

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 796

2022 Regular Session

Willard

FUNDS/FUNDING: Establishes the Small Business Innovation Fund

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Changes the effective date from effective upon appropriations to effective upon the signature of the governor.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law provides for the La. Economic Development Corporation (corporation) within the Dept. of Economic Development (department) and provides for the powers and authority of the corporation. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the corporation to serve as the review board for certain financial assistance programs for La. small businesses. Further requires the corporation to provide support for certain activities by La. businesses to generate commercial products or services by providing matching funds to businesses that received federal Small Business Innovative Research Phase I grant funds.

Proposed law changes present law to require the corporation to provide the support to businesses that applied for or received federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) or Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grant funds for applications submitted or received after Jan. 1, 2023.

Proposed law creates the "Small Business Innovation Fund" (fund) as a special fund in the state treasury. Requires monies in the fund to be used by the department to provide financial assistance to certain La. businesses applying for SBIR or STTR federal grants. Requires the corporation, working in conjunction with the LSU A&M College, La. Technology Transfer Office, to administer awards to selected applicants. Further requires the La. Technology Transfer Office to establish criteria for grant eligibility, provide for an application process, and select eligible applicants to receive the grants.

Proposed law requires monies within the fund to comply with Article VII, Section 9(B) of the Constitution of La. relative to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund. Requires monies in the fund to be invested in the same manner as monies in the general fund and requires interest earned on invested monies to be credited to the fund. Further requires unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of the fiscal year to remain in the fund.

Proposed law requires up to \$150,000 to be annually disbursed from the fund as follows:

- (1) Up to \$60,000 for disbursement to eligible applicants to assist in completion of Phase I federal grant applications for SBIR or STTR, not to exceed \$5,000 per applicant.
- (2) Up to \$60,000 for disbursement to eligible applicants to assist in completion of Phase II federal grant applications for SBIR or STTR, not to exceed \$10,000 per applicant.
- (3) Up to \$30,000 for appropriation to the La. Technology Transfer Office for the purpose of technical assistance, outreach programs, and program-related promotions.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 51:2312(A)(1); Adds R.S. 51:2401)