

**HOUSE BILL No. 2168**

By Representatives Waymaster, Claeys, Concannon, Davis and Hoffman

1-25

1 AN ACT concerning rural economic development; enacting the ad astra  
2 rural jobs act.

3  
4 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

5 Section 1. Sections 1 through 11, and amendments thereto, shall be  
6 known and may be cited as the ad astra rural jobs act.

7 Sec. 2. As used in sections 1 through 11, and amendments thereto:

8 (a) "Affiliate" means a person that directly or indirectly through one  
9 or more intermediaries, controls, is controlled by or is under common  
10 control with another person or entity. A person is controlled by another  
11 person if the controlling person holds, directly or indirectly, the majority  
12 voting or ownership interest in the controlled person or has control over  
13 the day-to-day operations of the controlled person by contract or by law.

14 (b) "Approved investment company" means a person, not including  
15 an individual, seeking to make successful developmental venture capital  
16 investments in rural business concerns that will create wealth and job  
17 opportunities in identified rural areas and that has been approved by the  
18 secretary pursuant to section 4, and amendments thereto.

19 (c) "Closing date" means the date on which an approved investment  
20 company collects all of the committed dollar amounts, for purposes of  
21 making venture capital investments in rural business concerns, as required  
22 under section 4(f), and amendments thereto.

23 (d) "Credit-eligible capital contribution" means an investment of cash  
24 in an approved investment company made:

25 (1) (A) For an equity interest in the approved investment company; or

26 (B) for the purchase, at par value or at a premium, of a debt  
27 instrument issued by the approved investment company that has a maturity  
28 date at least five years from the date of investment; and

29 (2) by a person subject to income tax liability imposed against such  
30 person under the Kansas income tax act, excluding withholding tax  
31 imposed under K.S.A. 79-3294 et seq., and amendments thereto, a national  
32 banking association, state bank, trust company or savings and loan  
33 association paying an annual tax on its net income pursuant to article 11 of  
34 chapter 79 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, or

1 any insurance company paying the premium tax and privilege fees  
2 imposed pursuant to K.S.A. 40-252, and amendments thereto.

3 (e) "Department" means the department of commerce.

4 (f) "Funding" means any venture capital or venture equity investment  
5 by an approved investment company in a rural business concern or any  
6 loan to a rural business concern by an approved investment company with  
7 a final maturity date of at least two years after the date of issuance.

8 (g) "Growth capital" means the total of cash investments in an  
9 approved investment company, including credit-eligible capital  
10 contributions from investors and other cash investments, including  
11 government grants, guaranteed debenture funds, or other public funds, in  
12 the amount as approved by the secretary and stated on the notice issued  
13 under section 4(e), and amendments thereto. At least ~~40%~~ 60% of growth  
14 capital must be comprised of credit-eligible capital contributions. At least  
15 10% of growth capital must be composed of equity investments  
16 contributed by affiliates of the approved investment company, including  
17 employees, officers and directors of such affiliates.

18 (h) "Operating company" means a person that is doing business in  
19 Kansas or seeking to do business in Kansas and that is not a publicly  
20 traded business.

21 (i) "Person" means an individual, proprietorship, partnership, limited  
22 liability partnership, association, trust, estate, firm, group, corporation,  
23 limited liability corporation or other organization.

24 (j) "Principal business operations" means the location where at least  
25 60% of the operating company's employees work or where employees who  
26 are paid at least 60% of the operating company's payroll work. An  
27 operating company **{whose principal business operations is not in**  
28 **Kansas}** that has agreed to move the location of its principal business  
29 operations using the proceeds of its funding for a purpose of meeting the  
30 definition of a rural business concern shall be deemed to have its principal  
31 business operations in the new location at the time of such agreement,  
32 subject to the operating company completing the agreed relocation within  
33 180 days after funding.

34 (k) "Rural area" means a location:

35 (1) That is not within a city with a population greater than 60,000, or  
36 within the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to the city, according to  
37 the most recent decennial United States census; or

38 (2) determined to be a "rural area" by the secretary upon  
39 consideration of factors including, but not limited to:

40 (A) Population density, density of commercial development and  
41 availability of non-farm employment; or

42 (B) attachment to the urbanized area of a city as defined in paragraph  
43 (1) by a contiguous area of urbanized census blocks that is not more than

1 two census blocks wide.

2 (1) "Rural business concern" means an operating company that:

3 (1) Has its principal business operations in one or more rural areas in  
4 Kansas;

5 (2) has fewer than 500 employees or had an average federal adjusted  
6 gross income of less than \$15,000,000 in the three preceding tax years;  
7 and

8 (3) engages in industries related to manufacturing, plant sciences,  
9 technology, or agricultural technology or, if not engaged in such industries,  
10 the secretary makes a determination that the targeted funding of the  
11 operating company will be highly beneficial to the economic growth of the  
12 state and the rural area or areas in which the operating company is or will  
13 be located.

14 (m) "Secretary" means the secretary of commerce.

15 Sec. 3. (a) There is hereby established in the state treasury the ad  
16 astra rural jobs fund, which shall be administered by the secretary of  
17 commerce. All expenditures from the ad astra rural jobs fund shall be  
18 solely for the administration of the ad astra rural jobs act. All expenditures  
19 from the ad astra rural jobs fund shall be made in accordance with  
20 appropriation acts upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports  
21 issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the secretary of commerce or the  
22 secretary's designee.

23 (b) All moneys received by the secretary for the ad astra rural jobs act  
24 shall be deposited in the state treasury in accordance with the provisions of  
25 K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto, and shall be credited to the ad  
26 astra rural jobs fund.

27 (c) On or before the 10<sup>th</sup> day of each month, the director of accounts  
28 and reports shall transfer from the state general fund to the ad astra rural  
29 jobs fund interest earnings based on:

30 (1) The average daily balance of moneys in the ad astra rural jobs  
31 fund established by this section for the preceding month; and

32 (2) the net earnings rate of the pooled money investment portfolio for  
33 the preceding month.

34 Sec. 4. (a) Beginning on January 1, 2018, the department shall accept  
35 applications for approved investment companies. The application shall  
36 include:

37 (1) The amount of growth capital sought by the applicant;

38 (2) either:

39 (A) A copy of the applicant's or its affiliate's license as a rural  
40 business investment company under 7 U.S.C. § 2009cc or as a small  
41 business investment company under 15 U.S.C. § 681 and evidence  
42 demonstrating that the applicant or its affiliates have invested a minimum  
43 amount, as required by rules and regulations promulgated by the secretary,

1 in operating companies and in operating companies located in rural areas;  
2 or

3 (B) evidence demonstrating that the applicant or its affiliates have  
4 invested a minimum amount, as required in rules and regulations  
5 promulgated by the secretary, in operating companies through one or more  
6 federal or state tax credit programs administered by an agency of this state  
7 and evidence that the applicant has domiciled in this state for the three  
8 years preceding its application;

9 (3) an estimate of the number of jobs that will be created or retained  
10 in Kansas as a result of the applicant's funding;

11 (4) a 10-year business plan for the applicant's proposed funding that  
12 includes a revenue impact assessment prepared by a nationally recognized  
13 third-party independent economic forecasting firm approved by the  
14 secretary, and that projects state and local tax revenue to be generated by  
15 the applicant's funding under the business plan;

16 (5) an affidavit from each investor in the applicant stating a  
17 commitment to make a credit-eligible capital contribution in support of the  
18 business plan and the amount of such credit-eligible capital contribution;

19 (6) a nonrefundable application fee not to exceed \$5,000; and

20 (7) such other information as may be required in rules and regulations  
21 promulgated by the secretary.

22 (b) The secretary shall make an application determination within 60  
23 days of receipt in the order in which applications are received. The  
24 secretary shall deem applications received on the same day as received  
25 simultaneously. Except as provided under section 7(d), and amendments  
26 thereto, the secretary shall not approve more than \$166,666,666 in growth  
27 capital and not more than \$100,000,000 in credit-eligible contributions  
28 under this section ~~in any one fiscal year~~. If requests for growth capital  
29 exceed this limitation, the secretary shall proportionally reduce the growth  
30 capital and the credit-eligible capital contributions for each approved  
31 application as necessary to meet the limitation. No application by an  
32 applicant and its affiliates shall be approved for more than  $\frac{1}{3}$  the limitation  
33 provided in this subsection.

34 (c) The secretary shall deny an application submitted under this  
35 section if:

36 (1) The application fee is not paid in full;

37 (2) the applicant does not satisfy all the requirements under  
38 subsection (a)(2);

39 (3) the revenue impact assessment does not demonstrate that the  
40 applicant's business plan will result in a positive economic impact in a  
41 rural area or areas in Kansas over a 10-year period that exceeds the  
42 cumulative amount of tax credits the applicant seeks;

43 (4) (A) commitments for credit-eligible capital contributions do not

1 equal at least 60% of the total growth capital sought under the applicant's  
2 business plan; or

3 (B) commitments of equity investments contributed by affiliates of  
4 the approved investment company, including employees, officers and  
5 directors of such affiliates, do not equal at least 10% of the total growth  
6 capital sought;

7 (5) the secretary has already approved the maximum amount of  
8 growth capital and credit-eligible capital contributions allowed under  
9 subsection (b); or

10 (6) the secretary determines that the applicant does not satisfy any  
11 other requirement of the department as set forth in rules and regulations  
12 promulgated by the secretary.

13 (d) If the secretary denies an application, the applicant may provide  
14 additional information within 15 days of the notice of denial to the  
15 secretary to complete, clarify or cure defects in the application identified  
16 by the secretary. The secretary shall reconsider the application and make a  
17 determination within 30 days of receiving all additional information to be  
18 considered before approving any pending applications submitted after the  
19 denied applicant's original submission date. The secretary shall not deny  
20 an application or reduce the requested growth capital for reasons other  
21 than those described under subsection (b) or (c).

22 (e) If the application is approved, the secretary shall provide written  
23 notice to the applicant stating:

24 (1) The applicant is an approved investment company; and

25 (2) the approved amount of the growth capital.

26 (f) (1) After receiving notice of approval from the department  
27 pursuant to subsection (e), an approved investment company shall within  
28 60 days:

29 (A) Collect the credit-eligible capital contributions from each investor  
30 whose affidavit was listed in the application; and

31 (B) collect one or more investments of cash that, if added to credit-  
32 eligible capital contributions, equal the approved investment company's  
33 growth capital and deliver to the department documentation sufficient to  
34 prove that such amounts have been collected.

35 (2) If the approved investment company fails to fully comply with the  
36 provisions of paragraph (1), the approved investment company's approval  
37 shall lapse and the lapsed corresponding growth capital and credit-eligible  
38 capital contributions previously approved by the secretary shall not count  
39 toward the total growth capital and credit-eligible capital contribution  
40 limits of subsection (b). The secretary shall first award lapsed growth  
41 capital pro rata to each approved investment company that was awarded  
42 less than its requested growth capital in the order in which the application  
43 was received. Each approved recipient investment company may allocate

1 such awarded growth capital to its investors in its discretion. Any  
2 remaining growth capital and available tax credits may be awarded by the  
3 secretary to successful new applicants.

4 (g) Application fees submitted to the department shall be deposited in  
5 the state treasury and credited to the ad astra rural jobs fund. No other fee  
6 shall be charged for the administration of tax credits by the department or  
7 the department of revenue. If necessary, the department may request and,  
8 subject to appropriation acts, shall receive appropriations necessary to  
9 implement and administer the program.

10 (h) The department shall provide a copy of the notice required in  
11 subsection (e) to the department of revenue.

12 Sec. 5. An approved investment company, before making a funding,  
13 shall request a written opinion from the department stating whether the  
14 business in which it proposes to invest is a rural business concern. The  
15 department shall respond to a request with its determination within 30  
16 business days of receiving such request. If the department fails to respond  
17 within 30 business days of receiving the request, the business for which  
18 determination is sought shall be considered a rural business concern. The  
19 department's determination shall govern whether the business is  
20 considered a rural business concern for purposes of sections 1 through 11,  
21 and amendments thereto, except for a failure of a rural business concern to  
22 complete and maintain any agreed relocations of its principal business  
23 operations or for fraud.

24 Sec. 6. (a) There shall be allowed as a credit against the tax liability  
25 of a taxpayer subject to the tax imposed under the Kansas income tax act,  
26 the annual tax on net income pursuant to article 11 of chapter 79 of the  
27 Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, or the premium tax  
28 and privilege fees imposed pursuant to K.S.A. 40-252, and amendments  
29 thereto, for taxpayers that make a credit-eligible capital contribution to an  
30 approved investment company and that receive a tax credit certificate  
31 issued under this section. The credit shall not be sold, transferred or  
32 allocated to any other entity, except an affiliate.

33 (b) The taxpayer shall earn a vested credit equal to the amount of the  
34 taxpayer's credit-eligible capital contribution to the approved investment  
35 company upon providing documentation to the department of the  
36 contribution. Upon review and approval of the documentation, the  
37 department shall issue a tax credit certificate in the amount of the tax  
38 credit approval by the department to the taxpayer. The taxpayer may claim  
39 an amount up to 20% of the tax credit certificate authorized under this  
40 section for each of the five tax years beginning on or after July 1, 2019,  
41 exclusive of amounts carried forward under subsection (c).

42 (c) If the amount of the tax credit exceeds the taxpayer's tax liability  
43 for the taxable year, the amount thereof which exceeds the tax liability

1 may be carried forward for deduction from the taxpayer's tax liability in  
2 the succeeding taxable year or years until the total amount of the tax credit  
3 has been deducted from tax liability, except that no such tax credit shall be  
4 carried forward for deduction after the fifth taxable year succeeding the  
5 taxable year in which such credit initially was claimed.

6 (d) The maximum amount of credits claimed in any one fiscal year by  
7 all taxpayers pursuant to this section shall not exceed \$20,000,000,  
8 exclusive of amounts carried forward under subsection (c).

9 Sec. 7. (a) The secretary shall revoke a tax credit certificate issued  
10 under section 6, and amendments thereto, upon a determination by the  
11 secretary of commerce that any of the following occur with respect to an  
12 approved investment company before it exits the program in accordance  
13 with subsection (f):

14 (1) The approved investment company does not invest 100% of its  
15 growth capital in funding within two years of the closing date;

16 (2) the approved investment company, after investing 100% of its  
17 growth capital in funding, fails to maintain that investment for the five  
18 years after the closing date. An investment that is sold or repaid, in whole  
19 or in part, shall be deemed maintained if the approved investment  
20 company reinvests an amount equal to the returned or recovered portion,  
21 excluding any profits realized, in other funding within 12 months of the  
22 receipt of the returned or recovered portion;

23 (3) the approved investment company, before exiting the program,  
24 makes a distribution or payment that results in the approved investment  
25 fund having less than 100% of its growth capital invested in fundings or  
26 available for investment in fundings and held as cash or other marketable  
27 securities;

28 (4) the approved investment company invests more than 20% of its  
29 growth capital in the same rural business concern, including amounts  
30 invested in affiliates of such rural business concern;

31 (5) the approved investment company invests funding in a rural  
32 business concern that, directly or indirectly through an affiliate, owns, has  
33 the right to acquire an ownership interest in, makes a loan to, or makes an  
34 investment in the approved investment company, an affiliate of the  
35 approved investment company, or an investor in the approved investment  
36 company. This paragraph shall not apply to investments in publicly traded  
37 securities by a rural business concern or an owner or affiliate of such rural  
38 business concern. For purposes of this paragraph, an approved investment  
39 company shall not be considered an affiliate of a rural business concern  
40 solely as a result of its funding; or

41 (6) the approved investment company invests funding in a rural  
42 business concern that fails to meet or maintain an agreed relocation of its  
43 principal business operations.

1 (b) Before revoking one or more tax credit certificates pursuant to  
2 subsection (a), the secretary shall notify the approved investment company  
3 of the reasons for the pending revocation. The approved investment  
4 company shall have 90 days from the date of such notice to correct the  
5 violations to the satisfaction of the secretary and avoid revocation of the  
6 tax credit certificate. The approved investment company shall be charged  
7 \$5,000 per day for each day taken after 90 days to correct the violations,  
8 and such amounts shall be deposited in the state treasury to the credit of  
9 the ad astra rural jobs fund.

10 (c) If the secretary revokes a tax credit certificate, the department of  
11 revenue shall make an assessment for the amount of the credit claimed by  
12 the certificate holder before the certificate was revoked.

13 (d) If tax credit certificates are revoked under this section, the  
14 associated growth capital and credit-eligible capital contributions do not  
15 count toward the limit on total growth capital and credit-eligible capital  
16 contributions described under section 4(b), and amendments thereto. The  
17 secretary shall first award reverted growth capital pro rata to each  
18 approved investment company that was awarded less than its requested  
19 growth capital. Any remaining growth capital may be awarded by the  
20 department to new approved investment companies.

21 Sec. 8. (a) After five calendar years from the closing date, an  
22 approved investment company shall be allowed to leave the program if  
23 none of the approved investment company's tax credit certificates were  
24 revoked or are pending revocation. The secretary shall release an approved  
25 investment company from the program and the regulations of sections 1  
26 through 11, and amendments thereto, within 60 days of receiving a request  
27 to exit.

28 (b) If the ~~actual revenue impact from its funding~~ **number of jobs**  
29 **created or retained by the rural business concerns that received**  
30 **fundings from an approved investment fund** through the date of the  
31 proposed distribution is:

32 (1) Less than 60% of the amount projected in the approved  
33 investment fund's business plan filed as part of its application for  
34 certification, then the state shall receive 30% of any distribution or  
35 payment to an equity holder in an approved investment fund in excess of  
36 the sum of the amount of equity capital invested in the approved  
37 investment fund by such equity holder and an amount equal to any  
38 projected increase in the equity holder's federal or state tax liability,  
39 including penalties and interest, related to the equity holder's ownership,  
40 management or operation of the approved investment fund;

41 (2) greater than 60% but less than 100% of the amount projected in  
42 the approved investment fund's business plan filed as part of its application  
43 for certification, then the state shall receive 15% of any distribution or



1 payment to an equity holder in an approved investment fund in excess of  
2 the sum of the amount of equity capital invested in the approved  
3 investment fund by such equity holder and an amount equal to any  
4 projected increase in the equity holder's federal or state tax liability,  
5 including penalties and interest, related to the equity holder's ownership,  
6 management or operation of the approved investment fund; or

7 (3) equal to or greater than the amount projected in the approved  
8 investment fund's business plan filed as part of its application for  
9 certification, then the state shall receive 0% of any distribution or payment  
10 to an equity holder in an approved investment fund in excess of the sum of  
11 the amount of equity capital invested in the approved investment fund by  
12 such equity holder and an amount equal to any projected increase in the  
13 equity holder's federal or state tax liability, including penalties and interest,  
14 related to the equity holder's ownership, management or operation of the  
15 approved investment fund.

16 (c) The secretary shall not revoke a tax credit certificate due to any  
17 actions of an approved investment company that occur after the date the  
18 department acknowledges an approved investment company's exit from  
19 the program.

20 (d) Moneys received by the secretary pursuant to this section shall be  
21 deposited in the state treasury to the credit of the ad astra rural jobs fund.

22 Sec. 9. (a) Each approved investment company shall submit a report  
23 to the department on or before the fifth business day after the second  
24 anniversary of the closing date containing:

25 (1) The approved investment company's bank statements evidencing  
26 each funding;

27 (2) the name and location of each business receiving funding,  
28 including evidence that the business qualified as a rural business concern  
29 at the time the investment was made;

30 (3) the number of employment positions created or retained as a  
31 result of the approved investment company's fundings as of December 31<sup>st</sup>  
32 of the preceding year; and

33 (4) other information necessary for the department to administer the  
34 program.

35 (b) On or before April 30<sup>th</sup> of each year following the year in which  
36 the report required under subsection (a) is due, the approved investment  
37 company shall submit an annual report to the department containing:

38 (1) The number of employment positions created or retained as a  
39 result of the approved investment company's fundings as of December 31<sup>st</sup>  
40 of the preceding calendar year;

41 (2) the average annual salary of such positions; and

42 (3) any other information required by the department.

43 Sec. 10. The secretary of revenue and the secretary of commerce may

1 promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of the ad  
2 astra rural jobs act.

3 Sec. 11. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), the provisions of the  
4 ad astra rural jobs act shall sunset on December 31 of the sixth year  
5 following the effective date of this act.

6 (b) Nothing in this section shall be construed so as to preclude a  
7 taxpayer that makes a qualified equity investment prior to the sunset of the  
8 ad astra rural jobs act from claiming tax credits relating to such qualified  
9 equity investment for each credit allowance date.

10 Sec. 12. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
11 publication in the statute book.