SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 924

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATORS GRIESHEIMER, DEMPSEY AND PEARCE.

Read 1st time February 8, 2010, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

4967S.01I

AN ACT

To repeal section 620.1881, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the quality jobs act.

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

Section A. Section 620.1881, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 620.1881, to read as follows:

620.1881. 1. The department of economic development shall respond within thirty days to a company who provides a notice of intent with either an approval or a rejection of the notice of intent. The department shall give preference to qualified companies and projects targeted at an area of the state which has recently been classified as a disaster area by the federal government. Failure to respond on behalf of the department of economic development shall result in the notice of intent being deemed an approval for the purposes of this section. A qualified company who is provided an approval for a project shall be allowed a benefit as provided in this program in the amount and duration provided in this section. A qualified company may receive additional periods for subsequent new jobs at the same facility after the full initial period if the minimum thresholds are met as set forth in sections 620.1875 to 620.1890. There is no limit on the number of periods a qualified company may participate in the program, as long as the minimum thresholds are achieved and the qualified company provides the department with the required reporting and is in proper compliance for this program or other state programs. A qualified company may elect to file a notice of intent to start a new project period concurrent with an existing project period if the minimum thresholds are achieved and the qualified company provides the department with the required

EXPLANATION–Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

reporting and is in proper compliance for this program and other state programs; however, the qualified company may not receive any further benefit under the original approval for jobs created after the date of the new notice of intent, and any jobs created before the new notice of intent may not be included as new jobs for the purpose of benefit calculation in relation to the new approval. When a qualified company has filed and received approval of a notice of intent and subsequently files another notice of intent, the department shall apply the definition of project facility under subdivision (19) of section 620.1878 to the new notice of intent as well as all previously approved notices of intent and shall determine the application of the definitions of new job, new payroll, project facility base employment, and project facility base payroll accordingly.

2. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any qualified company that is awarded benefits under this program may not simultaneously receive tax credits or exemptions under sections 135.100 to 135.150, sections 135.200 to 135.286, section 135.535, or sections 135.900 to 135.906, RSMo, at the same project facility. The benefits available to the company under any other state programs for which the company is eligible and which utilize withholding tax from the new jobs of the company must first be credited to the other state program before the withholding retention level applicable under the Missouri quality jobs act will begin to accrue. These other state programs include, but are not limited to, the new jobs training program under sections 178.892 to 178.896, RSMo, the job retention program under sections 178.760 to 178.764, RSMo, the real property tax increment allocation redevelopment act, sections 99.800 to 99.865, RSMo, or the Missouri downtown and rural economic stimulus act under sections 99.915 to 99.980, RSMo. If any qualified company also participates in the new jobs training program in sections 178.892 to 178.896, RSMo, the company shall retain no withholding tax, but the department shall issue a refundable tax credit for the full amount of benefit allowed under this subdivision. The calendar year annual maximum amount of tax credits which may be issued to a qualifying company that also participates in the new job training program shall be increased by an amount equivalent to the withholding tax retained by that company under the new jobs training program. However, if the combined benefits of the quality jobs program and the new jobs training program exceed the projected state benefit of the project, as determined by the department of economic development through a cost-benefit analysis, the increase in the maximum tax credits shall be limited to the amount that would not cause the combined benefits to exceed the

projected state benefit. Any taxpayer who is awarded benefits under this program who knowingly hires individuals who are not allowed to work legally in the United States shall immediately forfeit such benefits and shall repay the state an amount equal to any state tax credits already redeemed and any withholding taxes already retained.

3. The types of projects and the amount of benefits to be provided are:

(1) Small and expanding business projects: in exchange for the consideration provided by the new tax revenues and other economic stimuli that will be generated by the new jobs created by the program, a qualified company may retain an amount equal to the withholding tax as calculated under subdivision (33) of section 620.1878 from the new jobs that would otherwise be withheld and remitted by the qualified company under the provisions of sections 143.191 to 143.265, RSMo, for a period of three years from the date the required number of new jobs were created if the average wage of the new payroll equals or exceeds the county average wage or for a period of five years from the date the required number of new jobs were created if the average wage of the new payroll equals or exceeds one hundred twenty percent of the county average wage;

(2) Technology business projects: in exchange for the consideration provided by the new tax revenues and other economic stimuli that will be generated by the new jobs created by the program, a qualified company may retain an amount equal to a maximum of five percent of new payroll for a period of five years from the date the required number of jobs were created from the withholding tax of the new jobs that would otherwise be withheld and remitted by the qualified company under the provisions of sections 143.191 to 143.265, RSMo, if the average wage of the new payroll equals or exceeds the county average wage. An additional one-half percent of new payroll may be added to the five percent maximum if the average wage of the new payroll in any year exceeds one hundred twenty percent of the county average wage in the county in which the project facility is located, plus an additional one-half percent of new payroll may be added if the average wage of the new payroll in any year exceeds one hundred forty percent of the average wage in the county in which the project facility is located. The department shall issue a refundable tax credit for any difference between the amount of benefit allowed under this subdivision and the amount of withholding tax retained by the company, in the event the withholding tax is not sufficient to provide the entire amount of benefit due to the qualified company under this subdivision;

(3) High impact projects: in exchange for the consideration provided by the new tax revenues and other economic stimuli that will be generated by the new jobs created by the program, a qualified company may retain an amount from the withholding tax of the new jobs that would otherwise be withheld and remitted by the qualified company under the provisions of sections 143.191 to 143.265, RSMo, equal to three percent of new payroll for a period of five years from the date the required number of jobs were created if the average wage of the new payroll equals or exceeds the county average wage of the county in which the project facility is located. For high-impact projects in a facility located within two adjacent counties, the new payroll shall equal or exceed the higher county average wage of the adjacent counties. The percentage of payroll allowed under this subdivision shall be three and one-half percent of new payroll if the average wage of the new payroll in any year exceeds one hundred twenty percent of the county average wage in the county in which the project facility is located. The percentage of payroll allowed under this subdivision shall be four percent of new payroll if the average wage of the new payroll in any year exceeds one hundred forty percent of the county average wage in the county in which the project facility is located. An additional one percent of new payroll may be added to these percentages if local incentives equal between ten percent and twenty-four percent of the new direct local revenue; an additional two percent of new payroll is added to these percentages if the local incentives equal between twenty-five percent and forty-nine percent of the new direct local revenue; or an additional three percent of payroll is added to these percentages if the local incentives equal fifty percent or more of the new direct local revenue. The department shall issue a refundable tax credit for any difference between the amount of benefit allowed under this subdivision and the amount of withholding tax retained by the company, in the event the withholding tax is not sufficient to provide the entire amount of benefit due to the qualified company under this subdivision;

(4) Job retention projects: a qualified company may receive a tax credit for the retention of jobs in this state, provided the qualified company and the project meets all of the following conditions:

(a) For each of the twenty-four months preceding the year in which application for the program is made the qualified company must have maintained at least one thousand full-time employees at the employer's site in the state at which the jobs are based, and the average wage of such employees must meet or exceed the county average wage;

(b) The qualified company retained at the project facility the level of full-time employees that existed in the taxable year immediately preceding the year in which application for the program is made;

(c) The qualified company is considered to have a significant statewide effect on the economy, and has been determined to represent a substantial risk of relocation from the state by the quality jobs advisory task force established in section 620.1887; provided, however, until such time as the initial at-large members of the quality jobs advisory task force are appointed, this determination shall be made by the director of the department of economic development;

(d) The qualified company in the project facility will cause to be invested a minimum of seventy million dollars in new investment prior to the end of two years or will cause to be invested a minimum of thirty million dollars in new investment prior to the end of two years and maintain an annual payroll of at least seventy million dollars during each of the years for which a credit is claimed; and

(e) The local taxing entities shall provide local incentives of at least fifty percent of the new direct local revenues created by the project over a ten-year period. The quality jobs advisory task force may recommend to the department of economic development that appropriate penalties be applied to the company for violating the agreement. The amount of the job retention credit granted may be equal to up to fifty percent of the amount of withholding tax generated by the full-time jobs at the project facility for a period of five years. The calendar year annual maximum amount of tax credit that may be issued to any qualified company for a job retention project or combination of job retention projects shall be seven hundred fifty thousand dollars per year, but the maximum amount may be increased up to one million dollars if such action is proposed by the department and approved by the quality jobs advisory task force established in section 620.1887; provided, however, until such time as the initial at-large members of the quality jobs advisory task force are appointed, this determination shall be made by the director of the department of economic development. In considering such a request, the task force shall rely on economic modeling and other information supplied by the department when requesting the increased limit on behalf of the job retention project. In no event shall the total amount of all tax credits issued for the entire job retention program under this subdivision exceed three million dollars annually. Notwithstanding the above, no tax credits shall be issued for job retention projects approved by the department after August

30, 2013;

(5) Small business job retention and flood survivor relief: a qualified company may receive a tax credit under sections 620.1875 to 620.1890 for the retention of jobs and flood survivor relief in this state for each job retained over a three-year period, provided that:

(a) The qualified company did not receive any state or federal benefits, incentives, or tax relief or abatement in locating its facility in a flood plain;

(b) The qualified company and related companies have fewer than one hundred employees at the time application for the program is made;

(c) The average wage of the qualified company's and related companies' employees must meet or exceed the county average wage;

(d) All of the qualified company's and related companies' facilities are located in this state;

(e) The facilities at the primary business site in this state have been directly damaged by floodwater rising above the level of a five hundred year flood at least two years, but fewer than eight years, prior to the time application is made;

(f) The qualified company made significant efforts to protect the facilities prior to any impending danger from rising floodwaters;

(g) For each year it receives tax credits under sections 620.1875 to 620.1890, the qualified company and related companies retained, at the company's facilities in this state, at least the level of full-time, year-round employees that existed in the taxable year immediately preceding the year in which application for the program is made; and

(h) In the years it receives tax credits under sections 620.1875 to 620.1890, the company cumulatively invests at least two million dollars in capital improvements in facilities and equipment located at such facilities that are not located within a five hundred year flood plain as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and amended from time to time. The amount of the small business job retention and flood survivor relief credit granted may be equal to up to one hundred percent of the amount of withholding tax generated by the full-time jobs at the project facility for a period of three years. The calendar year annual maximum amount of tax credit that may be issued to any qualified company for a small business job retention and survivor relief project shall be two hundred fifty thousand dollars per year, but the maximum amount may be increased up to five hundred thousand dollars if such action is proposed by the department and approved by the quality jobs advisory task force established in section 620.1887. In considering such a request, the task force shall rely on economic modeling and other information supplied by the department when requesting an increase in the limit on behalf of the small business job retention and flood survivor relief project. In no event shall the total amount of all tax credits issued for the entire small business job retention and flood survivor relief program under this subdivision exceed five hundred thousand dollars annually. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subdivision to the contrary, no tax credits shall be issued for small business job retention and flood survivor relief projects approved by the department after August 30, 2010.

(6) Show-me fund projects: in exchange for the consideration provided by the new tax revenues and other economic stimuli that will be generated by the new jobs created by a project, a qualified company that meets the criteria for a small and expanding, technology, or high-impact project, may, at the discretion of the director, and in lieu of all other benefits under this section, be considered for eligibility as a "show-me fund project".

(a) In order to be considered for benefits under the provisions of this subdivision a qualified company shall:

a. Propose that a minimum of ten million dollars in new capital investment be made and one hundred new jobs be created for a high-impact project;

b. Propose that a minimum of two million dollars in new capital investment be made and ten new jobs be created for a technology business project; or

c. Propose that a minimum of one hundred thousand dollars in capital investment be made and twenty new jobs in the case of a rural area, or forty new jobs in the case of an urban area, be created for a small and expanding business project; and

d. Provide evidence of commitments for financing such new capital investment prior to approval of the project; and

e. Make new capital investment within three years of the date of approval of such company's notice of intent. For purposes of this subdivision, "New capital investment" shall include funds spent by the qualified company at the project facility after the approval date for real or personal property, and may include the present value of finance or capital leases for real or personal property at the project facility

executed after the approval date.

(b) Except in the case of small and expanding business projects, local taxing entities shall provide local incentives in an amount equal no less than fifty percent of the new direct local revenues created by the project during the performance period.

(c) The director shall consider the following factors in determining whether to approve show-me fund tax credits, and if so, in what amount:

a. The creditworthiness of the qualified company and the likelihood that it will fulfill the required commitments under the contract;

b. The projected net fiscal benefit to the state of the project, after deducting all incentives and costs paid by the state;

c. The proposed wages, and growth potential of the qualified company;

d. The potential multiplier effect of the project, and other like factors;

e. The provision of incentives for the project from local taxing entities relative to their capacity to provide such incentives;

f. The economic condition of the county in which the project will be located; and

g. Whether the project would occur, but for the award of show-me fund tax credits.

(d) Upon approval by the director of an application for show-me fund tax credits submitted by the qualified company, the department and the qualified company shall enter into a contract for the period of time which shall constitute the performance period. Such contract shall specify:

a. The committed number of new jobs, new payroll, and capital investment for each year during the performance period;

b. The date or time period during which tax credits shall be issued, which may occur immediately or over a period not to exceed three years from the date of approval of the notice of intent;

c. Repayment provisions, if applicable; and

d. Recapture provisions applicable in the event of default or noncompliance, which shall define default as a failure to meet statutory requirements or contractual thresholds within prescribed terms

causing a full repayment, plus interest, and define noncompliance as a failure to maintain statutory requirements or contractual thresholds for prescribed terms causing a prorata repayment, plus interest.

(e) Upon entering into a contract with a qualified company under the provisions of paragraph (d) of this subdivision, the director may issue refundable tax credits in an amount not to exceed the total amount of projected withholding taxes of new jobs at the project facility over a period not to exceed twelve years from the date such company meets its job, payroll, and capital investment targets, provided that in the case of a project which meets the criteria of a small and expanding project and is deemed eligible for receipt of benefits under the provisions of this subsection, such tax credits shall not be issued over a period of years to exceed five years, from the date such company meets its job, payroll, and capital investment targets. The director shall award the minimum amount of tax credits necessary to obtain the company's commitment to initiate a project. If the qualified company is unable to obtain sufficient financing to complete the project, the director may award show-me fund tax credits, but shall require that the face amount of such credits be repaid to the state general revenue fund, with a rate of interest, terms, and other conditions to be determined at the discretion of the director. If the director determines that the qualified company would locate the project in another state, but for the award of show-me fund tax credits, the director may award show-me fund tax credits with no requirement that repayment be made.

(f) The maximum amount of show-me fund tax credits that may be authorized for all projects shall not exceed sixty million dollars per calendar year. A qualified company shall not receive tax credits under this subdivision for any project which also receives benefits under subdivisions (1) to (5) of this subsection, or under the BUILD program authorized pursuant to sections 100.700 to 100.850.

4. The qualified company shall provide an annual report of the number of jobs and such other information as may be required by the department to document the basis for the benefits of this program. The department may withhold the approval of any benefits until it is satisfied that proper documentation has been provided, and shall reduce the benefits to reflect any reduction in full-time employees or new payroll. Upon approval by the

department, the qualified company may begin the retention of the withholding taxes when it reaches the minimum number of new jobs and the average wage exceeds the county average wage. Tax credits, if any, may be issued upon satisfaction by the department that the qualified company has exceeded the county average wage and the minimum number of new jobs. In such annual report, if the average wage is below the county average wage, the qualified company has not maintained the employee insurance as required, or if the number of new jobs is below the minimum, the qualified company shall not receive tax credits or retain the withholding tax for the balance of the benefit period. In the case of a qualified company that initially filed a notice of intent and received an approval from the department for high-impact benefits and the minimum number of new jobs in an annual report is below the minimum for high-impact projects, the company shall not receive tax credits for the balance of the benefit period but may continue to retain the withholding taxes if it otherwise meets the requirements of a small and expanding business under this program.

5. **Provisions of sections 100.700 to 100.850 to the contrary notwithstanding,** the maximum calendar year annual tax credits issued **[**for the entire program shall not exceed eighty million dollars**] under this section and sections 100.700 to 100.850, in the aggregate, shall not exceed one hundred five million dollars. The director of the department may allocate tax credits, available for issuance under the provisions of sections 100.700 to 100.850, for authorization and issuance under the provisions of subdivision (6) of subsection 3 of this section to the extent such allocation when totaled with the amount of tax credits issued under the provisions of sections 100.700 to 100.850 does not exceed the limitations provided under subsection 5 of section 100.850. The maximum calendar year annual tax credits issued for all projects authorized pursuant to subdivisions (1) to (5) of subsection 3 of this section shall not exceed the amount authorized for issuance as of August 28, 2010, unless the director determines that the amount of show-me fund tax credits to be issued during the calendar year shall be less than sixty million dollars, in which case the director may authorize additional tax credits for projects authorized pursuant to subdivisions (1) to (5) of subsection 3 of this section, up to a maximum of eighty million dollars in any calendar year**. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the maximum annual tax credits authorized under section

135.535, RSMo, are hereby reduced from ten million dollars to eight million dollars, with the balance of two million dollars transferred to this program. There shall be no limit on the amount of withholding taxes that may be retained by approved companies under this program.

6. The department shall allocate the annual tax credits based on the date of the approval, reserving such tax credits based on the department's best estimate of new jobs and new payroll of the project, and the other factors in the determination of benefits of this program. However, the annual issuance of tax credits is subject to the annual verification of the actual new payroll. **Except as provided in subdivision (6) of subsection 3 of this section:**

(1) The allocation of tax credits for the period assigned to a project shall expire if, within two years from the date of commencement of operations, or approval if applicable, the minimum thresholds have not been achieved**[**.**];**

(2) The qualified company may retain authorized amounts from the withholding tax under this section once the minimum new jobs thresholds are met for the duration of the project period**[**.**];**

(3) No benefits shall be provided under this program until the qualified company meets the minimum new jobs thresholds**[**.**];**

(4) In the event the qualified company does not meet the minimum new job threshold, the qualified company may submit a new notice of intent or the department may provide a new approval for a new project of the qualified company at the project facility or other facilities.

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

8. Tax credits may be claimed against taxes otherwise imposed by chapters 143 and 148, RSMo, and may not be carried forward but shall be claimed within one year of the close of the taxable year for which they were issued, except as provided under subdivision (4) of subsection 3 of this section.

9. Tax credits 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.

10. 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, financial institutions and professional registration 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 at issuance credits shall be first applied to the delinquency and any amount issued shall be reduced by the applicant's tax delinquency. If the department of revenue or the department of insurance, financial institutions and professional registration, 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.

11. Except as provided under subdivision (4) of subsection 3 of this section, the director of revenue shall issue a refund to the qualified company to the extent that the amount of credits allowed in this section exceeds the amount of the qualified company's income tax.

12. An employee of a qualified company will receive full credit for the amount of tax withheld as provided in section 143.211, RSMo.

13. If any provision of sections 620.1875 to 620.1890 or application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or application of these sections which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or application, and to this end, the provisions of sections 620.1875 to 620.1890 are hereby declared severable.

✓