



S.B. 193

124th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sen. White

BILL SUMMARY

- Expands the investment authority of the Treasurer of State under the Uniform Depository Act.
- Increases the amount that may be invested in agricultural linked deposits.
- Repeals the Depressed Economic Area Linked Deposit Program.
- Establishes the Housing Linked Deposit Program under which the Treasurer of State may (1) partner with a municipal corporation or county that has established a housing linked deposit program or (2) in the absence of such a linked deposit program, establish requirements for participation in a housing linked deposit program.
- Modifies the authority of the State Board of Deposit to designate public depositories.
- Modifies the vendor reporting requirements of county auditors.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Investment authority of the Treasurer of State

(secs. 135.143(A) and 3770.06(C))

Under the Uniform Depository Act (Chapter 135. of the Revised Code), the Treasurer of State is authorized to invest the interim funds of the state in specified classifications of obligations. The bill modifies that authority, as follows:

(1) The Treasurer of State currently may invest in bonds and other obligations of the state sinking fund. Under the bill, such investment instead may

be made in bonds and other obligations "of the state of Ohio issued by the Treasurer of State."

(2) The Treasurer of State currently may invest in written repurchase agreements with eligible Ohio financial institutions or any recognized United States government securities dealer. Under the terms of those agreements, the Treasurer of State purchases and the financial institution or dealer agrees to repurchase specified securities. The Treasurer of State is also permitted to sell any of those securities under the same terms and conditions for repurchase.

The bill expands the types of securities eligible for these agreements to include the commercial paper described in (3), below.

(3) The Treasurer of State currently may invest in commercial paper issued by any corporation incorporated under the laws of the United States or any state, if the notes are rated in the two highest categories by two nationally recognized rating agencies. The total amount invested in commercial paper at any time cannot exceed 5% of the state's total average portfolio.

The bill specifies that the notes must be rated in the two highest categories "at the time of purchase." In addition, it increases the maximum investment amount to 25% of the state's total average portfolio, and specifies that this maximum only applies to commercial paper invested in "under this section."

(4) The Treasurer of State currently may invest in certificates of deposit in eligible institutions applying for interim moneys under the Uniform Depository Act. The bill specifies that these investments include housing linked deposits (see below).

(5) The Treasurer of State currently may invest in debt interests rated investment grade by a nationally recognized rating agency and issued by corporations that are incorporated under the laws of the United States or a state or by foreign nations diplomatically recognized by the United States. The total amount of such investments cannot exceed 5% of the state's total average portfolio.

The bill specifies that these debt interests (a) do *not* include the commercial paper described in (3), above, and (b) must be rated "at the time of purchase in the three highest categories" by "two" nationally recognized rating agencies. The maximum investment amount is increased to 25% of the state's total average portfolio. In addition, the bill clarifies that the maximum investment amounts provided by current law for the debt interests issued by foreign nations, and for the debt interests of a single issuer, are to be "as determined and calculated by the Treasurer of State."

(6) The Treasurer of State currently may invest in no-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of specified obligations. The bill expands the types of eligible obligations to include the commercial paper described in (3), above.

Linked deposit programs

Investment authority and amount

(secs. 135.63 and 135.631)

Under the Uniform Depository Act, the Treasurer of State is also permitted to invest in specified linked deposits if, at the time of placement of any linked deposit, the combined amount of investments in the linked deposits is not more than 12% of the state's total average investment portfolio. The Treasurer of State must attempt to place up to \$100 million of this amount in agricultural linked deposits.

Under the bill, the linked deposits eligible for investment include the housing linked deposits (see below). In addition, the amount the Treasurer of State is required to attempt to place in agricultural linked deposits is increased to \$125 million.

Depressed economic area linked deposits

(secs. 122.011(B) and 135.81 to 135.88 (repealed))

Under current law (repealed by the bill), the Treasurer of State may invest in depressed economic area linked deposits, subject to specified limitations. "**Depressed economic area linked deposit**" is defined as a certificate of deposit in any amount placed by the Treasurer of State with an eligible lending institution at up to 3% below current market rates, provided the institution agrees either to (1) lend the value of the deposit to eligible businesses at up to 3% below the present borrowing rate applicable to each specific business at the time of the deposit of state funds in the institution or (2) enter into an agreement with an eligible government to provide that government with an above-market investment in the value of the depressed economic area linked deposit. "**Eligible business**" means an eligible steel company or any person that (1) maintains or, because of the depressed economic area linked deposit loan, will maintain offices and operating facilities in an eligible Ohio county and transacts business in that county and (2) is organized for profit. "**Eligible county**" means any Ohio county with a rate of unemployment as determined by the Director of Job and Family Services that is at least 1% higher than the statewide average.

The stated purpose of the Depressed Economic Area Linked Deposit Program is to create an availability of lower cost funds to inject needed capital into the business community, sustain or improve business profitability, preserve existing employment and create new job opportunities, and thereby enhance the economic prosperity of the affected areas.

The bill repeals this program.

Housing linked deposits

Overview; purpose (sec. 135.82). The bill establishes the Housing Linked Deposit Program. In doing so, it states the findings of the General Assembly that

there exists in [Ohio] a lack of affordable financing options to promote solutions to a number of housing issues including, but not limited to, home improvement, home restoration, energy efficiency, retention of historic significance, controlling urban sprawl, neighborhood revitalization, affordable housing, home ownership for persons unable to secure conventional financing, urban development, and economic revitalization of a residential area as a result of a natural disaster or other catastrophic occurrence.

Consequently, the bill declares it to be the public policy of the state through housing linked deposits to create an availability of lower cost funds to inject needed capital into local residential communities.

The bill authorizes housing linked deposits under which the state partners with eligible governmental subdivisions to provide an availability of lower cost funds for lending purposes that materially will contribute to the solutions addressing housing issues across the state. In the absence of an eligible governmental subdivision linked deposit program, the Treasurer of State is permitted to develop an application process and procedures and eligibility requirements for participation in a housing linked deposit program that provides an availability of lower cost funds for similar lending purposes.

Definitions (sec. 135.81). For purposes of the bill, "**housing linked deposit**" means a certificate of deposit or other financial institution instrument placed by the Treasurer of State with an eligible lending institution, provided the institution agrees to lend the value of the deposit to eligible housing linked deposit participants at a fixed interest rate of 300 basis points below the present borrowing rate applicable to each participant in the absence of approval to participate in the program. "**Eligible housing linked deposit participant**" means any person or

small business that (1) meets the requirements set forth in an eligible governmental subdivision housing linked deposit program or set forth by the Treasurer of State and (2) is an Ohio resident.

"Eligible governmental subdivision housing linked deposit program" is defined as any program established under current law by the legislative authority of a municipal corporation or a board of county commissioners, in which the program goals address specific housing issues relative to the geographic boundaries of that municipal corporation or county. These program goals include home improvement, home restoration, energy efficiency, retention of historic significance, controlling urban sprawl, neighborhood revitalization, affordable housing, home ownership for persons unable to secure conventional financing, urban development, or economic revitalization of a residential area as a result of a natural disaster or other catastrophic occurrence. **"Eligible governmental subdivision"** means a municipal corporation or county in Ohio.

"Eligible lending institution" is defined as a financial institution that (1) is eligible to make commercial loans or residential loans, (2) is a public depository of state funds under the Uniform Depository Law, *and* (3) agrees to participate in a program to provide housing linked deposits. **"Other financial institution instrument"** means a fully collateralized product that otherwise would pay market rates of interest approved by the Treasurer of State, for the purpose of providing eligible housing linked deposit participants with the benefits of a housing linked deposit.

Formation of a partnership with the state (sec. 135.83). An eligible governmental subdivision that has established an eligible governmental subdivision housing linked deposit program may apply to the Treasurer of State for consideration of the formation of a partnership with the Treasurer of State for the purpose of providing additional funding for that housing linked deposit program. Application is to be made in the form and manner prescribed by the Treasurer of State, and must include any information the Treasurer of State requires, including all of the following with respect to the eligible governmental subdivision housing linked deposit program:

- (1) A copy of the eligible governmental subdivision's application for participation in the program;
- (2) Eligibility requirements for participation in the program;
- (3) The total eligible governmental subdivision deposit commitment or allocation limits of the subdivision in the program.

The Treasurer of State may accept or reject any application for the formation of a partnership for reasons including the cash flow needs of the state, level of participation by any or all eligible governmental subdivisions, and criteria set forth by the Treasurer of State.

Approval of participants; loans (secs. 135.84 and 135.85). The Treasurer of State may accept or reject a housing linked deposit application based on the Treasurer of State's evaluation of the applicant and the amount of state funds to be deposited. If an eligible governmental subdivision has formed a partnership with the Treasurer of State, the Treasurer of State must give consideration to the criteria for acceptance or rejection of an application set forth by an eligible governmental subdivision in the eligible governmental subdivision housing linked deposit program; however, the Treasurer of State has final approval. A fee cannot be charged for the preparation, processing, reporting, or monitoring of any application.

Upon acceptance of an application, the Treasurer of State may place certificates of deposit or other financial institution instruments with an eligible lending institution at up to 300 basis points below current market rates. The lending institution must enter into a deposit agreement with the Treasurer of State, and must lend funds in accordance with that agreement to each participant approved by the Treasurer of State. The loan is to be made at a fixed rate of 300 basis points below the present borrowing rate that would apply to the participant in the absence of approval to participate in the program.

Any delay in payments or default on the part of the participant does not in any manner affect the deposit agreement between the lending institution and the Treasurer of State. If an eligible lending institution changes the terms of a loan to a participant because of a delay in payments or default, the lending institution must return the housing linked deposit amount to the Treasurer of State.

Compliance (secs. 135.83(D)(2), 135.85(D) and (F), and 135.86). The Treasurer of State is required to take any steps necessary to monitor compliance with the bill by eligible lending institutions, eligible housing linked deposit participants, and eligible governmental subdivisions to which partnerships with the Treasurer of State have been approved. The Treasurer of State is authorized to develop guidelines to carry out that duty.

Liability for payment of loans (sec. 135.87). The bill provides that the state and the Treasurer of State are not liable to any eligible lending institution in any manner for payment of principal or interest on a loan to an eligible housing linked deposit participant.

Designation of public depositories by the State Board of Deposit

(sec. 135.12)

The Uniform Depository Law requires the State Board of Deposit to meet on the third Monday of June in the even-numbered years for the purpose of designating the public depositories of the public moneys of the state. The bill changes that meeting date, beginning in 2002, to the third Monday of March.

The law currently permits the governing board of a political subdivision to meet *during* a designation period to (1) designate a different public depository of the public moneys of the subdivision, if the governing board determines that the designated public depository is insolvent or operating in an unsound or unsafe manner or (2) designate one or more additional public depositories of the public moneys of the subdivision, if the governing board determines that it is necessary and in the subdivision's best interests. The bill grants the same authority to the State Board of Deposit.

Vendor reporting requirements of county auditors

(sec. 5739.18)

Under current law, each county auditor is required to prepare weekly a list of the names of all vendors that were licensed in the auditor's county during the preceding week (pursuant to the Sales Tax Law). The list must be made in triplicate and certified to the tax commissioner, the Treasurer of State, and the county treasurer.

The bill removes the requirement that a list of vendors be certified to the Treasurer of State.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	11-14-01	p. 1126

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