the date it began doing 2 business in this state; and 3 4 (ii) ending on December 31, 2007[; and [(3) an entity subject to the franchise tax as it 5 6 existed before the effective date of this Act at any time after December 31, 2006, and before January 1, 2008, but not subject to 7 the franchise tax on January 1, 2008, shall file a final report for 8 the privilege of doing business at any time after June 30, 2007, and 9 before January 1, 2008, based on the period: 10 [(A) beginning on the later of: 11 [(i) January 1, 2007; or 12 [(ii) the date the entity was organized in 13 this state or, if a foreign entity, the date it began doing business 14 15 in this state; and [(B) ending on the date the entity became 16 17 longer subject to the franchise tax]. (b-1) This subsection applies to an entity that: 18 19 (1) is not doing business in this state on January 1, 2008; 20 21 (2) would be subject to the franchise tax as amended by this Act if it were doing business in this state on or after January 22 1, 2008, but would not have been subject to the franchise tax as it 23 24 existed before being amended by this Act; and 25 (3) was doing business in this state at any time after 26 June 30, 2007, and before January 1, 2008. (b-2) An entity to which Subsection (b-1) applies shall, for 27

H.B. No. 3928 the privilege of doing business in this state at any time after June 1 2 30, 2007, and before January 1, 2008, file a final report and pay an 3 additional tax equal to the appropriate rate under Section 171.002, Tax Code, as amended by this Act, of the entity's taxable margin 4 5 based on the period: 6 (1) beginning on the later of: 7 (A) January 1, 2007; or 8 (B) the date the entity was organized in this 9 state or, if a foreign entity, the date it began doing business in 10 this state; and (2) ending on the date the entity became no longer 11 subject to the tax. 12 (g) Except as provided by Subsection (b)(1) of this section, 13 14 an entity becoming subject to the franchise tax under this Act that 15 is part of a combined group report shall, for purposes of determining margin and apportionment, include its activity for the 16 same period used by the combined group. 17 This section takes effect immediately if this Act (b) 18 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each 19 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. 20 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate 21 effect, this section takes effect September 1, 2007. 22 SECTION 27. Sections 23(b) and (f), Chapter 1, Acts of the 23 24 79th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, 2006, are amended to read as 25 follows:

(b) The information report required under this section mustcontain the same information that an entity required to file the

1 report would have submitted in its report due to the comptroller in 2 2006 under Chapter 171, Tax Code, if the changes made by this Act to 3 Chapter 171, Tax Code, had been in effect January 1, 2006. The information report shall also contain the total of maintenance and 4 5 operations school property taxes paid by the entity to school 6 districts in Texas in the 2005 [, 2006, and 2007] tax year [years]. 7 The comptroller shall provide the forms and instructions to the 8 entities required to file a report under this section.

9

(f) The comptroller:

10 (1) shall identify the entities described by 11 Subsection (d) of this section;

12 (2) shall prepare all forms and instructions required 13 for those entities to file their information reports as required by 14 this section;

(3) shall provide those forms and instructions to those entities on or after November 15, 2006, but before December 2, 2006;

18 (4) shall require the entities to submit their 19 information reports on or before February 15, 2007[, and February 20 15, 2008];

21 (5) may not grant any extensions for filing the 22 information reports; and

(6) shall report to the governor, the lieutenant
governor, and the members of the legislature, on or before April 1,
2007, [and April 1, 2008,] the results of the information reports,
stating the amount of revenue generated by the tax under Chapter
171, Tax Code, [in each year,] the amount that would have been

H.B. No. 3928
generated from the entities submitting information reports under
this section if the changes made by this Act to Chapter 171, Tax
Code, had been in effect January 1, 2006, and the school maintenance
and operations property taxes paid by the entities in the 2005 [7
<u>2006, and 2007</u>] tax <u>year</u> [years].
SECTION 28. The following provisions of the Tax Code are

7 repealed:

8 (1) Section 171.0003(a-1), as effective January 1,
9 2008; and

10 (2) Section 171.0011(e), as effective January 1, 2008.
 11 SECTION 29. This Act applies only to a report originally due
 12 on or after the effective date of this Act.

13 SECTION 30. Except as otherwise provided by this Act, this 14 Act takes effect January 1, 2008.