

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 2013

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SENATE BILL 490*

Short Title: Correct Taxation of Computer Software. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Gunn, Barefoot, Walters (Primary Sponsors); and Meredith.

Referred to: Finance.

March 28, 2013

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO CORRECT ERRORS IN CALCULATING PROPERTY TAX LIABILITY ON
COMPUTER SOFTWARE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 105-275(40) reads as rewritten:

"§ 105-275. Property classified and excluded from the tax base.

The following classes of property are designated special classes under Article V, Sec. 2(2), of the North Carolina Constitution and are excluded from tax:

...

(40) Computer software and any documentation related to the computer software. As used in this subdivision, the term "computer software" means any program or routine used to cause a computer to perform a specific task or set of tasks. The term includes system and application programs and database storage and management programs.

The exclusion established by this subdivision does not apply to computer software and its related documentation if the computer software meets one or more of the following descriptions:

a. ~~It is embedded software.~~ "Embedded software" means computer instructions, known as microcode, that reside permanently in the internal memory of a computer system or other equipment and are not intended to be removed without terminating the operation of the computer system or equipment and removing a computer chip, a circuit, or another mechanical device.

b. ~~It is purchased or licensed from a person who is unrelated to the taxpayer and it is capitalized on the books of the taxpayer in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, including financial accounting standards issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board. A person is unrelated to a taxpayer if (i) the taxpayer and the person are not subject to any common ownership, either directly or indirectly, and (ii) neither the taxpayer nor the person has any ownership interest, either directly or indirectly, in the other.~~

This subdivision does not affect the value or taxable status of any property that is otherwise subject to taxation under this Subchapter.



1 The provisions of the exclusion established by this subdivision are not
2 severable. If any provision of this subdivision or its application is held
3 invalid, the entire subdivision is repealed.

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5 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective for taxes imposed for taxable years beginning on
6 or after July 1, 2013.