

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 13, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 11, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 765

**Introduced by Assembly Members Caballero and ~~Ruskin~~ and
Solorio**

February 26, 2009

An act to amend Section 17059 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, relating to taxation, to take effect immediately, tax levy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 765, as amended, Caballero. Income tax credit: purchase: principal residence.

The Personal Income Tax Law authorizes a credit against the taxes imposed by that law in an amount equal to the lesser of 5% of the purchase price or \$10,000 in the case of the purchase of a qualified principal residence on and after March 1, 2009, and before March 1, 2010, but not to exceed an aggregate limitation of \$100,000,000 for all credits allowable.

This bill would extend the credit to purchases made on or after March 1, 2009, and before December 1, 2010, would specify that the purchases are required to be pursuant to an enforceable contract, and would increase the aggregate credit limitation to \$300,000,000, as provided.

This bill would take effect immediately as a tax levy.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 17059 of the Revenue and Taxation Code is amended to read:

17059. (a) (1) In the case of any taxpayer who purchases a qualified principal residence on and after March 1, 2009, and before December 1, 2010, there shall be allowed as a credit against the “net tax,” as defined in Section 17039, an amount equal to the lesser of 5 percent of the purchase price of the qualified principal residence or ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). Purchases occurring after March 1, 2010, and prior to December 1, 2010, must be pursuant to an enforceable contract to purchase the qualified principal residence executed ~~prior to~~ before March 1, 2010.

(2) The amount of any credit allowed under paragraph (1) shall be applied in equal amounts over the three successive taxable years beginning with the taxable year in which the purchase of the qualified principal residence is made.

(3) The credit under this section shall be allowed for the purchase of only one qualified principal residence with respect to any taxpayer.

(4) A taxpayer may, but is not required to, reserve a credit prior to close of escrow. To reserve a credit, the taxpayer and seller shall jointly sign and submit to the Franchise Tax Board a certification that they have entered into the agreement on or after March 1, 2009, and before March 1, 2010. Upon receipt of the joint certification, the Franchise Tax Board shall notify the taxpayer that the board has conditionally reserved the credit for the taxpayer.

(b) (1) For purposes of this section, “qualified principal residence” means a single-family residence, whether detached or attached, that has never been occupied, that is purchased to be the principal residence of the taxpayer for a minimum of two years and is eligible for the homeowner’s exemption under Section 218.

(2) No credit shall be allowed under this section unless the taxpayer submits with his or her tax return a certification by the seller of the qualified principal residence that the residence has never been previously occupied. The seller shall provide the certification to the taxpayer and to the Franchise Tax Board within one week of the close of escrow of the qualified principal residence.

(3) If the taxpayer does not occupy the qualified principal residence as his or her principal residence for at least two years

1 immediately following the purchase the credit shall be canceled,
2 and the taxpayer shall be liable for any credit allowed under this
3 section on previous tax returns.

4 (c) (1) In the case of two married taxpayers filing separately,
5 the credit allowed under subdivision (a) shall be equally
6 apportioned between the two taxpayers.

7 (2) If two or more taxpayers who are not married purchase a
8 qualified principal residence, the amount of the credit allowed
9 under subdivision (a) shall be allocated among the taxpayers in
10 the same manner as each taxpayer's percentage of ownership,
11 except that the total amount of the credits allowed to all of these
12 taxpayers shall not exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

13 (d) The total amount of credit that may be allowed pursuant to
14 this section shall not exceed three hundred million dollars
15 (\$300,000,000).

16 (e) (1) Upon receipt of the certification from the seller, as
17 described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b), the Franchise Tax
18 Board shall allocate the credit to the taxpayer on a first-come,
19 first-served basis.

20 (2) The taxpayer shall claim the credit on a timely filed original
21 return.

22 (3) The date a certification is received shall be determined by
23 the Franchise Tax Board.

24 (4) (A) The determinations of the Franchise Tax Board with
25 respect to the date a certification is received, and whether a return
26 has been timely filed for purposes of this subdivision, may not be
27 reviewed in any administrative or judicial proceeding.

28 (B) Any disallowance of a credit claimed due to a determination
29 under this subdivision, including the application of the limitation
30 specified in paragraph (1), shall be treated as a mathematical error
31 appearing on the return. Any amount of tax resulting from that
32 disallowance may be assessed by the Franchise Tax Board in the
33 same manner as provided by Section 19051.

34 (f) The Franchise Tax Board may prescribe rules, guidelines,
35 or procedures necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes
36 of this section, including any guidelines regarding the allocation
37 of the credit allowed under this section. Chapter 3.5 (commencing
38 with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the
39 Government Code does not apply to any rule, guideline, or

1 procedure prescribed by the Franchise Tax Board pursuant to this
2 section.

3 (g) The credit allowed by this section is not a business credit
4 within the meaning of Section 17039.2.

5 (h) The amendments to this section by the act adding this
6 sentence shall apply to purchases occurring on or after March 1,
7 2009, and before December 1, 2010.

8 (i) This section shall remain in effect only until December 1,
9 2013, and as of that date is repealed.

10 SEC. 2. This act provides for a tax levy within the meaning of
11 Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect.