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2 88th General Assembly
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4

As Engrossed: H3/11/11

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2048

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8 By: Senators *D. Wyatt, Bookout, G. Baker, Burnett, L. Chesterfield, J. Dismang, Elliott, Fletcher, J.*
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11

For An Act To Be Entitled

12 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS ACCELERATION FUND
13 WITHIN THE ARKANSAS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY
14 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADVANCING THE GROWTH OF HIGH-WAGE,
15 KNOWLEDGE-BASED, AND HIGH-TECHNOLOGY JOBS IN
16 ARKANSAS; TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS ACCELERATION FUND
17 COMMITTEE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
18
19
20

Subtitle

21 TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS ACCELERATION FUND
22 WITHIN THE ARKANSAS SCIENCE AND
23 TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY AND TO CREATE THE
24 ARKANSAS ACCELERATION FUND COMMITTEE.
25
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27

28 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
29

30 SECTION 1. Title 15, Chapter 3 is amended to add a new subchapter to
31 read as follows:

32 Subchapter 5 – Arkansas Acceleration Fund Act
33

34 15-3-501. Title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
35 “Arkansas Acceleration Fund Act”.
36



1 15-3-502. Legislative intent.

2 (a) The General Assembly finds that in October 2008 the Arkansas Task
3 Force for the 21st Century Economy found and recommended that:

4 (1) Education, research and development, entrepreneurship, risk
5 capital, existing business innovation, and cyberinfrastructure are the most
6 critical roles to Arkansas's success in the twenty-first century global
7 economy;

8 (2) Twenty-six (26) programs, initiatives, and constitutional
9 issues be given priority consideration as being key to competitiveness and
10 contributing to economic development in the twenty-first century global
11 economy;

12 (3) Resources should be dedicated to further study the structure
13 and effectiveness of the state's economic development organizations because
14 economic development is ever-changing and the continuing review will provide
15 information about twenty-first century demands on the organizations; and

16 (4) Arkansas should create a dedicated revenue stream for
17 funding twenty-first century business development.

18 (b) The General Assembly further finds that in 2009 the Arkansas
19 Governor's Strategic Plan for Economic Development identified that Arkansas:

20 (1) Needs an approach to an economy supported by knowledge-based
21 jobs; and

22 (2) Lacks a recurring and predictable funding formula for
23 economic development.

24
25 15-3-503. Arkansas Acceleration Fund Committee.

26 (a) The Arkansas Science and Technology Authority shall create the
27 Arkansas Acceleration Fund Committee.

28 (b)(1) The committee shall make recommendations regarding support and
29 assistance for the accelerated growth of knowledge-based and high-technology
30 jobs in the State of Arkansas through focused funding of the state's
31 initiatives and programs.

32 (2) For funds in the Arkansas Acceleration Fund, § 19-5-1243,
33 the committee shall make recommendations to the authority regarding the
34 allocation or re-allocation of funds and moneys for programs and initiatives
35 authorized by the:

36 (A) Arkansas Research Alliance Act, § 15-3-301 et seq.;

1 (B) Innovate Arkansas Fund, § 19-5-1237;

2 (C) Arkansas Risk Capital Matching Fund Act of 2007, § 15-
3 5-1601 et seq.;

4 (D) Supplemental science, technology, engineering, and
5 math fund grants under § 6-17-2701 et seq.;

6 (E) Existing programs of the Arkansas Science and
7 Technology Authority authorized under § 15-3-101 et seq., § 15-3-201 et seq.,
8 § 15-3-301 et seq., and § 15-3-401 et seq.; and

9 (F) Arkansas Technical Careers Student Loan Forgiveness
10 Program § 6-50-201.

11
12 15-3-504. Members of the committee.

13 (a) The committee is composed of the following members:

14 (1) Seven (7) of the members shall be individuals from the
15 private sector;

16 (2) One (1) member to be the president of the Arkansas Science
17 and Technology Authority or the president's designee;

18 (3) One (1) member to be the executive director of the Arkansas
19 Economic Development Commission or the executive director's designee; and

20 (4) One (1) member to be the president of Arkansas Development
21 Finance Authority or the president's designee.

22 (b) Each private sector member of the committee shall:

23 (1) Be knowledgeable through personal experience or training of
24 the process of growth and development of knowledge-based or technology-based
25 jobs;

26 (2) Have obtained at least an undergraduate degree from a four-
27 year institution of higher learning; and

28 (3) Have:

29 (A) A science or engineering degree from a four-year
30 institution of higher learning;

31 (B) Experience managing a private sector knowledge-based
32 or high technology company; or

33 (C) Experience working in areas related to development of
34 private sector knowledge-based or high technology jobs.

35 (c)(1) The president of the Arkansas Science and Technology Authority
36 shall seek recommendations from the authority's board of directors and the

1 Governor of the State of Arkansas for the initial list of private sector
2 committee members.

3 (2) After obtaining the recommendations, the president of the
4 Arkansas Science and Technology Authority shall nominate the initial private
5 sector members of the committee for appointment to the committee by the
6 authority's board of directors.

7 (d)(1) Each private sector committee member shall serve a four-year
8 term, with a maximum of two (2) consecutive four-year terms.

9 (2) The initial terms of the private sector committee members
10 shall be as follows:

11 (A) One (1) member shall serve a one-year term;

12 (B) Two (2) members shall serve a two-year term;

13 (C) Two (2) members shall serve a three-year term; and

14 (D) Two (2) members shall serve a four-year term.

15 (3) The president of the Arkansas Science and Technology
16 Authority shall determine the terms of the initial private members of the
17 committee.

18 (4) Each member may be reappointed from time to time thereafter
19 to serve not more than a maximum of eight (8) consecutive years including his
20 or her initial term.

21 (e) Successors to the initial private sector committee members shall
22 be nominated by the president of the Arkansas Science and Technology
23 Authority upon recommendation by the committee and shall be appointed by the
24 board of directors of the Arkansas Science and Technology Authority.

25 (f) Members of the committee shall serve without compensation.

26
27 15-3-505. Recommendations.

28 (a) Upon receiving funding, the Arkansas Acceleration Fund Committee
29 shall meet at least annually to recommend the allocation and priorities of
30 funding, funding ratios, and the maximum amounts to be made available among
31 the particular programs to be supported under this chapter and that will
32 accelerate the development of knowledge-based and high technology jobs in
33 Arkansas.

34 (b) The committee may base its recommendations for investment and
35 reinvestment on an analysis of the growth in the state's knowledge-based and
36 high-technology jobs and associated wages and estimated individual state

1 income tax revenue.

2 (c) The committee's recommendations may be used to guide the
3 preparation of budget requests by the Arkansas Science and Technology
4 Authority or budget requests by state agencies for the programs stated in §
5 15-3-503(b).

6 (d)(1) The Board of Directors of the Arkansas Science and Technology
7 Authority may act on the committee's recommendations.

8 (2) The governing body of each agency listed under § 15-3-503(b)
9 may act on the committee's recommendations for the programs listed in their
10 areas.

11 (3) The board shall report its actions to the Governor by June
12 30 of each year and shall forward copies of the report to the agencies
13 included in the report's recommendations.

14
15 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 19, Chapter 5, Subchapter 12 is amended
16 to add an additional section to read as follows:

17 19-5-1243. Arkansas Acceleration Fund.

18 (a) There is created on the books of the Treasurer of State, the
19 Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a miscellaneous
20 fund to be known as the "Arkansas Acceleration Fund".

21 (b) The fund shall consist of:

22 (1) Funds provided by law; and

23 (2) Grants made by any person or federal government agency.

24 (c) The fund shall be used by the Arkansas Science and Technology
25 Authority to provide support and assistance for the accelerated growth of
26 knowledge-based and high-technology jobs in the State of Arkansas through
27 focused funding of the state initiatives and programs as defined under § 15-
28 3-501 et seq.

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30 */s/Lindsey*