

Act No. 81
Public Acts of 2004
Approved by the Governor
April 21, 2004
Filed with the Secretary of State
April 22, 2004
EFFECTIVE DATE: April 22, 2004

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
92ND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2004**

Introduced by Senators Allen, Schauer and Jacobs

ENROLLED SENATE BILL No. 824

AN ACT to amend 1995 PA 24, entitled "An act to promote economic growth and job creation within this state; to create and regulate the Michigan economic growth authority; to prescribe the powers and duties of the authority and of state and local officials; to assess and collect a fee; to approve certain plans and the use of certain funds; and to provide qualifications for and determine eligibility for tax credits and other incentives for authorized businesses and for qualified taxpayers," by amending sections 3 and 8 (MCL 207.803 and 207.808), as amended by 2003 PA 248.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 3. As used in this act:

(a) "Affiliated business" means a business that is 100% owned and controlled by an associated business.

(b) "Associated business" means a business which owns at least 50% of and controls, directly or indirectly, an authorized business.

(c) "Authorized business" means 1 of the following:

(i) A single eligible business with a unique federal employer identification number which has met the requirements of section 8 and with which the authority has entered into a written agreement for a tax credit under section 9.

(ii) A single eligible business with a unique federal employer identification number which has met the requirements of section 8, except as provided in this subparagraph, and with which the authority has entered into a written agreement for a tax credit under section 9. An eligible business is not required to create qualified new jobs or maintain retained jobs if qualified new jobs are created or retained jobs are maintained by an associated or affiliated business.

(iii) A single eligible business with a unique federal employer identification number which has met the requirements of section 8, except as provided in this subparagraph, and with which the authority has entered into a written agreement for a tax credit under section 9. An eligible business is not required to create qualified new jobs or maintain retained jobs if qualified new jobs are created or retained jobs are maintained by a subsidiary business which withholds income and social security taxes, or an employee leasing company or professional employer organization that has entered into a contractual service agreement with the authorized business in which the employee leasing company or professional employer organization withholds income and social security taxes on behalf of the authorized business.

(d) "Authority" means the Michigan economic growth authority created under section 4.

(e) "Business" means proprietorship, joint venture, partnership, limited liability partnership, trust, business trust, syndicate, association, joint stock company, corporation, cooperative, limited liability company, or any other organization.

(f) “Distressed business” means a business that meets all of the following as verified by the Michigan economic growth authority:

(i) Four years immediately preceding the application to the authority under this act, the business had 150 or more full-time jobs in this state.

(ii) Within the immediately preceding 4 years, there has been a reduction of not less than 30% of the number of full-time jobs in this state during any consecutive 3-year period. The highest number of full-time jobs within the consecutive 3-year period shall be used in order to determine the percentage reduction of full-time jobs in this subparagraph.

(iii) Is not a seasonal employer as defined in section 27 of the Michigan employment security act, 1936 (Ex Sess) PA 1, MCL 421.27.

(g) “Eligible business” means a distressed business or business that proposes to maintain retained jobs after December 31, 1999 or to create qualified new jobs in this state after April 18, 1995 in manufacturing, mining, research and development, wholesale and trade, or office operations or a business that is a qualified high-technology business. An eligible business does not include retail establishments, professional sports stadiums, or that portion of an eligible business used exclusively for retail sales. Professional sports stadium does not include a sports stadium in existence on June 6, 2000 that is not used by a professional sports team on the date that an application related to that professional sports stadium is filed under section 8.

(h) “Facility” means a site or sites within this state in which an authorized business or subsidiary businesses maintains retained jobs or creates qualified new jobs. A facility does not include a site that was a vaccine laboratory owned by this state on April 1, 1995.

(i) “Full-time job” means a job performed by an individual who is employed by an authorized business or an employee leasing company or professional employer organization on behalf of the authorized business for consideration for 35 hours or more each week and for which the authorized business or an employee leasing company or professional employer organization on behalf of the authorized business withholds income and social security taxes.

(j) “Local governmental unit” means a county, city, village, or township in this state.

(k) “High-technology activity” means 1 or more of the following:

(i) Advanced computing, which is any technology used in the design and development of any of the following:

(A) Computer hardware and software.

(B) Data communications.

(C) Information technologies.

(ii) Advanced materials, which are materials with engineered properties created through the development of specialized process and synthesis technology.

(iii) Biotechnology, which is any technology that uses living organisms, cells, macromolecules, microorganisms, or substances from living organisms to make or modify a product, improve plants or animals, or develop microorganisms for useful purposes. Biotechnology does not include human cloning as defined in section 16274 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.16274, or stem cell research with embryonic tissue.

(iv) Electronic device technology, which is any technology that involves microelectronics, semiconductors, electronic equipment, and instrumentation, radio frequency, microwave, and millimeter electronics, and optical and optic-electrical devices, or data and digital communications and imaging devices.

(v) Engineering or laboratory testing related to the development of a product.

(vi) Technology that assists in the assessment or prevention of threats or damage to human health or the environment, including, but not limited to, environmental cleanup technology, pollution prevention technology, or development of alternative energy sources.

(vii) Medical device technology, which is any technology that involves medical equipment or products other than a pharmaceutical product that has therapeutic or diagnostic value and is regulated.

(viii) Product research and development.

(ix) Advanced vehicles technology that is any technology that involves electric vehicles, hybrid vehicles, or alternative fuel vehicles, or components used in the construction of electric vehicles, hybrid vehicles, or alternative fuel vehicles. For purposes of this act:

(A) “Electric vehicle” means a road vehicle that draws propulsion energy only from an on-board source of electrical energy.

(B) “Hybrid vehicle” means a road vehicle that can draw propulsion energy from both a consumable fuel and a rechargeable energy storage system.

(x) Tool and die manufacturing.

(l) “New capital investment” means 1 or more of the following:

(i) New construction. As used in this subparagraph:

(A) “New construction” means property not in existence on the date the authorized business enters into a written agreement with the authority and not replacement construction. New construction includes the physical addition of equipment or furnishings, subject to section 27(2)(a) to (o) of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.27.

(B) “Replacement construction” means that term as defined in section 34d(1)(b)(v) of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.34d.

(ii) The purchase of new personal property. As used in this subparagraph, “new personal property” means personal property that is not subject to or that is exempt from the collection of taxes under the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.1 to 211.157, on the date the authorized business enters into a written agreement with the authority.

(m) “Qualified high-technology business” means a business that is either of the following:

(i) A business with not less than 25% of the total operating expenses of the business used for research and development in the tax year in which the business files an application under this act as determined under generally accepted accounting principles and verified by the authority.

(ii) A business whose primary business activity is high-technology activity.

(n) “Qualified new job” means 1 of the following:

(i) A full-time job created by an authorized business at a facility that is in excess of the number of full-time jobs the authorized business maintained in this state prior to the expansion or location, as determined by the authority.

(ii) For jobs created after July 1, 2000, a full-time job at a facility created by an eligible business that is in excess of the number of full-time jobs maintained by that eligible business in this state 120 days before the eligible business became an authorized business, as determined by the authority.

(iii) For a distressed business, a full-time job at a facility that is in excess of the number of full-time jobs maintained by that eligible business in this state on the date the eligible business became an authorized business.

(o) “Retained jobs” means the number of full-time jobs at a facility of an authorized business maintained in this state on a specific date as that date and number of jobs is determined by the authority.

(p) “Rural business” means an eligible business located in a county with a population of 75,000 or less.

(q) “Subsidiary business” means a business that is directly or indirectly controlled or at least 80% owned by an authorized business.

(r) “Written agreement” means a written agreement made pursuant to section 8.

Sec. 8. (1) After receipt of an application, the authority may enter into an agreement with an eligible business for a tax credit under section 9 if the authority determines that all of the following are met:

(a) Except as provided in subsection (5), the eligible business creates 1 or more of the following within 12 months of the expansion or location as determined by the authority:

(i) A minimum of 75 qualified new jobs at the facility if expanding in this state.

(ii) A minimum of 150 qualified new jobs at the facility if locating in this state.

(iii) A minimum of 25 qualified new jobs at the facility if the facility is located in a neighborhood enterprise zone as determined under the neighborhood enterprise zone act, 1992 PA 147, MCL 207.771 to 207.786, is located in a renaissance zone under the Michigan renaissance zone act, 1996 PA 376, MCL 125.2681 to 125.2696, or is located in a federally designated empowerment zone, rural enterprise community, or enterprise community.

(iv) A minimum of 5 qualified new jobs at the facility if the eligible business is a qualified high-technology business.

(v) A minimum of 5 qualified new jobs at the facility if the eligible business is a rural business.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (5), the eligible business agrees to maintain 1 or more of the following for each year that a credit is authorized under this act:

(i) A minimum of 75 qualified new jobs at the facility if expanding in this state.

(ii) A minimum of 150 qualified new jobs at the facility if locating in this state.

(iii) A minimum of 25 qualified new jobs at the facility if the facility is located in a neighborhood enterprise zone as determined under the neighborhood enterprise zone act, 1992 PA 147, MCL 207.771 to 207.786, is located in a renaissance zone under the Michigan renaissance zone act, 1996 PA 376, MCL 125.2681 to 125.2696, or is located in a federally designated empowerment zone, rural enterprise community, or enterprise community.

(iv) If the eligible business is a qualified high-technology business, all of the following apply:

(A) A minimum of 5 qualified new jobs at the facility.

(B) A minimum of 25 qualified new jobs at the facility within 5 years after the date of the expansion or location as determined by the authority and a minimum of 25 qualified new jobs at the facility each year thereafter for which a credit is authorized under this act.

(v) If the eligible business is a rural business, all of the following apply:

(A) A minimum of 5 qualified new jobs at the facility.

(B) A minimum of 25 qualified new jobs at the facility within 5 years after the date of the expansion or location as determined by the authority.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (5), in addition to the jobs specified in subdivision (b), the eligible business, if already located within this state, agrees to maintain a number of full-time jobs equal to or greater than the number of full-time jobs it maintained in this state prior to the expansion, as determined by the authority.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, the average wage paid for all retained jobs and qualified new jobs is equal to or greater than 150% of the federal minimum wage. However, if the eligible business is a qualified high-technology business, then the average wage paid for all qualified new jobs is equal to or greater than 400% of the federal minimum wage.

(e) Except for a qualified high-technology business, the expansion, retention, or location of the eligible business will not occur in this state without the tax credits offered under this act.

(f) Except for an eligible business described in subsection (5)(b)(ii), the local governmental unit in which the eligible business will expand, be located, or maintain retained jobs, or a local economic development corporation or similar entity, will make a staff, financial, or economic commitment to the eligible business for the expansion, retention, or location.

(g) The financial statements of the eligible business indicated that it is financially sound or has submitted a chapter 11 plan of reorganization to the bankruptcy court and that its plans for the expansion, retention, or location are economically sound.

(h) Except for an eligible business described in subsection (5)(c), the eligible business has not begun construction of the facility.

(i) The expansion, retention, or location of the eligible business will benefit the people of this state by increasing opportunities for employment and by strengthening the economy of this state.

(j) The tax credits offered under this act are an incentive to expand, retain, or locate the eligible business in Michigan and address the competitive disadvantages with sites outside this state.

(k) A cost/benefit analysis reveals that authorizing the eligible business to receive tax credits under this act will result in an overall positive fiscal impact to the state.

(l) If feasible, as determined by the authority, in locating the facility, the authorized business reuses or redevelops property that was previously used for an industrial or commercial purpose.

(m) If the eligible business is a qualified high-technology business described in section 3(m)(i), the eligible business agrees that not less than 25% of the total operating expenses of the business will be maintained for research and development for the first 3 years of the written agreement.

(2) If the authority determines that the requirements of subsection (1) or (5) have been met, the authority shall determine the amount and duration of tax credits to be authorized under section 9, and shall enter into a written agreement as provided in this section. The duration of the tax credits shall not exceed 20 years or for an authorized business that is a distressed business, 3 years. In determining the amount and duration of tax credits authorized, the authority shall consider the following factors:

(a) The number of qualified new jobs to be created or retained jobs to be maintained.

(b) The average wage level of the qualified new jobs or retained jobs relative to the average wage paid by private entities in the county in which the facility is located.

(c) The total capital investment or new capital investment the eligible business will make.

(d) The cost differential to the business between expanding, locating, or retaining new jobs in Michigan and a site outside of Michigan.

(e) The potential impact of the expansion, retention, or location on the economy of Michigan.

(f) The cost of the credit under section 9, the staff, financial, or economic assistance provided by the local government unit, or local economic development corporation or similar entity, and the value of assistance otherwise provided by this state.

(3) A written agreement between an eligible business and the authority shall include, but need not be limited to, all of the following:

(a) A description of the business expansion, retention, or location that is the subject of the agreement.

(b) Conditions upon which the authorized business designation is made.

(c) A statement by the eligible business that a violation of the written agreement may result in the revocation of the designation as an authorized business and the loss or reduction of future credits under section 9.

(d) A statement by the eligible business that a misrepresentation in the application may result in the revocation of the designation as an authorized business and the refund of credits received under section 9.

(e) A method for measuring full-time jobs before and after an expansion, retention, or location of an authorized business in this state.

(f) A written certification from the eligible business regarding all of the following:

(i) The eligible business will follow a competitive bid process for the construction, rehabilitation, development, or renovation of the facility, and that this process will be open to all Michigan residents and firms. The eligible business may not discriminate against any contractor on the basis of its affiliation or nonaffiliation with any collective bargaining organization.

(ii) The eligible business will make a good faith effort to employ, if qualified, Michigan residents at the facility.

(iii) The eligible business will make a good faith effort to employ or contract with Michigan residents and firms to construct, rehabilitate, develop, or renovate the facility.

(iv) The eligible business is encouraged to make a good faith effort to utilize Michigan-based suppliers and vendors when purchasing goods and services.

(g) A condition that if the eligible business qualified under section 8(5)(b)(ii) and met the section 8(1)(g) requirement by filing a chapter 11 plan of reorganization, the plan must be approved by the bankruptcy court within 2 years of the date of the agreement or the agreement is rescinded.

(4) Upon execution of a written agreement as provided in this section, an eligible business is an authorized business.

(5) After receipt of an application, the authority may enter into a written agreement, which shall include a repayment provision of all or a portion of the credits under section 9 for a violation of the written agreement, with an eligible business that meets 1 or more of the following criteria:

(a) Is located in this state on the date of the application, makes new capital investment of \$250,000,000.00 in this state, and maintains 500 retained jobs, as determined by the authority.

(b) Meets either of the following criteria:

(i) Relocates production of a product to this state after the date of the application, makes capital investment of \$500,000,000.00 in this state, and maintains 500 retained jobs, as determined by the authority.

(ii) Maintains 150 retained jobs at a facility, maintains 1,000 or more full-time jobs in this state, and makes new capital investment in this state.

(iii) Is located in this state on the date of the application, maintains at least 100 retained jobs at a single facility, and agrees to make new capital investment at that facility equal to the greater of \$150,000.00 per retained job maintained at that facility or \$15,000,000.00 to be completed not later than December 31, 2006.

(c) Is a distressed business.

(6) The authority shall not execute more than 25 new written agreements each year for eligible businesses that are not qualified high-technology businesses, distressed businesses, or rural businesses. If the authority executes less than 25 new written agreements in a year, the authority may carry forward for 1 year only the difference between 25 and the number of new agreements executed in the immediately preceding year.

(7) The authority shall not execute more than 50 new written agreements each year for eligible businesses that are qualified high-technology businesses or rural business. Only 5 of the 50 written agreements for businesses that are qualified high-technology businesses or rural business may be executed each year for qualified rural businesses.

(8) The authority shall not execute more than 20 new written agreements each year for eligible businesses that are distressed businesses. The authority shall not execute more than 5 of the written agreements described in this subsection each year for distressed businesses that had 1,000 or more full-time jobs at a facility 4 years immediately preceding the application to the authority under this act.

Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect unless House Bill No. 5445 of the 92nd Legislature is enacted into law.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

Carol Morey Viventi

Secretary of the Senate

Jay E. Randall

Clerk of the House of Representatives

Approved

.....
Governor