

**Effective 5/3/2023**

## **Chapter 21 Utah Innovation Lab Act**

### **Part 1 General Provisions**

#### **63N-21-101 Definitions.**

As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Board" means the board of directors of the innovation lab, as described in Section 63N-21-202.
- (2) "Innovation lab" means the Utah Innovation Lab created in Section 63N-21-201.
- (3) "Qualified business" means a business entity that:
  - (a) is established to commercialize a technology, product, or service developed through a technology commercialization program at a public or private institution of higher education in the state; and
  - (b) maintains the business's principal business operations in the state.
- (4) "Qualified investment" means any distribution or payment of funds to a qualified business from the Utah innovation fund, including:
  - (a) a direct investment of capital in a qualified business for the purchase of shares of stock;
  - (b) a secured loan or revolving line of credit to a qualified business; or
  - (c) a financial grant to a qualified business.
- (5) "Utah innovation fund" means a limited liability company organized under Section 63N-21-301.

Enacted by Chapter 38, 2023 General Session

### **Part 2 Utah Innovation Lab**

#### **63N-21-201 Creation of Utah Innovation Lab -- Status and applicability of other law -- Powers and purposes -- Dissolution.**

- (1) There is created the Utah Innovation Lab.
- (2) The innovation lab is:
  - (a) an independent, nonprofit, quasi-public corporation as defined in Section 63E-1-102; and
  - (b) subject to and governed by Sections 63E-2-106, 63E-2-107, 63E-2-108, 63E-2-109, 63E-2-110, and 63E-2-111, but is not otherwise subject to or governed by Title 63E, Independent Entities Code.
- (3) The innovation lab shall organize and administer the Utah innovation fund.
- (4) The innovation lab may:
  - (a) engage consultants and legal counsel;
  - (b) invest and expend funds;
  - (c) enter into contracts;
  - (d) insure against loss;
  - (e) receive private donations to be used by the Utah innovation fund for qualified investments;
  - (f) hire employees;

- (g) charge a fee on assets under management in the Utah innovation fund to pay for reasonable and necessary costs of the innovation lab, including the costs of the annual audit required under Section 63N-21-402; and
  - (h) perform any other act necessary to carry out the purposes of the innovation lab.
- (5) The innovation lab may not:
- (a) issue debt or borrow funds;
  - (b) exercise governmental functions;
  - (c) have members; or
  - (d) pledge the credit or taxing power of the state or any political subdivision of the state.
- (6) The innovation lab shall be liquidated and dissolved upon the dissolution of the Utah innovation fund.

Enacted by Chapter 38, 2023 General Session

**63N-21-202 Board of directors -- Membership -- Limitations.**

- (1) The innovation lab shall be governed by a board of directors which shall manage and conduct the business and affairs of the innovation lab.
- (2) The board shall consist of seven voting members as follows:
- (a) one individual who represents technology commercialization initiatives within the Utah system of higher education, appointed by the commissioner of higher education, or the individual's designee;
  - (b) one individual who leads technology commercialization efforts at the University of Utah, appointed by the president of the University of Utah, or the individual's designee;
  - (c) one individual who leads technology commercialization efforts at Utah State University, appointed by the president of Utah State University, or the individual's designee;
  - (d) the chief executive officer of World Trade Center Utah, or the chief executive officer's designee; and
  - (e) three representatives of private industry, appointed by the members described in Subsections (2)(a) through (d).
- (3)
- (a) A member described in Subsection (2)(e):
    - (i) shall serve a term of two years; and
    - (ii) may serve more than one term.
  - (b) If a vacancy occurs for a member described in Subsection (2)(e), the members described in Subsections (2)(a) through (d) shall appoint a replacement to serve the remainder of the member's term.
- (4)
- (a) The board may appoint up to two additional nonvoting members to provide industry and technical expertise.
  - (b) A member of the board appointed under Subsection (4)(a) serves at the pleasure of the board and may be removed and replaced at any time, with or without cause.
- (5) The board shall elect a chair from the board's members, who shall serve a two-year term.
- (6)
- (a) A majority of the members of the board constitutes a quorum of the board.
  - (b) The action by a majority of the members of a quorum constitutes the action of the board.
- (7) A member of the board:
- (a) is subject to any restrictions on conflicts of interest specified in the organizational documents of the innovation lab;

- (b) shall annually disclose any private equity interests to the innovation lab;
- (c) may not participate in a vote by the board related to a qualified investment by the Utah innovation fund, if the member has an interest in the qualified investment; and
- (d) may not receive compensation or benefits for the member's service.

Enacted by Chapter 38, 2023 General Session

**63N-21-203 Board duties and powers.**

- (1) The board shall:
  - (a) manage and conduct the business and affairs of the innovation lab and determine all questions of innovation lab policy;
  - (b) consistent with this chapter, establish policies, procedures, and strategies for the administration of the Utah innovation fund, including eligibility criteria, application requirements, performance metrics, and reporting requirements for a qualified business to receive a qualified investment from the Utah innovation fund; and
  - (c) approve any decision of the Utah innovation fund to make a qualified investment.
- (2) The board may establish independent committees for the purpose of assisting the board in an advisory role.

Enacted by Chapter 38, 2023 General Session

**Part 3  
Utah Innovation Fund**

**63N-21-301 Organization of Utah innovation fund -- Powers and purposes -- Use of investment proceeds.**

- (1)
  - (a) The innovation lab shall organize, and be the sole member and manager of, the Utah innovation fund.
  - (b) The Utah innovation fund shall be organized as a limited liability company.
  - (c) The Utah innovation fund may:
    - (i) engage consultants and legal counsel;
    - (ii) invest and expend funds;
    - (iii) enter into contracts;
    - (iv) insure against loss;
    - (v) hire employees; and
    - (vi) perform any other act necessary to carry out the purposes of the Utah innovation fund.
- (2) The Utah innovation fund shall, subject to board approval, make qualified investments in a manner and for the following purposes:
  - (a) to advance innovative technologies developed in Utah;
  - (b) to strengthen Utah's economy and facilitate job creation;
  - (c) to help qualified businesses gain access to capital;
  - (d) to attract entrepreneurs and innovation to Utah;
  - (e) to facilitate the commercialization of technologies discovered, advanced, or developed at state institutions of higher education;
  - (f) to advance the competitiveness of Utah businesses in the global economy;

- (g) to ensure that the Utah innovation fund remains financially self-sustaining; and
  - (h) to encourage other investors to invest in qualified businesses alongside the Utah innovation fund.
- (3) The Utah innovation fund shall hold and manage qualified investments made by the Utah innovation fund and the proceeds of those qualified investments.

Enacted by Chapter 38, 2023 General Session

## **Part 4**

### **Reporting and Audit Requirements**

#### **63N-21-401 Annual report.**

- (1) On or before September 1 of each year, the innovation lab shall publish an annual report of the activities conducted by the Utah innovation fund and submit, in accordance with Section 68-3-14, the written report to:
- (a) the governor;
  - (b) the Business, Economic Development, and Labor Appropriations Subcommittee;
  - (c) the Economic Development and Workforce Services Interim Committee; and
  - (d) the Retirement and Independent Entities Interim Committee.
- (2) The annual report shall:
- (a) be designed to provide clear, accurate, and accessible information to the public, the governor, and the Legislature;
  - (b) include a copy of the annual audit required under Section 63N-21-402;
  - (c) describe the policies adopted by the board under Subsection 63N-21-203(1)(b);
  - (d) include detailed information regarding:
    - (i) the name and location of each qualified business that received capital from the Utah innovation fund;
    - (ii) the amount of each qualified investment made by the Utah innovation fund;
    - (iii) the aggregate amount of capital provided to qualified businesses;
    - (iv) realized gains from qualified investments and any realized losses; and
    - (v) unrealized gains and any unrealized losses based on the net present value of ongoing qualified investments;
  - (e) include detailed information regarding the innovation lab's yearly expenditures, including:
    - (i) administrative, operating, and financing expenses; and
    - (ii) aggregate compensation information for full-time and part-time employees, including benefit and travel expenses;
  - (f) include detailed information regarding all funding sources for administrative, operating, and financing expenses, including any fees charged by the innovation lab to the Utah innovation fund under Subsection 63N-21-201(4)(g); and
  - (g) include an explanation of the Utah innovation fund's progress in achieving the purposes described in Subsection 63N-21-301(2).

Enacted by Chapter 38, 2023 General Session

#### **63N-21-402 Annual audit.**

- (1) Each calendar year, an audit of the activities of the Utah innovation fund shall be conducted by:

- (a) the state auditor; or
  - (b) an independent auditor engaged by the state auditor.
- (2) An independent auditor described in Subsection (1)(b) may not have a business, contractual, or other connection to the innovation lab or the Utah innovation fund.
- (3) The annual audit shall:
- (a) include a valuation of the assets owned by the Utah innovation fund as of the end of the reporting year, using market-standard techniques for assets typically held by early stage private investment and venture capital funds;
  - (b) include an opinion regarding the accuracy of the information provided in the annual report described in Section 63N-21-401; and
  - (c) on or before September 1, be delivered to:
    - (i) the innovation lab; and
    - (ii) the state treasurer.
- (4) The innovation lab shall pay the costs associated with the annual audit.

Enacted by Chapter 38, 2023 General Session