



S.B. 10

124th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

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BILL SUMMARY

- Establishes the Capital Access Loan Program in the Department of Development to assist participating financial institutions in making capital access loans to eligible businesses that face barriers in accessing working capital and fixed assets.
- Creates the Capital Access Loan Program Fund in the state treasury.
- Secures, in accordance with a specified procedure, a financial institution's risk associated with a capital access loan to an eligible business by a deposit of money from the Capital Access Loan Program Fund in the institution's program reserve account.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Capital Access Loan Program: in general

The bill establishes the Capital Access Loan (CAL) Program in the Department of Development (DOD). The CAL Program is to assist participating *financial institutions* in making Program loans to *eligible businesses* that face barriers in accessing working capital and fixed assets. The aim of the CAL Program appears to be the creation of new jobs or the preservation of existing jobs and employment opportunities and the improvement of the economic welfare of the people of the state. Under the CAL Program, a participating financial institution's risk in making a *capital access loan* to an eligible business is secured, in accordance with a specified procedure, by a deposit of money from the DOD's Capital Access Loan Program Fund into the financial institution's *program reserve account*. (Secs. 122.60(A), (C), (D), (F), and (I) and 122.602(A).)

Capital Access Loan Program Fund

The bill establishes the Capital Access Loan Program (CALP) Fund in the state treasury. This fund is to consist of money deposited into it from two sources: (1) from the Facilities Establishment Fund (see **COMMENT 1**) and (2) from grants, gifts, and contributions of money, property, labor, and other things of value received by the Director of Development from individuals, private and public corporations, the United States or any agency of the United States, the state or any agency of the state, or any political subdivision of the state. (Secs. 122.601 and 122.602(A)(1).)

The DOD must disburse money from the CALP Fund only to pay the CAL Program's operating costs, including DOD's associated administrative costs, and only in keeping with the CAL Program's statutorily specified purposes. A primary purpose is securing, in accordance with a specified procedure, by a deposit of money from the CALP Fund a financial institution's risk in the making of a capital access loan to an eligible business. (Sec 122.601.)

Director of Development functions: in general

The Director of Development must administer the CAL Program and has certain related powers. The Director may receive and accept the aforementioned grants, gifts, and contributions of money, property, labor, and other things of value and must cause them to be held, used, and applied only for the purpose they were made. The Director also may adopt rules under the Administrative Procedure Act, engage in all other acts, and enter into necessary contracts and execute all necessary instruments, to carry out the purposes of the CAL Program. (Sec. 122.602(A)(1), (2), and (3).)

Qualification as an "eligible business"

Under the bill, a business may participate in the CAL Program by obtaining a capital access loan if certain requirements are met. To be an "*eligible business*," a business must satisfy the following (sec. 122.60(C)):

- (1) It is a for-profit business entity, or a nonprofit entity.
- (2) It had a total annual sales in its most recently completed fiscal year of less than \$10 million.
- (3) It has a principal place of for-profit business or nonprofit entity activity within Ohio.
- (4) The operation of the business or activity in the state, alone or in conjunction with other facilities, will create new jobs or preserve existing jobs and

employment opportunities and will improve the economic welfare of the people of Ohio. *New jobs* do not include existing jobs transferred from another facility within Ohio, and *existing jobs* means only existing jobs at facilities within the same municipal corporation or township in which the project, activity, or enterprise that is the subject of the capital access loan is located.

Qualification as a "participating financial institution"

The bill provides for the participation of financial institutions in the CAL Program. "Financial institutions" include any bank, trust company, savings bank, or savings and loan association that is chartered by and has a significant presence in Ohio, or any national bank, federal savings and loan association, or federal savings bank that has a significant presence in Ohio. (Sec. 122.60(D).)

As with a business, a financial institution must qualify to participate in the CAL Program. First, pursuant to power granted in the bill, the DOD Director must determine the eligibility of a financial institution to so participate. This power includes the ability to set a limit on the number of financial institutions that may participate in the CAL Program. (Sec. 122.602(B).)

Additionally, a financial institution must enter an agreement with the DOD to participate in the CAL Program. This is referred to in the bill as a "*participation agreement*." This agreement sets out the terms and conditions under which the DOD will deposit money from the CALP Fund into the financial institution's *program reserve account* (discussed below), specifies the criteria for loan qualification under the CAL Program, and contains any additional terms the DOD Director considers necessary. (Secs. 122.601(F) and (G) and 122.602(C).)

Creation of a "program reserve account"

After the DOD Director determines that a financial institution is eligible to participate in the CAL Program and a participation agreement is entered into, the institution is a "participating financial institution" and must establish a program reserve account. A program reserve account is a dedicated account at the financial institution that is the property of the state. The account may be used by the financial institution only for the purpose of covering any losses arising from a default on a capital access loan (discussed below). (Secs. 122.60(J) and 122.603(A)(1).)

Under the bill, the program reserve account must be interest-bearing and must contain only funds deposited into it under the CAL Program. All interest on the money in the program reserve account must be held in the account as an additional loss reserve. Additionally, no more than twice in a fiscal year, the DOD Director may require that a portion or all of the accrued interest in the account be

released to the DOD. When released, these funds are to be used to pay for the DOD's administrative costs under the CAL Program. (Sec. 122.603(A)(2).)

Loan from a participating financial institution to an eligible business

Loan fee

Once a financial institution is determined to be eligible to participate in the CAL Program and a participation agreement is entered into with the DOD under the bill, the institution may make capital access loans to eligible businesses. When a participating financial institution makes such a loan, the eligible business receiving it must pay a fee to the institution. Under the bill, this fee is to be in the amount of not less than 1 ½% and not more than 3% of the principal amount of the loan. The financial institution must deposit the fee into its program reserve account. Additionally, the financial institution must deposit into the account an amount of money from its own funds equal to the amount of the collected fee. Under the bill, the financial institution may recover from the eligible business all or part of the amount of that money in any manner agreed to by the institution and the business. (Sec. 122.603 (B).)

Loan certification

Each time a participating financial institution makes a capital access loan, the institution must certify to the DOD Director, within a period specified by the director, that the institution made the loan. The certification is to include the amount of the loan, the amount of the fee received from the eligible business, the amount of the financial institution's own funds that were deposited into its program reserve account to reflect that fee, and any other information required by the DOD Director. (Sec. 122.603(C).)

Disbursement from the CALP Fund

After the DOD Director receives the previously mentioned certification from a participating financial institution, the Director must disburse money from the CALP Fund to the financial institution for deposit into its program reserve account if the Director makes certain determinations (see below). The amount disbursed must be equal to 10% of the principal amount of the particular capital access loan. (Secs. 122.602(D) and 122.603(D).)

The bill places limitations upon the DOD Director's ability to so disburse money from the CALP Fund. This step only may occur if the Director determines that the financial institution's loan to the business meets *all* of the following (sec. 122.602(D) to (I)):

- (1) It will be made to an eligible business.



(2) It will be used by the eligible business for a project, activity, or enterprise in the state that fosters economic development.

(3) It will not be made in order to enroll in the CAL Program *prior debt* that is not covered under the Program and that is owed or was previously owed by an eligible business to the financial institution.

(4) It will not be utilized for a project or development related to the on-site construction or purchase of residential housing.

(5) It will not be used to finance passive real estate ownership. The bill generally defines "passive real estate ownership" as the ownership of real estate for the sole purpose of deriving income from it by speculation, trade, or rental (sec. 122.60(H)).

(6) The loan does not exceed \$250,000 for working capital or \$500,000 for fixed assets. The same capital access loan may include *both* maximum amounts.

(7) The loan is not made to any business that is owned or operated by a person that has previously defaulted under any state financial assistance program.

(8) The eligible business that applies for the loan complies with the Application for Economic Development Assistance Law (sec. 9.66--not in the bill) (see **COMMENT 2**).

(9) If the financial institution wants to grant a capital access loan that refinances a nonprogram loan made by *another* financial institution, it first must apply to the DOD Director for approval of the capital access loan. The Director cannot approve a loan that refinances a nonprogram loan made by the *same* financial institution, unless the amount of the refinanced loan exceeds the existing debt, in which case only the amount exceeding the existing debt is eligible for a loan under the CAL Program.

(10) The loan conforms to any other rules adopted by the DOD Director under the bill.

Collection of loans and payment from a program reserve account

Under the bill, a participating financial institution determines the timing and amount of delinquency on a capital access loan. It is to do this in a manner consistent with its normal method for making these determinations on similar nonprogram loans. (Sec. 122.604(C).) If a financial institution determines that a portion or all of a capital access loan is *uncollectible*, the bill allows it to submit a specified type of claim to the DOD. If the DOD approves the claim, money in the

amount of the claim is approved for release from the financial institution's program reserve account. (Sec. 122.604(A).)

Financial institutions may claim the following: (1) the amount of the principal plus accrued interest owed and (2) one-half of the reasonable documented out-of-pocket expenses incurred in their collection efforts and in the preservation of the loan's collateral. The amount of the principal in the claim may not exceed the principal amount covered by the CAL Program. The amount of accrued interest included in the claim may not exceed the accrued interest attributable to the covered principal amount. (Sec. 122.604(B).)

Additionally, a participating financial institution may file more than one claim at a time. If two or more claims are filed at the same time or approximately the same time and there are insufficient funds in its program reserve account at that time to cover the entire amount of the claims, the financial institution may specify an order of priority in which the DOD must approve the release of the funds from the account in relation to the claims. (Sec. 122.604(D).)

If subsequent to the payment of a claim, a participating financial institution recovers from an eligible business to which the loan was made any amount covered by the previously paid claim, the institution must promptly deposit the amount recovered into its program reserve account, less any reasonable expenses incurred (sec. 122.604 (E)).

Annual report

Under the bill, each participating financial institution must submit an annual report to the DOD. The report must include or be accompanied by all of the following (sec. 122.605):

(1) Information regarding the institution's outstanding capital access loans, its capital access loan losses, and other related matters that the DOD considers appropriate;

(2) A statement of the total amount of the institution's capital access loans for which the DOD has made disbursements from the CALP Fund under the CAL Program;

(3) A copy of the institution's most recent financial statement;

(4) Information regarding the number, type, and size of the eligible businesses with the institution's capital access loans;

(5) A statement of the total number of new jobs that have been created, or the existing jobs and employment opportunities that have been preserved, as a result of the institution's involvement in the CAL Program.

Withdrawal of funds from financial institutions

The DOD *is allowed* to remove money from a participating financial institution's program reserve account under certain circumstances. If the amount in the account exceeds an amount equal to 33% of the financial institution's outstanding capital access loans, the DOD may withdraw the excess amount and deposit it into the CALP Fund. (Sec. 122.603(E).)

Additionally, in certain situations, the DOD *must cause* the withdrawal of the total amount of money contained in a participating financial institution's program reserve account and its deposit into the CALP Fund. This step can be taken if any of the following occurs (sec 122.603(F)):

(1) The financial institution is no longer eligible to participate in the CAL Program.

(2) The participation agreement expires without renewal by the DOD or the financial institution.

(3) The financial institution has no outstanding capital access loans.

(4) The financial institution has not made a capital access loan within the preceding 24 months.

Miscellaneous changes

The bill amends the Facilities Establishment Fund Law to include the CAL Program within its provisions. This allows moneys appropriated or transferred to the Facilities Establishment Fund to be released at the request of the DOD Director for the purpose of the CAL Program. (Sec. 166.03(B).)

COMMENT

1. The Facilities Establishment Fund is contained in the state treasury. It consists of proceeds from the issuance of certain bonds, notes, and other obligations; moneys received by the state from the repayment of certain loans and recovery on certain loan guarantees; service charges for certain loan guarantees and loans in connection with the allowable costs of economic development projects; any grants, gifts, or contributions of money received by the DOD

Director to be used for the latter loans; and all other moneys appropriated or transferred to the fund.

2. Under the Application for Economic Development Assistance Law, a person who applies to the state, a state agency, or a political subdivision for economic development assistance must indicate on the application for assistance whether the person has any outstanding liabilities owed to the state, a state agency, or a political subdivision. Such a person also must authorize the state, state agency, or political subdivision to inspect the personal financial statements of the applicant, including tax records and other similar information not open to public inspection.

HISTORY

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