

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 427

90TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR FLOTRON.

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TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

AN ACT

To repeal sections 135.500, 135.503 and 620.1039, RSMo Supp. 1998, relating to tax credit programs administered by the department of economic development, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to the same subject.

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

Section A. Sections 135.500, 135.503 and 620.1039, RSMo Supp. 1998, are repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 135.500 and 135.503, to read as follows:

135.500. 1. Sections 135.500 to 135.529 shall be known and may be cited as the "Missouri Certified Capital Company Law".

2. As used in sections 135.500 to 135.529, the following terms mean:

(1) "Affiliate of a certified company":

(a) Any person, directly or indirectly owning, controlling or holding power to vote ten percent or more of the outstanding voting securities or other ownership interests of the Missouri certified capital company;

(b) Any person ten percent or more of whose outstanding voting securities or other ownership interest are directly or indirectly owned, controlled or held with power to vote by the Missouri certified capital company;

(c) Any person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Missouri certified capital company;

(d) A partnership in which the Missouri certified capital company is a general partner;

(e) Any person who is an officer, director or agent of the Missouri certified capital company

EXPLANATION--Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

or an immediate family member of such officer, director or agent;

(2) "Applicable percentage", one hundred percent;

(3) "Capital in a qualified Missouri business", any debt, equity or hybrid security, of any nature and description whatsoever, including a debt instrument or security which has the characteristics of debt but which provides for conversion into equity or equity participation instruments such as options or warrants which are acquired by a Missouri certified capital company as a result of a transfer of cash to a business. Capital in a qualified Missouri business shall not include secured debt instruments;

(4) "Certified capital", an investment of cash by an investor in a Missouri certified capital company;

(5) "Certified capital company", any partnership, corporation, trust or limited liability company, whether organized on a profit or not for profit basis, that is located, headquartered and registered to conduct business in Missouri that has as its primary business activity, the investment of cash in qualified Missouri businesses, and which is certified by the department as meeting the criteria of sections 135.500 to 135.529;

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

(7) "Director", the director of the department of economic development or a person acting under the supervision of the director;

(8) "Investor", any insurance company that contributes cash;

(9) "Liquidating distribution", payments to investors or to the certified capital company from earnings;

(10) "Person", any natural person or entity, including a corporation, general or limited partnership, trust or limited liability company;

(11) "Qualified distribution", any distribution or payment to equity holders of a certified capital company in connection with the following:

(a) Reasonable costs and expenses of forming, syndicating, managing and operating the certified capital company;

(b) Management fees for managing and operating the certified capital company; and

(c) Any increase in federal or state taxes, penalties and interest, including those related to state and federal income taxes, of equity owners of a certified capital company which related to the ownership, management or operation of a certified capital company;

(12) "Qualified investment", the investment of cash by a Missouri certified capital company in such a manner as to acquire capital in a qualified Missouri business;

(13) "Qualified Missouri business", an independently owned and operated business, which is headquartered and located in Missouri and which is in need of venture capital and cannot obtain conventional financing. Such business shall have no more than two hundred employees, eighty percent of which are employed in Missouri. Such business shall be involved in commerce for the

purpose of manufacturing, processing or assembling products, conducting research and development, or providing services in interstate commerce, but excluding retail, real estate, real estate development, insurance and professional services provided by accountants, lawyers or physicians. If such business has been in existence for three years or less, its gross sales during its most recent complete fiscal years shall not have exceeded four million dollars. If such business has been in existence for longer than three years, its gross sales during its most recent complete fiscal year shall not have exceeded three million dollars. Any business which is classified as a qualified Missouri business at the time of the first investment in such business by a Missouri certified capital company shall, for a period of seven years from the date of such first investment, remain classified as a qualified Missouri business and may receive follow-on investments from any Missouri certified capital company and such follow-on investments shall be qualified investments even though such business may not meet the other qualifications of this subsection at the time of such follow-on investments;

(14) "Qualified Missouri seed business", any independently owned and operated business which is headquartered and located in Missouri and which is involved in or intends to be involved in commerce for the purpose of manufacturing, processing or assembling products, conducting research and development, or providing services in interstate commerce; provided, however, that such business has not in a past fiscal year experienced a positive cash flow and that such business shall maintain its headquarters in Missouri for a period of at least three years from the date of receipt of a qualified investment;

~~[(14)]~~ **(15)** "State premium tax liability", any liability incurred by an insurance company under the provisions of section 148.370, RSMo, and related provisions.

135.503. 1. Any investor that makes an investment of certified capital shall, in the year of investment, earn a vested credit against state premium tax liability equal to the applicable percentage of the investor's investment of certified capital. An investor shall be entitled to take up to ten percent of the vested credit in any taxable year of the investor. [Any time after three years after August 28, 1996, the director, with the approval of the commissioner of administration, may reduce the applicable percentage on a prospective basis. Any such reduction in the applicable percentage by the director shall not have any effect on credits against state premium tax liability which have been claimed or will be claimed by any investor with respect to credits which have been earned and vested pursuant to an investment of certified capital prior to the effective date of any such change.]

2. The credit against state premium tax liability which is described in subsection 1 of this section may not exceed the state premium tax liability of the investor for any taxable year. All such credits against state premium tax liability may be carried forward indefinitely until the credits are utilized.

3. The aggregate amount of certified capital for which earned and vested credits against state premium tax liability are allowed for all persons pursuant to sections 135.500 to 135.529 shall not exceed the following amounts: for calendar year 1996, \$0.00; for calendar year 1997, an amount which would entitle all Missouri certified capital company investors to take aggregate credits of five million dollars; and for any year thereafter, an amount [to be determined by the director but] not to exceed aggregate credits of [ten] **twenty-five** million dollars [for any year with the approval of the commissioner of administration and] reported to the general assembly as provided in subsection 2 of section 33.282, RSMo, provided that the amount [so determined] shall not impair the ability of an investor with earned and vested credits which have been allowed in previous years to take them, pursuant to subsection 1 of this section. During any calendar year in which the limitation described in this subsection will limit the amount of certified capital for which earned and vested credits against state premium tax liability are allowed, certified capital for which credits are allowed will be allocated in order of priority based upon the date of filing of information described in subdivision (1) of subsection 5 of section 135.516. Certified capital limited in any calendar year by the application of the provisions of this subsection shall be allowed and allocated in the immediately succeeding calendar year in the order of priority set forth in this subsection.

4. Ten million dollars of the amount of credits authorized in this section shall be utilized for investments in qualified Missouri seed businesses.

[4.] 5. The department shall advise any Missouri certified capital company, in writing, within fifteen days after receiving the filing described in subdivision (1) of subsection 5 of section 135.516 whether the limitations of subsection 3 of this section then in effect will be applicable with respect to the investments and credits described in such filing with the department.

[620.1039. 1. As used in this section, the term "taxpayer" means an individual, a partnership, or a corporation as described in section 143.441, 143.471, RSMo, or section 148.370, RSMo, and the term "qualified research expenses" has the same meaning as prescribed in 26 U.S.C. 41.

2. Beginning January 1, 1994, a taxpayer may be allowed a tax credit against the tax otherwise due pursuant to chapter 143, RSMo, or chapter 148, RSMo, other than the taxes withheld pursuant to sections 143.191 to 143.265, RSMo, if approved by the director of the department of economic development, in an amount up to six and one-half percent of the excess of the taxpayer's qualified research expenses, as certified by the director of the department of economic development, within this state during the taxable year over the average of the taxpayer's qualified research expenses within this state over the immediately preceding three taxable years; except that, no tax credit shall be allowed on that portion of the taxpayer's qualified research expenses incurred within this state during the taxable year in which the credit is being claimed, to the extent such expenses exceed

two hundred percent of the taxpayer's average qualified research expenses incurred during the immediately preceding three taxable years. In order to receive a tax credit pursuant to this section, certification by the director of the department of economic development shall be required as proof that the taxpayer made qualified research expenses during the taxable year.

3. The director of economic development shall prescribe the manner in which the tax credit may be claimed. The tax credit allowed by this section may be claimed by the taxpayer to offset the tax liability imposed by chapter 143, RSMo, or chapter 148, RSMo, that becomes due in the tax year during which such qualified research expenses were incurred. Where the amount of the credit exceeds the tax liability, the difference between the credit and the tax liability may only be carried forward for the next five succeeding taxable years or until the full credit has been claimed, whichever first occurs. The application for claiming tax credits allowed in subsection 2 of this section shall be made in the taxpayer's tax period immediately following the tax period for which the credits are being claimed. No rule or portion of a rule promulgated under the authority of this section shall become effective unless it has been promulgated pursuant to the provisions of chapter 536, RSMo. All rulemaking authority delegated prior to June 27, 1997, is of no force and effect and repealed; however, nothing in this section shall be interpreted to repeal or affect the validity of any rule filed or adopted prior to June 27, 1997, if such rule complied with the provisions of chapter 536, RSMo. The provisions of this section and chapter 536, RSMo, are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, RSMo, including the ability to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule or portion of a rule, are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the purported grant of rulemaking authority and any rule so proposed and contained in the order of rulemaking shall be invalid and void.

4. The aggregate of all tax credits authorized pursuant to this section shall not exceed ten million dollars in any taxable year.]

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