
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY

- Authorizes the Chief Investment Officer of JobsOhio to designate an individual to serve on the Officer's behalf on the TourismOhio Advisory Board.
- Relaxes an eligibility criterion for the Lakes in Economic Distress Loan Program and specifies that any materials submitted by a loan applicant are confidential and not a public record.
- Renames the Office of Small Business within the Development Services Agency the "Office of Small Business and Entrepreneurship" and requires it to inform the public about job placement resources available from OhioMeansJobs.
- Creates a statutory definition of "microbusiness."
- Changes the deadline for the Ohio Aerospace and Aviation Technology Committee to submit its annual report from July 1 to December 31.
- Would have permitted the Director of Development Services to waive the cooperating contribution requirement for a project to receive a grant under the Thomas Alva Edison grant program if the project will enable Ohio companies to access new technology applications (VETOED).
- Would have defined "Edison Center Network" for purposes of the administration of the Thomas Alva Edison grant program (VETOED).

TourismOhio Advisory Board

(R.C. 122.071)

The act authorizes the Chief Investment Officer (CIO) of JobsOhio to designate an individual to serve on the CIO's behalf on the TourismOhio Advisory Board. Unchanged by the act are the other members of the Board serving with the CIO or the designee. They include the Director of the Office of TourismOhio and nine members, appointed by the Governor, representing various tourism-related industries. Under continuing law, the TourismOhio Advisory Board advises the Director of Development Services and the TourismOhio Director on strategies for promoting tourism in the state.



Lakes in Economic Distress Loan Program

(R.C. 122.641)

The act alters an eligibility criterion for the Lakes in Economic Distress Program. Under continuing law, the program provides loans for working capital or facility improvement for businesses adversely affected by circumstances that have resulted in a lake community being declared in economic distress by DNR and a disaster area by the U.S. Small Business Administration (i.e., Buckeye Lake). The loans are awarded in accordance with administrative guidelines established by the Director of Development Services and are financed through the Lakes in Economic Distress Revolving Loan Fund.

The act requires the Director to extend eligibility for loans to businesses and entities that have incurred a reduction in gross revenue of at least 10% measured between 2014 and 2015, 2015 and 2016, or 2014 and 2016.⁵³ The administrative guidelines for the program formerly limited eligibility to businesses and other entities that had incurred a 40% reduction in gross revenue. The act also expressly states that any materials a loan applicant submits to DSA are confidential and not a public record.

Office of Small Business and Entrepreneurship

(R.C. 122.08 and 122.081)

The act renames the Office of Small Business within the Development Services Agency the "Office of Small Business and Entrepreneurship." It also requires the Office to inform the public about the job search and placement resources available through the OhioMeansJobs website and local OhioMeansJobs one-stop systems. Under continuing law, the Office is responsible, generally, for acting as a liaison between the state and the small business community, assisting individuals in establishing and operating small businesses, disseminating information on rules that affect small businesses, and addressing complaints from small businesses.

Definition of "microbusiness"

(R.C. 166.50)

The act creates a statutory definition of "microbusiness." Under the act, a "microbusiness" is an independently owned and operated for-profit business entity,

⁵³ O.A.C. 122:27-1-01; "Lakes in Economic Distress Program: Program Guideline," available at: https://development.ohio.gov/bs/bs_ledrlp.htm.



including any affiliates, that is located in Ohio and has fewer than 20 full-time employees or full-time equivalent employees.

For this purpose, a "full-time employee" is an employee who, with respect to a calendar month, is employed an average of at least 30 hours of service per week. The number of full-time equivalent employees for a calendar month is to be determined by calculating the aggregate number of hours of service for that calendar month for employees who were not full-time employees, and dividing that number by 120.

Ohio Aerospace and Aviation Technology Committee

(R.C. 122.98)

The act changes the deadline for the Ohio Aerospace and Aviation Technology Committee to submit its annual report to December 31 of each year. Former law required the Committee to submit its report by July 1 of each year. Under continuing law, the Committee report must include information about the Committee's activities, findings, and recommendations regarding research and development of aviation, aerospace, and technology products and ideas.

Edison grant program changes (VETOED)

(R.C. 122.01 and 122.33)

The Governor vetoed a provision that would have permitted the Director of Development Services to waive the cooperating contribution requirement for a project to receive a grant under the Thomas Alva Edison grant program if the project will enable Ohio companies to access new technology applications. Under continuing law (except with regard to these new technology applications), grants under the program must be made in conjunction with a contribution from a cooperating enterprise which maintains or proposes to maintain a relevant research, development, or manufacturing facility in Ohio.

"New technology applications" would have been defined to mean providing existing technology proven in at least one commercial environment to companies that have not: (1) used the technology, or (2) used the technology for the purpose it was originally created. "Ohio companies" would have been defined to mean companies in which the principal place of business is in Ohio or that propose to be engaged in research and development, manufacturing, or provisioning of products or services in Ohio.



The Governor vetoed a provision that would have defined "Edison Center Network" to mean the six cooperative, industry-connected, nonprofit organizations that have met all of the following criteria:

- Historically received funding under the Thomas Alva Edison grant program;
- Been in existence at least 15 years as of September 29, 2017 (the act's 90-day effective date);
- Experience delivering technical and networking services to Ohio manufacturers.

