SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 2393

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Reported from the Special Committee on Job Creation and Economic Development March 26, 2008 with recommendation that House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 2393 Do Pass. Referred to the Committee on Rules pursuant to Rule 25(21)(f).

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

5383L.03C

AN ACT

To repeal sections 135.950 and 135.967, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to enhanced enterprise zones.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 135.950 and 135.967, RSMo, are repealed and three new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 135.950, 135.967, and 135.968, to read as follows:

135.950. The following terms, whenever used in sections 135.950 to 135.970 mean:

(1) "Blighted area", an area which, by reason of the predominance of defective or inadequate street layout, unsanitary or unsafe conditions, deterioration of site improvements, improper subdivision or obsolete platting, or the existence of conditions which endanger life or property by fire and other causes, or any combination of such factors, retards the provision of housing accommodations or constitutes an economic or social liability or a menace to the public health, safety, morals, or welfare in its present condition and use;

(2) "Board", an enhanced enterprise zone board established pursuant to section 135.957;

(3) "Commencement of commercial operations" shall be deemed to occur during the first taxable year for which the new business facility is first put into use by the taxpayer in the enhanced business enterprise in which the taxpayer intends to use the new business facility;

(4) "Department", the department of economic development;

(5) "Director", the director of the department of economic development;

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[**thus**]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

(6) "Employee", a person employed by the enhanced business enterprise that is scheduled to work an average of at least one thousand hours per year, and such person at all times has health insurance offered to him or her, which is partially paid for by the employer;

(7) "Enhanced business enterprise", an industry or one of a cluster of industries that is either:

(a) Identified by the department as critical to the state's economic security and growth; or

(b) Will have an impact on industry cluster development, as identified by the governing authority in its application for designation of an enhanced enterprise zone and approved by the department; but excluding gambling establishments (NAICS industry group 7132), retail trade (NAICS sectors 44 and 45), educational services (NAICS sector 61), religious organizations (NAICS industry group 8131), public administration (NAICS sector 92), and food and drinking places (NAICS subsector 722), however, notwithstanding provisions of this section to the contrary, headquarters or administrative offices of an otherwise excluded business may qualify for benefits if the offices serve a multistate territory. In the event a national, state, or regional headquarters operation is not the predominant activity of a project facility, the new jobs and investment of such headquarters operation is considered eligible for benefits under this section if the other requirements are satisfied. Service industries may be eligible only if a majority of its annual revenues will be derived from out of the state;

(8) "Existing business facility", any facility in this state which was employed by the taxpayer claiming the credit in the operation of an enhanced business enterprise immediately prior to an expansion, acquisition, addition, or replacement;

(9) "Facility", any building used as an enhanced business enterprise located within an enhanced enterprise zone, including the land on which the facility is located and all machinery, equipment, and other real and depreciable tangible personal property acquired for use at and located at or within such facility and used in connection with the operation of such facility;

(10) "Facility base employment", the greater of the number of employees located at the facility on the date of the notice of intent, or for the twelve-month period prior to the date of the notice of intent, the average number of employees located at the facility, or in the event the project facility has not been in operation for a full twelve-month period, the average number of employees for the number of months the facility has been in operation prior to the date of the notice of intent;

(11) "Facility base payroll", the total amount of taxable wages paid by the enhanced business enterprise to employees of the enhanced business enterprise located at the facility in the twelve months prior to the notice of intent, not including the payroll of owners of the enhanced business enterprise unless the enhanced business enterprise is participating in an employee stock

ownership plan. For the purposes of calculating the benefits under this program, the amount of base payroll shall increase each year based on the consumer price index or other comparable measure, as determined by the department;

(12) "Governing authority", the body holding primary legislative authority over a county or incorporated municipality;

(13) **"Mega-project", any manufacturing or assembling facility, approved by the department for construction and operation within an enhanced enterprise zone, which satisfies the following:**

(a) The new capital investment is projected to exceed three hundred million dollars over a period of eight years from the date of approval by the department;

(b) The number of new jobs is projected to exceed one thousand over a period of eight years beginning on the date of approval by the department;

(c) The average wage of new jobs to be created shall exceed the county average wage;

(d) The taxpayer shall offer health insurance to all new jobs and pay at least fifty percent of such insurance premiums; and

(e) An acceptable plan of repayment, to the state, of the tax credits provided for the mega-project has been provided by the taxpayer;

(14) "NAICS", the 1997 edition of the North American Industry Classification System as prepared by the Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget. Any NAICS sector, subsector, industry group or industry identified in this section shall include its corresponding classification in subsequent federal industry classification systems;

[(14)**] (15)** "New business facility", a facility that satisfies the following requirements:

(a) Such facility is employed by the taxpayer in the operation of an enhanced business enterprise. Such facility shall not be considered a new business facility in the hands of the taxpayer if the taxpayer's only activity with respect to such facility is to lease it to another person or persons. If the taxpayer employs only a portion of such facility in the operation of an enhanced business enterprise, and leases another portion of such facility to another person or persons or does not otherwise use such other portions in the operation of an enhanced business enterprise, the portion employed by the taxpayer in the operation of an enhanced business enterprise shall be considered a new business facility, if the requirements of paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this subdivision are satisfied;

(b) Such facility is acquired by, or leased to, the taxpayer after December 31, 2004. A facility shall be deemed to have been acquired by, or leased to, the taxpayer after December 31, 2004, if the transfer of title to the taxpayer, the transfer of possession pursuant to a binding contract to transfer title to the taxpayer, or the commencement of the term of the lease to the taxpayer occurs after December 31, 2004;

(c) If such facility was acquired by the taxpayer from another taxpayer and such facility was employed immediately prior to the acquisition by another taxpayer in the operation of an enhanced business enterprise, the operation of the same or a substantially similar enhanced business enterprise is not continued by the taxpayer at such facility; and

(d) Such facility is not a replacement business facility, as defined in subdivision **[**(22)**]** **(23)** of this section;

[(15)**]** **(16)** "New business facility employee", an employee of the taxpayer in the operation of a new business facility during the taxable year for which the credit allowed by section 135.967 is claimed, except that truck drivers and rail and barge vehicle operators and other operators of rolling stock for hire shall not constitute new business facility employees;

[(16)**]** **(17)** "New business facility investment", the value of real and depreciable tangible personal property, acquired by the taxpayer as part of the new business facility, which is used by the taxpayer in the operation of the new business facility, during the taxable year for which the credit allowed by 135.967 is claimed, except that trucks, truck-trailers, truck semitrailers, rail vehicles, barge vehicles, aircraft and other rolling stock for hire, track, switches, barges, bridges, tunnels, and rail yards and spurs shall not constitute new business facility investments. The total value of such property during such taxable year shall be:

(a) Its original cost if owned by the taxpayer; or

(b) Eight times the net annual rental rate, if leased by the taxpayer. The net annual rental rate shall be the annual rental rate paid by the taxpayer less any annual rental rate received by the taxpayer from subrentals. The new business facility investment shall be determined by dividing by twelve the sum of the total value of such property on the last business day of each calendar month of the taxable year. If the new business facility is in operation for less than an entire taxable year, the new business facility investment shall be determined by dividing the sum of the total value of such property on the last business day of each full calendar month during the portion of such taxable year during which the new business facility was in operation by the number of full calendar months during such period;

[(17)**]** **(18)** "New job", the number of employees located at the facility that exceeds the facility base employment less any decrease in the number of the employees at related facilities below the related facility base employment. No job that was created prior to the date of the notice of intent shall be deemed a new job;

[(18)**]** **(19)** "Notice of intent", a form developed by the department which is completed by the enhanced business enterprise and submitted to the department which states the enhanced business enterprise's intent to hire new jobs and request benefits under such program;

[(19)**] (20)** "Related facility", a facility operated by the enhanced business enterprise or a related company in this state that is directly related to the operation of the project facility;

[(20)**] (21)** "Related facility base employment", the greater of:

(a) The number of employees located at all related facilities on the date of the notice of intent; or

(b) For the twelve-month period prior to the date of the notice of intent, the average number of employees located at all related facilities of the enhanced business enterprise or a related company located in this state;

[(21)**] (22)** "Related taxpayer":

(a) A corporation, partnership, trust, or association controlled by the taxpayer;

(b) An individual, corporation, partnership, trust, or association in control of the taxpayer; or

(c) A corporation, partnership, trust or association controlled by an individual, corporation, partnership, trust or association in control of the taxpayer. "Control of a corporation" shall mean ownership, directly or indirectly, of stock possessing at least fifty percent of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock entitled to vote, "control of a partnership or association" shall mean ownership of at least fifty percent of the capital or profits interest in such partnership or association, and "control of a trust" shall mean ownership, directly or indirectly, of at least fifty percent of the beneficial interest in the principal or income of such trust; ownership shall be determined as provided in Section 318 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;

[(22)**] (23)** "Replacement business facility", a facility otherwise described in subdivision **[**(14)**] (15)** of this section, hereafter referred to in this subdivision as "new facility", which replaces another facility, hereafter referred to in this subdivision as "old facility", located within the state, which the taxpayer or a related taxpayer previously operated but discontinued operating on or before the close of the first taxable year for which the credit allowed by this section is claimed. A new facility shall be deemed to replace an old facility if the following conditions are met:

(a) The old facility was operated by the taxpayer or a related taxpayer during the taxpayer's or related taxpayer's taxable period immediately preceding the taxable year in which commencement of commercial operations occurs at the new facility; and

(b) The old facility was employed by the taxpayer or a related taxpayer in the operation of an enhanced business enterprise and the taxpayer continues the operation of the same or substantially similar enhanced business enterprise at the new facility.

Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this subdivision, a facility shall not be considered a replacement business facility if the taxpayer's new business facility investment, as computed in subdivision **[**(16)**] (17)** of this section, in the new facility during the tax period for which the credits allowed in section 135.967 are claimed exceed one million dollars and if the total number of employees at the new facility exceeds the total number of employees at the old facility by at least two;

[(23)**] (24)** "Same or substantially similar enhanced business enterprise", an enhanced business enterprise in which the nature of the products produced or sold, or activities conducted, are similar in character and use or are produced, sold, performed, or conducted in the same or similar manner as in another enhanced business enterprise.

135.967. 1. A taxpayer who establishes a new business facility may, upon approval by the department, be allowed a credit, each tax year for up to ten tax years, in an amount determined as set forth in this section, against the tax imposed by chapter 143, RSMo, excluding withholding tax imposed by sections 143.191 to 143.265, RSMo. No taxpayer shall receive multiple ten-year periods for subsequent expansions at the same facility.

2. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any taxpayer who establishes a new business facility in an enhanced enterprise zone and is awarded state tax credits under this section may not also receive tax credits under sections 135.100 to 135.150, sections 135.200 to **[**135.268**] 135.286**, or section 135.535**, and may not simultaneously receive tax credits under sections 620.1875 to 620.1980, RSMo, at the same facility**.

3. No credit shall be issued pursuant to this section unless:

(1) The number of new business facility employees engaged or maintained in employment at the new business facility for the taxable year for which the credit is claimed equals or exceeds two; and

(2) The new business facility investment for the taxable year for which the credit is claimed equals or exceeds one hundred thousand dollars.

4. The annual amount of credits allowed for an approved enhanced business enterprise shall be the lesser of:

(1) The annual amount authorized by the department for the enhanced business enterprise, which shall be limited to the projected state economic benefit, as determined by the department; or

(2) The sum calculated based upon the following:

(a) A credit of four hundred dollars for each new business facility employee employed within an enhanced enterprise zone;

(b) An additional credit of four hundred dollars for each new business facility employee who is a resident of an enhanced enterprise zone;

(c) An additional credit of four hundred dollars for each new business facility employee who is paid by the enhanced business enterprise a wage that exceeds the average wage paid within the county in which the facility is located, as determined by the department; and

(d) A credit equal to two percent of new business facility investment within an enhanced enterprise zone.

5. Prior to January 1, 2007, in no event shall the department authorize more than four million dollars annually to be issued for all enhanced business enterprises. After December 31, 2006, in no event shall the department authorize more than fourteen million dollars annually to be issued for all enhanced business enterprises.

6. If a facility, which does not constitute a new business facility, is expanded by the taxpayer, the expansion shall be considered eligible for the credit allowed by this section if:

(1) The taxpayer's new business facility investment in the expansion during the tax period in which the credits allowed in this section are claimed exceeds one hundred thousand dollars and if the number of new business facility employees engaged or maintained in employment at the expansion facility for the taxable year for which credit is claimed equals or exceeds two, and the total number of employees at the facility after the expansion is at least two greater than the total number of employees before the expansion; and

(2) The taxpayer's investment in the expansion and in the original facility prior to expansion shall be determined in the manner provided in subdivision **[**(14)**]** **(15)** of section 135.950.

7. The number of new business facility employees during any taxable year shall be determined by dividing by twelve the sum of the number of individuals employed on the last business day of each month of such taxable year. If the new business facility is in operation for less than the entire taxable year, the number of new business facility employees shall be determined by dividing the sum of the number of individuals employed on the last business day of each full calendar month during the portion of such taxable year during which the new business facility was in operation by the number of full calendar months during such period. For the purpose of computing the credit allowed by this section in the case of a facility which qualifies as a new business facility under subsection 6 of this section, and in the case of a new business facility which satisfies the requirements of paragraph (c) of subdivision **[**(14)**]** **(15)** of section 135.950, or subdivision **[**(22)**]** **(23)** of section 135.950, the number of new business facility employees at such facility shall be reduced by the average number of individuals employed, computed as provided in this subsection, at the facility during the taxable year immediately preceding the taxable year in which such expansion, acquisition, or replacement occurred and shall further be reduced by the number of individuals employed by the taxpayer or related taxpayer that was subsequently transferred to the new business facility from another

Missouri facility and for which credits authorized in this section are not being earned, whether such credits are earned because of an expansion, acquisition, relocation, or the establishment of a new facility.

8. In the case where a new business facility employee who is a resident of an enhanced enterprise zone for less than a twelve-month period is employed for less than a twelve-month period, the credits allowed by paragraph (b) of subdivision (2) of subsection 4 of this section shall be determined by multiplying four hundred dollars by a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of calendar days during the taxpayer's tax year for which such credits are claimed, in which the employee was a resident of an enhanced enterprise zone, and the denominator of which is three hundred sixty-five.

9. For the purpose of computing the credit allowed by this section in the case of a facility which qualifies as a new business facility pursuant to subsection 6 of this section, and in the case of a new business facility which satisfies the requirements of paragraph (c) of subdivision **[**(14)**]** **(15)** of section 135.950 or subdivision **[**(22)**]** **(23)** of section 135.950, the amount of the taxpayer's new business facility investment in such facility shall be reduced by the average amount, computed as provided in subdivision **[**(14)**]** **(15)** of section 135.950 for new business facility investment, of the investment of the taxpayer, or related taxpayer immediately preceding such expansion or replacement or at the time of acquisition. Furthermore, the amount of the taxpayer's new business facility investment shall also be reduced by the amount of investment employed by the taxpayer or related taxpayer which was subsequently transferred to the new business facility from another Missouri facility and for which credits authorized in this section are not being earned, whether such credits are earned because of an expansion, acquisition, relocation, or the establishment of a new facility.

10. For a taxpayer with flow-through tax treatment to its members, partners, or shareholders, the credit shall be allowed to members, partners, or shareholders in proportion to their share of ownership on the last day of the taxpayer's tax period.

11. Credits may not be carried forward but shall be claimed for the taxable year during which commencement of commercial operations occurs at such new business facility, and for each of the nine succeeding taxable years for which the credit is issued.

12. Certificates of tax credit authorized by this section may be transferred, sold, or assigned by filing a notarized endorsement thereof with the department that names the transferee, the amount of tax credit transferred, and the value received for the credit, as well as any other information reasonably requested by the department. The sale price cannot be less than seventy-five percent of the par value of such credits.

13. The director of revenue shall issue a refund to the taxpayer to the extent that the amount of credits allowed in this section exceeds the amount of the taxpayer's income tax.

14. Prior to the issuance of tax credits, the department shall verify through the department of revenue, or any other state department, that the tax credit applicant does not owe any delinquent income, sales, or use tax or interest or penalties on such taxes, or any delinquent fees or assessments levied by any state department and through the department of insurance that the applicant does not owe any delinquent insurance taxes. Such delinquency shall not affect the authorization of the application for such tax credits, except that the amount of credits issued shall be reduced by the applicant's tax delinquency. If the department of revenue or the department of insurance, or any other state department, concludes that a taxpayer is delinquent after June fifteenth but before July first of any year and the application of tax credits to such delinquency causes a tax deficiency on behalf of the taxpayer to arise, then the taxpayer shall be granted thirty days to satisfy the deficiency in which interest, penalties, and additions to tax shall be tolled. After applying all available credits toward a tax delinquency, the administering agency shall notify the appropriate department, and that department shall update the amount of outstanding delinquent tax owed by the applicant. If any credits remain after satisfying all insurance, income, sales, and use tax delinquencies, the remaining credits shall be issued to the applicant, subject to the restrictions of other provisions of law.

135.968. 1. A taxpayer who establishes a mega-project, approved by the department, within an enhanced enterprise zone shall, in exchange for the consideration provided by new tax revenues and other economic stimuli that will be generated from the new jobs created by the mega-project, be allowed an income tax credit equal to the percentage of actual new annual payroll of the taxpayer, as provided under subsection 4 of this section. A taxpayer seeking approval of a mega-project shall submit an application to the department. The department shall not approve any credits for mega-projects to be issued prior to July 1, 2010, and in no event shall the department authorize more than forty million dollars to be issued annually for all mega-projects.

2. In considering applications for approval of mega-projects, the department may approve an application if:

(1) The taxpayer's project is financially sound and the taxpayer has adequately demonstrated an ability to successfully undertake and complete the mega-project;

(2) The taxpayer's plan of repayment, to the state, of the amount of tax credits provided is reasonable and sound;

(3) The taxpayer's mega-project will create new jobs that were not jobs previously performed by employees of the taxpayer or a related taxpayer in Missouri;

(4) Awarding the credit will result in an overall positive net fiscal impact to the state;

(5) Local taxing entities are providing a significant level of incentives for the mega-project relative to the projected new local tax revenues created by the mega-project;

(6) There is at least one other state or foreign country that the taxpayer verifies is being considered for the project, and receiving mega-project tax credits is a major factor in the taxpayer's decision to go forward with the project and not receiving the credit will result in the applicant not creating new jobs in Missouri;

(7) The mega-project will be located in an enhanced enterprise zone which constitutes an economic or social liability and a detriment to the public health, safety, morals, or welfare in its present condition and use;

(8) The completion of the mega-project will serve an essential public municipal purpose by creating a substantial number of new jobs for citizens, increasing their purchasing power, improving their living conditions, and relieving the demand for unemployment and welfare assistance thereby promoting the economic development of the enhanced enterprise zone, the municipality, and the state; and

(9) The creation of new jobs will assist the state in providing the services needed to protect the health, safety, and social and economic well-being of the citizens of the state.

3. Prior to the issuance of tax credits, the department shall verify through the department of revenue, or any other state department, that the tax credit applicant does not owe any delinquent income, sales, or use tax, or interest or penalties on such taxes, or any delinquent fees or assessments levied by any state department and through the department of insurance that the applicant does not owe any delinquent insurance taxes. Any delinquency shall not affect the approval of the application for such tax credits, provided that the amount of credits issued shall be reduced by the applicant's tax delinquency. If the department of revenue or the department of insurance, or any other state department, concludes that a taxpayer is delinquent after June fifteenth but before July first of any year and the application of tax credits to such delinquency causes a tax deficiency on behalf of the taxpayer to arise, then the taxpayer shall be granted thirty days to satisfy the deficiency in which interest, penalties, and additions to tax shall be tolled. After applying all available credits toward a tax delinquency, the administering agency shall notify the appropriate department, and that department shall update the amount of outstanding delinquent tax owed by the applicant. If any credits remain after satisfying all insurance, income, sales, and use tax delinquencies, the remaining credits shall be issued to the applicant, subject to the restrictions of other provisions of law.

4. Upon approval of an application by the department, tax credits shall be issued annually for a period not to exceed twenty-two years from the commencement of commercial operations of the mega-project. The twenty-two-year period for the issuance

of mega-project tax credits may extend beyond the expiration of the enhanced enterprise zone. The maximum percentage of the annual payroll of the taxpayer for new jobs located at the mega-project which may be approved or issued by the department for tax credits shall not exceed:

(1) Eighty percent for the first three years that tax credits will be issued for the mega-project;

(2) Sixty percent for the next two subsequent years;

(3) Fifty percent for the next two subsequent years;

(4) Thirty percent for the next two subsequent years; and

(5) Twenty-five percent for all subsequent years.

In no event shall the department issue more than forty million dollars annually in mega-project tax credits to any taxpayer.

5. Tax credits issued under this section may be claimed against the tax imposed by chapter 143, RSMo, excluding withholding tax imposed by sections 143.191 to 143.265, RSMo. For taxpayers with flow-through tax treatment of its members, partners, or shareholders, the credit shall be allowed to members, partners, or shareholders in proportion to their share of ownership on the last day of the taxpayer's tax period. The director of revenue shall issue a refund to a taxpayer to the extent the amount of credits allowed in this section exceeds the amount of the taxpayer's income tax liability in the year redemption is authorized. An owner of tax credits issued under this section shall not be required to have any Missouri income tax liability in order to redeem such tax credits and receive a refund. The director of revenue shall prepare a form to permit the owner of such tax credits to obtain a refund.

6. Certificates of tax credits authorized under this section may be transferred, sold, or assigned by filing a notarized endorsement thereof with the department that names the transferee, the amount of tax credit transferred, and the value received for the credit, as well as any other information reasonably requested by the department. Upon such transfer, sale, or assignment, the transferee shall be the owner of such tax credits entitled to claim the tax credits or any refunds with respect thereto issued to the taxpayer. Tax credits may not be carried forward past the year of issuance. Tax credits authorized by this section may not be pledged or used to secure any bonds or other indebtedness issued by the state or any political subdivision of the state. Once such tax credits have been issued, nothing shall prohibit the owner of the tax credits from pledging the tax credits to any lender or other third-party.

7. Any taxpayer issued tax credits under this section shall provide an annual report to the department of the number of new jobs located at the mega-project, the new annual payroll of such new jobs, and such other information as may be required by the department to document the basis for benefits under this section. The department may withhold the approval of the annual issuance of any tax credits until it is satisfied that proper documentation has been provided, and shall reduce the tax credits to reflect any reduction in new payroll. If the department determines the average wage is below the county average wage, or the taxpayer has not maintained the employee health insurance as required, the taxpayer shall not receive tax credits for that year.

8. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any taxpayer who is awarded tax credits under this section shall not also receive tax credits under sections 135.100 to 135.150, sections 135.200 to 135.286, section 135.535, or sections 620.1875 to 620.1890, RSMo.

9. Any action brought in any court contesting the approval of a mega-project and the issuance of the tax credits, or the taking of any other action pursuant to this section related to such mega-project, shall be filed within ninety days following approval of the mega-project by the department.

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