

SENATE BILL NO. 675

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR BROWN.

4293S.02I

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary

AN ACT

To amend chapter 620, RSMo, by adding thereto seven new sections relating to rural workforce development incentives.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 620, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto
2 seven new sections, to be known as sections 620.3500, 620.3505,
3 620.3510, 620.3515, 620.3520, 620.3525, and 620.3530, to read
4 as follows:

620.3500. Sections 620.3500 to 620.3530 shall be known
2 and may be cited as the "Missouri Rural Workforce
3 Development Act".

620.3505. As used in sections 620.3500 to 620.3530,
2 the following terms shall mean:

3 (1) "Affiliate", an entity that directly, or
4 indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controls, or
5 is controlled by, or is under common control with another
6 entity. An entity is controlled by another entity if the
7 controlling entity holds, directly or indirectly, the
8 majority voting or ownership interest in the controlled
9 entity or has control over day-to-day operations of the
10 controlled entity by contract or by law;

11 (2) "Agribusiness", a business that produces or
12 provides any goods or services produced in this state and
13 that are normally used by farmers, ranchers, or producers
14 and harvesters of aquatic products in their business

15 operations, or to improve the welfare or livelihood of such
16 persons, or is involved in the processing and marketing of
17 agricultural products, farm supplies, and input suppliers,
18 or is engaged in agribusiness as defined by the United
19 States Department of Agriculture, or is engaged in
20 manufacturing, health care, technology, transportation, or
21 related services, or if not engaged in such industries, the
22 department determines that such investment will be
23 beneficial to the rural area and the economic growth of the
24 state;

25 (3) "Applicable percentage", zero percent for the
26 first two credit allowance dates, and fifteen percent for
27 the next four credit allowance dates;

28 (4) "Capital investment", any equity investment in a
29 rural fund by a rural investor which:

30 (a) Is acquired after the effective date of sections
31 620.3500 to 620.3530 at its original issuance solely in
32 exchange for cash;

33 (b) Has one hundred percent of its cash purchase price
34 used by the rural fund to make qualified investments in
35 eligible businesses located in this state by the third
36 anniversary of the initial credit allowance date; and

37 (c) Is designated by the rural fund as a capital
38 investment under sections 620.3500 to 620.3530 and is
39 certified by the department under the provisions of section
40 620.3510. This shall include any capital investment that
41 does not meet the provisions of subdivision (1) of
42 subsection 1 of section 620.3510 if such investment was a
43 capital investment in the hands of a prior holder;

44 (5) "Credit allowance date", the date on which the
45 department certifies a rural fund's capital investment and
46 each of the five anniversary dates of such date thereafter;

47 (6) "Department", the Missouri department of economic
48 development;

49 (7) "Eligible business", a business that, at the time
50 of the initial qualified investment in the business:

51 (a) Has fewer than two hundred fifty employees; and

52 (b) Has its principal business operations in this
53 state.

54 Any business which is classified as an eligible business at
55 the time of the initial investment in such business by a
56 rural fund shall remain classified as an eligible business
57 and may receive follow-on investments from any rural fund,
58 and such follow-on investments shall be qualified
59 investments even though such business may not meet the
60 definition of an eligible business at the time of such
61 follow-on investments;

62 (8) "Principal business operations", the location
63 where at least sixty percent of a business's employees work
64 or where employees who are paid at least sixty percent of
65 such business's payroll work. A business that has agreed to
66 relocate employees using the proceeds of a qualified
67 investment to establish its principal business operations in
68 a new location shall be deemed to have its principal
69 business operations in such new location if it satisfied the
70 requirements of this subdivision no later than one hundred
71 eighty days after receiving a qualified investment;

72 (9) "Purchase price", the amount paid to the rural
73 fund that issues a capital investment which shall not exceed
74 the amount of capital investment authority certified under
75 the provisions of section 620.3510;

76 (10) "Qualified investment", any investment in an
77 eligible business or any loan to an eligible business with a

78 stated maturity date of at least one year after the date of
79 issuance, excluding revolving lines of credit and senior
80 secured debt unless the chief executive or similar officer
81 of the eligible business certifies that the eligible
82 business sought and was denied similar financing from a
83 depository institution, by a rural fund; provided that, with
84 respect to any one eligible business, the maximum amount of
85 investments made in such business by one or more rural
86 funds, on a collective basis with all of the businesses'
87 affiliates, with the proceeds of capital investments shall
88 be the greater of twenty percent of the rural fund's capital
89 investment authority or six million five hundred thousand
90 dollars, exclusive of investments made with repaid or
91 redeemed investments or interest or profits realized thereon;

92 (11) "Rural area", any county of this state that has a
93 population of less than ninety thousand according to the
94 2010 decennial census of the United States;

95 (12) "Rural fund", an entity certified by the
96 department under the provisions of section 620.3510;

97 (13) "Rural investor", an entity that makes a capital
98 investment in a rural fund;

99 (14) "Senior secured debt", any loan that is secured
100 by a first mortgage on real estate with a loan-to-value
101 ratio of less than eighty percent;

102 (15) "State tax liability", any liability incurred by
103 any entity subject to the state income tax imposed under
104 chapter 143, excluding withholding tax imposed under
105 sections 143.191 to 143.265, or an insurance company paying
106 an annual tax on its gross premium receipts, including
107 retaliatory tax, or other financial institution paying taxes
108 to the state or any political subdivision of the state under

109 the provisions of chapter 148, or an express company which
110 pays an annual tax on its gross receipts in this state.

620.3510. 1. A rural fund that seeks to have an
2 equity investment certified as a capital investment eligible
3 for credits authorized under the provisions of sections
4 620.3500 to 620.3530 shall apply to the department. The
5 department shall begin accepting applications within ninety
6 days of the effective date of sections 620.3500 to
7 620.3530. The application shall include:

8 (1) The amount of capital investment requested;

9 (2) A copy of the applicant's or an affiliate of the
10 applicant's license as a rural business investment company
11 under 7 U.S.C. Section 2009cc or as a small business
12 investment company under 15 U.S.C. Section 681, and a
13 certificate executed by an executive officer of the
14 applicant attesting that such license remains in effect and
15 has not been revoked;

16 (3) Evidence that, as of the date the application is
17 submitted, the applicant or affiliates of the applicant have
18 invested:

19 (a) At least one hundred million dollars in nonpublic
20 companies located in counties within the United States with
21 a population of less than fifty thousand according to the
22 2010 decennial census of United States; and

23 (b) At least thirty million dollars in nonpublic
24 companies located in Missouri;

25 (4) A business plan that includes a revenue impact
26 assessment projecting state and local tax revenue to be
27 generated by the applicant's proposed qualified investments,
28 prepared by a nationally recognized, third-party,
29 independent economic forecasting firm using a dynamic
30 economic forecasting model that analyzes the applicant's

31 business plan over the ten years following the date the
32 application is submitted to the department. Such plan shall
33 include an estimate of the number of jobs created and jobs
34 retained in this state as a result of the applicant's
35 qualified investments; and

36 (5) A nonrefundable application fee of five thousand
37 dollars payable to the department.

38 2. Within thirty days after the receipt of a completed
39 application, the department shall grant or deny the
40 application in full or in part. The department shall deny
41 the application if:

42 (1) The applicant does not satisfy all of the criteria
43 provided under subsection 1 of this section;

44 (2) The revenue impact assessment submitted with the
45 application does not demonstrate that the applicant's
46 business plan will result in a positive fiscal impact on
47 this state over a ten-year period that exceeds the
48 cumulative amount of tax credits that would be issued to the
49 applicant if the application were approved; or

50 (3) The department has already approved the maximum
51 amount of capital investment authority under section
52 620.3515.

53 3. If the department denies any part of the
54 application, it shall inform the applicant of the grounds
55 for such denial. If the applicant provides any additional
56 information required by the department or otherwise
57 completes its application within fifteen days of the notice
58 of denial, the application shall be considered complete as
59 of the original date of submission. If the applicant fails
60 to provide the information or fails to complete its
61 application within the fifteen-day period, the application

62 shall remain denied and shall be resubmitted in full with a
63 new submission date and a new application fee.

64 4. Upon approval of an application, the department
65 shall certify the proposed equity investment as a capital
66 investment eligible for credits under sections 620.3500 to
67 620.3530, subject to the limitations contained in section
68 620.3515. The department shall provide written notice of
69 the certification to the applicant, which shall include the
70 amount of the applicant's capital investment authority. The
71 department shall certify capital investments in the order
72 that the applications are received by the department.
73 Applications received on the same day shall be deemed to
74 have been received simultaneously. For applications that
75 are complete and received on the same day, the department
76 shall certify applications in proportionate percentages
77 based upon the ratio of the amount of capital investment
78 authority requested in an application to the total amount of
79 capital investment authority requested in all applications.

620.3515. 1. The department shall certify capital
2 investment authority under the provisions of sections
3 620.3500 to 620.3530 in amounts that would authorize not
4 more than twenty-five million dollars in state tax credits
5 to be claimed against state tax liability in any calendar
6 year, excluding any credit amounts carried forward as
7 provided under subsection 1 of section 620.3520. Within
8 ninety days of the applicant receiving notice of
9 certification, the rural fund shall issue the capital
10 investment to, and receive cash in the amount of the
11 certified amount from, a rural investor. At least ten
12 percent of the rural investor's capital investment shall be
13 composed of capital raised by the rural investor directly or
14 indirectly from sources, including directors, members,

15 employees, officers, and affiliates of the rural investor,
16 other than the amount invested by the allocatee claiming the
17 tax credits in exchange for such allocation of tax credits.
18 The rural fund shall provide the department with evidence of
19 the receipt of the cash investment within ninety-five days
20 of the applicant receiving notice of certification.

21 2. If the rural fund does not receive the cash
22 investment and issue the capital investment within such time
23 period following receipt of the certification notice, the
24 certification shall lapse and the rural fund shall not issue
25 the capital investment without reapplying to the department
26 for certification. Lapsed certifications shall revert to
27 the department and shall be reissued pro rata to applicants
28 whose capital investment allocations were reduced in
29 accordance with the application process provided under
30 subsection 4 of section 620.3510.

31 3. A rural fund, before making a qualified investment,
32 may request from the department a written opinion as to
33 whether the business in which it proposes to invest is an
34 eligible business. The department, not later than the
35 fifteenth business day after the date of receipt of such
36 request, shall notify the rural fund of its determination.
37 If the department fails to notify the rural fund of its
38 determination by the twentieth business day, the business in
39 which the rural fund proposes to invest shall be deemed an
40 eligible business.

620.3520. 1. Upon making a capital investment in a
2 rural fund, a rural investor shall have a vested right to a
3 credit against such entity's state tax liability that may be
4 utilized on each credit allowance date of such capital
5 investment in an amount equal to the applicable percentage
6 for such credit allowance date multiplied by the purchase

7 price paid to the rural fund for the capital investment.
8 The amount of the credit claimed by a rural investor shall
9 not exceed the amount of such entity's state tax liability
10 for the tax year for which the credit is claimed. Any
11 amount of credit that a rural investor is prohibited from
12 claiming in a taxable year as a result of this section may
13 be carried forward for use in any of the five subsequent
14 taxable years, and shall not be carried back to prior
15 taxable years. It is the intent of this act that a rural
16 investor claiming a credit under the provisions of sections
17 620.3500 to 620.3530 is not required to pay any additional
18 tax that may arise as a result of claiming such credit.

19 2. No credit claimed under the provisions of sections
20 620.3500 to 620.3530 shall be refundable or sellable on the
21 open market. Credits earned by or allocated to a
22 partnership, limited liability company, or S-corporation may
23 be allocated to the partners, members, or shareholders of
24 such entity for their direct use in accordance with the
25 provisions of any agreement among such partners, members, or
26 shareholders, and a rural fund shall notify the department
27 of the names of the entities that are eligible to utilize
28 credits pursuant to an allocation of credits or a change in
29 allocation of credits, or due to a transfer of a capital
30 investment upon such allocation, change, or transfer. Such
31 allocation shall not be considered a sale for the purposes
32 of this section.

33 3. The department may recapture credits from a
34 taxpayer that claimed a credit authorized under this section
35 if:

36 (1) The rural fund does not invest sixty percent of
37 its capital investment authority in qualified investments in
38 this state within two years of the credit allowance date,

39 and one hundred percent of its capital investment authority
40 in qualified investments in this state within three years of
41 the credit allowance date, provided that at least seventy
42 percent of such initial qualified investments shall be made
43 in eligible businesses located in rural areas or eligible
44 businesses that are also agribusinesses;

45 (2) The rural fund fails to maintain qualified
46 investments equal to ninety percent of its capital
47 investment authority from the third anniversary until the
48 sixth anniversary of the credit allowance date, with seventy
49 percent of such investments maintained in eligible
50 businesses located in rural areas or eligible businesses
51 that are also agribusinesses. For each year the rural fund
52 fails to maintain such investments, the department may
53 recapture an amount of such year's allowed credits equal to
54 the percentage difference between ninety percent of a rural
55 fund's capital investment authority and the actual amount of
56 qualified investments maintained for such year. For the
57 purposes of this subdivision, a qualified investment is
58 considered maintained even if the qualified investment was
59 sold or repaid so long as the rural fund reinvests an amount
60 equal to the capital returned or recovered by the rural fund
61 from the original investment, exclusive of any profits
62 realized, in other qualified investments in this state
63 within twelve months of the receipt of such capital.
64 Amounts received periodically by a rural fund shall be
65 treated as continually invested in qualified investments if
66 the amounts are reinvested in one or more qualified
67 investments by the end of the following calendar year. A
68 rural fund shall not be required to reinvest capital
69 returned from qualified investments after the fifth
70 anniversary of the credit allowance date, and such qualified

71 investments shall be considered held continuously by the
72 rural fund through the sixth anniversary of the credit
73 allowance date;

74 (3) The rural fund, before exiting the program in
75 accordance with sections 620.3500 to 620.3530 or prior to
76 thirty days after the sixth anniversary of the credit
77 allowance date, whichever is earlier, makes a distribution
78 or payment that results in the rural fund having less than
79 one hundred percent of its capital investment authority
80 invested in qualified investments in this state or held in
81 cash or other marketable securities; or

82 (4) The rural fund violates the provisions of section
83 620.3525, in which case the department may recapture an
84 amount equal to the amount of a rural fund's capital
85 investment authority found to be in violation of such
86 provisions.

87 For the purposes of meeting and maintaining the objectives
88 established for investment in subdivisions (1) and (2) of
89 this subsection, a rural fund's qualified investments shall
90 be multiplied by a factor of one and a quarter in counties
91 with less than thirty thousand in population and more than
92 thirteen thousand in population and shall be multiplied by a
93 factor of one and a half in counties with a population of
94 thirteen thousand or less.

95 4. Recaptured credits and the related capital
96 investment authority shall revert to the department and
97 shall be reissued pro rata to applicants whose capital
98 investment allocations were reduced in accordance with the
99 application process provided under subsection 4 of section
100 620.3510.

101 5. No recapture shall occur until the rural fund has
102 been given notice of noncompliance and afforded six months
103 from the date of such notice to cure the noncompliance.

 620.3525. No eligible business that receives a
2 qualified investment under the provisions of sections
3 620.3500 to 620.3530, or any affiliates of such eligible
4 businesses, shall directly or indirectly:

5 (1) Own or have the right to acquire an ownership
6 interest in a rural fund or member or affiliate of a rural
7 fund, including, but not limited to, a holder of a capital
8 investment issued by the rural fund; or

9 (2) Loan to or invest in a rural fund or member or
10 affiliate of a rural fund, including, but not limited to, a
11 holder of a capital investment issued by a rural fund, where
12 the proceeds of such loan or investment are directly or
13 indirectly used to fund or refinance the purchase of a
14 capital investment under sections 620.3500 to 620.3530.

 620.3530. 1. Rural funds shall submit a report to the
2 department within the first fifteen business days after the
3 second and third anniversary of the initial credit allowance
4 date. The report following the second anniversary shall
5 provide documentation as to the investment of sixty percent
6 of the purchase price of such capital investment in
7 qualified investments. The report following the third
8 anniversary shall provide documentation as to the investment
9 of one hundred percent of the purchase price of such capital
10 investment in qualified investments. Unless previously
11 reported pursuant to this subsection, such reports shall
12 also include:

13 (1) The name and location of each eligible business
14 receiving a qualified investment;

15 (2) Bank statements of such rural fund evidencing each
16 qualified investment;

17 (3) A copy of the written opinion of the department,
18 as provided in subsection 3 of section 620.3515, or evidence
19 that such business was an eligible business at the time of
20 such qualified investment, as applicable;

21 (4) The number of jobs created and jobs retained
22 resulting from each qualified investment;

23 (5) The average annual salary of positions described
24 in subdivision (4) of this subsection; and

25 (6) Such other information as required by the
26 department.

27 2. For all subsequent years, rural funds shall submit
28 an annual report to the department within ninety days of the
29 beginning of the calendar year during the compliance
30 period. The report shall include, but is not limited to,
31 the following:

32 (1) The number of jobs created and jobs retained as a
33 result of qualified investments;

34 (2) The average annual salary of positions described
35 in subdivision (1) of this subsection; and

36 (3) Such other information as required by the
37 department.

38 3. The program authorized pursuant to sections
39 620.3500 to 620.3530 shall be considered a business
40 recruitment tax credit under subdivision (4) of subsection 2
41 of section 135.800, and any rural fund approved under this
42 program shall be subject to the provisions of sections
43 135.800 to 135.830.

44 4. On or after the sixth anniversary of the credit
45 allowance date, a rural fund may apply to the department to
46 exit the program and no longer be subject to regulation

47 under the provisions of sections 620.3500 to 620.3530. The
48 department shall respond to the exit application within
49 fifteen days of receipt. In evaluating the exit
50 application, the fact that no credits have been recaptured
51 and that the rural fund has not received a notice of
52 recapture that has not been cured pursuant to subsection 5
53 of section 620.3520 shall be sufficient evidence to prove
54 that the rural fund is eligible for exit. The department
55 shall not unreasonably deny an exit application submitted
56 under this subsection. If the exit application is denied,
57 the notice shall include the reasons for such determination.

58 5. At the time a rural fund exits the program, it
59 shall be subject to the following penalties if projected job
60 creation metrics are not achieved:

61 (1) If sixty percent or less of the projected jobs in
62 the rural fund's approved business plan are achieved, the
63 rural fund shall pay the state a penalty payment of cash in
64 an amount equal to ten percent of the total tax credits
65 distributed to the rural fund; or

66 (2) If more than sixty percent but less than eighty
67 percent of the projected jobs in the rural fund's approved
68 business plan are achieved, the rural fund shall pay the
69 state a penalty payment of cash in an amount equal to five
70 percent of the total tax credits distributed to the rural
71 fund.

72 6. The department shall not accept any new
73 applications for tax credits pursuant to sections 620.3500
74 to 620.3530 after December 31, 2032.

75 7. The department may adopt such rules, statements of
76 policy, procedures, forms, and guidelines as may be
77 necessary to carry out the provisions of sections 620.3500
78 to 620.3530. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is

79 defined in section 536.010, that is created under the
80 authority delegated in this section shall become effective
81 only if it complies with and is subject to all of the
82 provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section
83 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and
84 if any of the powers vested with the general assembly
85 pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective
86 date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently
87 held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking
88 authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28,
89 2022, shall be invalid and void.

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