

Representative Jon Cox proposes the following substitute bill:

HIGH COST INFRASTRUCTURE TAX CREDITS

2015 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Ralph Okerlund

House Sponsor: Jon Cox

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies provisions related to tax credits for infrastructure development projects.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ directs the Office of Energy Development to issue a tax credit certificate to an entity developing a high cost infrastructure project under certain circumstances; and
- ▶ provides tax credit eligibility criteria for an entity developing a high cost infrastructure project.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

63M-4-401, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2012, Chapters 37 and 410

ENACTS:

59-7-618, Utah Code Annotated 1953



- 26 [59-10-1033](#), Utah Code Annotated 1953
 - 27 [63M-4-601](#), Utah Code Annotated 1953
 - 28 [63M-4-602](#), Utah Code Annotated 1953
 - 29 [63M-4-603](#), Utah Code Annotated 1953
 - 30 [63M-4-604](#), Utah Code Annotated 1953
 - 31 [63M-4-605](#), Utah Code Annotated 1953
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33 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

34 Section 1. Section **59-7-618** is enacted to read:

35 **59-7-618. Nonrefundable high cost infrastructure development tax credit.**

36 (1) As used in this section:

37 (a) "High cost infrastructure project" means the same as that term is defined in Section
38 [63M-4-602](#).

39 (b) "Infrastructure cost-burdened entity" means the same as that term is defined in
40 Section [63M-4-602](#).

41 (c) "Infrastructure-related revenue" means the same as that term is defined in Section
42 [63M-4-602](#).

43 (d) "Office" means the Office of Energy Development created in Section [63M-4-401](#).

44 (2) Subject to the other provisions of this section, a corporation that is an infrastructure
45 cost-burdened entity may claim a nonrefundable tax credit for development of a high cost
46 infrastructure project as provided in this section.

47 (3) The tax credit under this section is the amount listed as the tax credit amount on a
48 tax credit certificate that the office issues under Title 63M, Chapter 4, Part 6, High Cost
49 Infrastructure Development Tax Credit Act, to the infrastructure cost-burdened entity for the
50 taxable year.

51 (4) An infrastructure cost-burdened entity may carry forward a tax credit under this
52 section for a period that does not exceed the next seven taxable years if:

53 (a) the infrastructure cost-burdened entity is allowed to claim a tax credit under this
54 section for a taxable year; and

55 (b) the amount of the tax credit exceeds the infrastructure cost-burdened entity's tax
56 liability under this chapter for that taxable year.

57 (5) (a) On or before October 1, 2020, and every five years after October 1, 2020, the
58 Revenue and Taxation Interim Committee shall study the tax credit allowed by this section and
59 make recommendations to the Legislative Management Committee concerning whether the tax
60 credit should be continued, modified, or repealed.

61 (b) For purposes of the study required by this Subsection (5), the office shall provide
62 the following information to the Revenue and Taxation Interim Committee:

63 (i) the amount of tax credit that the office grants to each infrastructure cost-burdened
64 entity for each taxable year;

65 (ii) the infrastructure-related revenue generated by each high cost infrastructure project;

66 (iii) the information contained in the office's latest report to the Legislature under
67 Section [63M-4-505](#); and

68 (iv) any other information that the Revenue and Taxation Interim Committee requests.

69 (c) The Revenue and Taxation Interim Committee shall ensure that the Revenue and
70 Taxation Interim Committee's recommendations under Subsection (5)(a) include an evaluation
71 of:

72 (i) the cost of the tax credit to the state;

73 (ii) the purpose and effectiveness of the tax credit; and

74 (iii) the extent to which the state benefits from the tax credit.

75 Section 2. Section **59-10-1033** is enacted to read:

76 **59-10-1033. Nonrefundable high cost infrastructure development tax credit.**

77 (1) As used in this section:

78 (a) "High cost infrastructure project" means the same as that term is defined in Section
79 [63M-4-602](#).

80 (b) "Infrastructure cost-burdened entity" means the same as that term is defined in
81 Section [63M-4-602](#).

82 (c) "Infrastructure-related revenue" means the same as that term is defined in Section
83 [63M-4-602](#).

84 (d) "Office" means the Office of Energy Development created in Section [63M-4-401](#)

85 (2) Subject to the other provisions of this section, a claimant, estate, or trust that is an
86 infrastructure cost-burdened entity may claim a nonrefundable tax credit for development of a
87 high cost infrastructure project as provided in this section.

88 (3) The tax credit under this section is the amount listed as the tax credit amount on a
89 tax credit certificate that the office issues under Title 63M, Chapter 4, Part 6, High Cost
90 Infrastructure Development Tax Credit Act, to the infrastructure cost-burdened entity for the
91 taxable year.

92 (4) An infrastructure cost-burdened entity may carry forward a tax credit under this
93 section for a period that does not exceed the next seven taxable years if:

94 (a) the infrastructure cost-burdened entity is allowed to claim a tax credit under this
95 section for a taxable year; and

96 (b) the amount of the tax credit exceeds the infrastructure cost-burdened entity's tax
97 liability under this chapter for that taxable year.

98 (5) (a) On or before October 1, 2020, and every five years after October 1, 2020, the
99 Revenue and Taxation Interim Committee shall study the tax credit allowed by this section and
100 make recommendations to the Legislative Management Committee concerning whether the tax
101 credit should be continued, modified, or repealed.

102 (b) For purposes of the study required by this Subsection (5), the office shall provide
103 the following information to the Revenue and Taxation Interim Committee:

104 (i) the amount of tax credit that the office grants to each infrastructure cost-burdened
105 entity for each taxable year;

106 (ii) the infrastructure-related revenue generated by each high cost infrastructure project;

107 (iii) the information contained in the office's latest report to the Legislature under

108 Section [63M-4-505](#); and

109 (iv) any other information that the Revenue and Taxation Interim Committee requests.

110 (c) The Revenue and Taxation Interim Committee shall ensure that the Revenue and
111 Taxation Interim Committee's recommendations under Subsection (5)(a) include an evaluation
112 of:

113 (i) the cost of the tax credit to the state;

114 (ii) the purpose and effectiveness of the tax credit; and

115 (iii) the extent to which the state benefits from the tax credit.

116 Section 3. Section **63M-4-401** is amended to read:

117 **63M-4-401. Creation of Office of Energy Development -- Director -- Purpose --**
118 **Rulemaking regarding confidential information.**

- 119 (1) There is created an Office of Energy Development.
- 120 (2) (a) The governor's energy advisor shall appoint a director of the office.
- 121 (b) The director shall report to the governor's energy advisor and may appoint staff as
- 122 funding within existing budgets allows.
- 123 (c) The office may consolidate energy staff and functions existing in the State Energy
- 124 Program.
- 125 (3) The purposes of the office are to:
- 126 (a) serve as the primary resource for advancing energy development in the state; and
- 127 (b) implement:
- 128 (i) the state energy policy under Section 63M-4-301; and
- 129 (ii) the governor's energy goals and objectives.
- 130 (4) By following the procedures and requirements of Title 63J, Chapter 5, Federal
- 131 Funds Procedures Act, the office may:
- 132 (a) seek federal grants or loans;
- 133 (b) seek to participate in federal programs; and
- 134 (c) in accordance with applicable federal program guidelines, administer federally
- 135 funded state energy programs.
- 136 (5) The office shall perform the duties required by Sections 59-7-614.7 [and],
- 137 59-10-1029 [and], Part 5, Alternative Energy Development Tax Credit Act, and Part 6, High
- 138 Cost Infrastructure Development Tax Credit Act.
- 139 (6) (a) For purposes of administering this section, the office may make rules, by
- 140 following the procedures and requirements of Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative
- 141 Rulemaking Act, to maintain as confidential, and not as a public record, information that the
- 142 office receives from any source.
- 143 (b) The office shall maintain information the office receives from any source at the
- 144 level of confidentiality assigned by the source.

145 Section 4. Section 63M-4-601 is enacted to read:

146 **Part 6. High Cost Infrastructure Development Tax Credit Act**

147 **63M-4-601. Title.**

148 This part is known as the "High Cost Infrastructure Development Tax Credit Act."

149 Section 5. Section 63M-4-602 is enacted to read:

150 63M-4-602. Definitions.

151 As used in this part:

152 (1) "Applicant" means a person that conducts business in the state and that applies for a
153 tax credit under this part.

154 (2) "Fuel standard compliance project" means a project designed to retrofit a fuel
155 refinery in order to make the refinery capable of producing fuel that complies with the United
156 States Environmental Protection Agency's Tier 3 gasoline sulfur standard described in 40
157 C.F.R. Sec. 79.54.

158 (3) "High cost infrastructure project" means:

159 (a) (i) a project that expands or creates new industrial, mining, manufacturing, or
160 agriculture activity in the state, not including a retail business; or

161 (ii) new investment of at least \$50,000,000 in an existing industrial, mining,
162 manufacturing, or agriculture entity, by the entity;

163 (b) that requires or is directly facilitated by infrastructure construction; and

164 (c) for which the cost of infrastructure construction to the entity creating the project is
165 greater than:

166 (i) 10% of the total cost of the project; or

167 (ii) \$10,000,000.

168 (4) "Infrastructure" means:

169 (a) an energy delivery project as defined in Section [63H-2-102](#);

170 (b) a railroad as defined in Section [54-2-1](#);

171 (c) a fuel standard compliance project;

172 (d) a road improvement project;

173 (e) a water self-supply project;

174 (f) a water removal system project; or

175 (g) a project that is designed to:

176 (i) increase the capacity for water delivery to a water user in the state; or

177 (ii) increase the capability of an existing water delivery system or related facility to
178 deliver water to a water user in the state.

179 (5) (a) "Infrastructure cost-burdened entity" means an applicant that enters into an
180 agreement, with the office that, qualifies the applicant to receive a tax credit as provided in this

181 part.

182 (b) "Infrastructure cost-burdened entity" includes a pass-through entity taxpayer, as
 183 defined in Section 59-10-1402, of a person described in Subsection (5)(a).

184 (6) "Infrastructure-related revenue" means an amount of tax revenue, for an entity
 185 creating a high cost infrastructure project, in a taxable year that is directly attributable to a high
 186 cost infrastructure project, under:

187 (a) Title 59, Chapter 7, Corporate Franchise and Income Taxes;

188 (b) Title 59, Chapter 10, Individual Income Tax Act; and

189 (c) Title 59, Chapter 12, Sales and Use Tax Act.

190 (7) "Office" means the Office of Energy Development created in Section 63M-4-401.

191 (8) "Tax credit" means a tax credit under Section 59-7-618 or 59-10-1033.

192 (9) "Tax credit certificate" means a certificate issued by the office to an infrastructure
 193 cost-burdened entity that:

194 (a) lists the name of the infrastructure cost-burdened entity;

195 (b) lists the infrastructure cost-burdened entity's taxpayer identification number;

196 (c) lists, for a taxable year, the amount of the tax credit authorized for the infrastructure
 197 cost-burdened entity under this part; and

198 (d) includes other information as determined by the office.

199 Section 6. Section **63M-4-603** is enacted to read:

200 **63M-4-603. Tax credit -- Amount -- Eligibility -- Reporting.**

201 (1) Before the office enters into an agreement described in Subsection (3) with an
 202 applicant regarding a project, the office, in consultation with the Utah Energy Infrastructure
 203 Authority Board created in Section 63H-2-202, and other state agencies as necessary, shall, in
 204 accordance with the procedures described in Section 63M-4-604, certify:

205 (a) that the project meets the definition of a high cost infrastructure project under this
 206 part;

207 (b) that the high cost infrastructure project will generate infrastructure-related revenue;

208 (c) the economic life of the high cost infrastructure project; and

209 (d) that the applicant has received a certificate of good standing from the Division of
 210 Corporations and Commercial Code.

211 (2) (a) Before the office enters into an agreement described in Subsection (3) with an

212 applicant regarding a project, the Utah Energy Infrastructure Authority Board shall evaluate the
213 project's benefit to the state, based on whether the project:

214 (i) is likely to increase the property tax revenue for the municipality or county where
215 the project will be located;

216 (ii) would provide new infrastructure for an area where the type of infrastructure the
217 project would create is underdeveloped;

218 (iii) would have a positive environmental impact on the state;

219 (iv) would upgrade or improve an existing entity in order to ensure the entity's
220 continued operation and economic viability; and

221 (v) is less likely to be completed without a tax credit issued to the applicant under this
222 part.

223 (b) The Utah Energy Infrastructure Authority Board may recommend that the office
224 deny an applicant a tax credit if the applicant's project does not, as determined by the Utah
225 Energy Infrastructure Authority Board, sufficiently benefit the state based on the criteria
226 described in Subsection (2)(a).

227 (3) Subject to the procedures described in Section [63M-4-604](#), if an applicant meets the
228 requirements of Subsection (1) to receive a tax credit, and the applicant's project receives a
229 favorable recommendation from the Utah Energy Infrastructure Authority Board under
230 Subsection (2), the office shall enter into an agreement with the applicant to authorize the tax
231 credit in accordance with this part.

232 (4) The office shall grant a tax credit to an infrastructure cost-burdened entity, for a
233 high cost infrastructure project, under an agreement described in Subsection (3):

234 (a) for the lesser of:

235 (i) the economic life of the high cost infrastructure project;

236 (ii) 20 years; or

237 (iii) a time period, the first taxable year of which is the taxable year when the
238 construction of the high cost infrastructure project begins and the last taxable year of which is
239 the taxable year in which the infrastructure cost-burdened entity has recovered, through the tax
240 credit, an amount equal to 50% of the cost of the infrastructure construction associated with the
241 high cost infrastructure project;

242 (b) except as provided in Subsections (4)(a) and (d), in a total amount equal to 30% of

243 the high cost infrastructure project's total infrastructure-related revenue over the time period
244 described in Subsection (4)(a);

245 (c) for a taxable year, in an amount that does not exceed the high cost infrastructure
246 project's infrastructure-related revenue during that taxable year; and

247 (d) if the high cost infrastructure project is a fuel standard compliance project, in a total
248 amount that is:

249 (i) determined by the Utah Energy Infrastructure Authority Board, based on:

250 (A) the applicant's likelihood of completing the high cost infrastructure project without
251 a tax credit; and

252 (B) how soon the applicant plans to complete the high cost infrastructure project; and

253 (ii) equal to or less than 30% of the high cost infrastructure project's total
254 infrastructure-related revenue over the time period described in Subsection (4)(a).

255 (5) An infrastructure cost-burdened entity shall, for each taxable year:

256 (a) file a report with the office showing the high cost infrastructure project's
257 infrastructure-related revenue during the taxable year;

258 (b) subject to Subsection (7), file a report with the office that is prepared by an
259 independent certified public accountant that verifies the infrastructure-related revenue
260 described in Subsection (5)(a); and

261 (c) provide the office with information required by the office to certify the economic
262 life of the high cost infrastructure project.

263 (6) An infrastructure cost-burdened entity shall retain records supporting a claim for a
264 tax credit for the same period of time during which a person is required to keep books and
265 records under Section [59-1-1406](#).

266 (7) An infrastructure cost-burdened entity for which a report is prepared under
267 Subsection (5)(b) shall pay the costs of preparing the report.

268 (8) The office shall certify, for each taxable year, the infrastructure-related revenue
269 generated by an infrastructure cost-burdened entity.

270 Section 7. Section **63M-4-604** is enacted to read:

271 **63M-4-604. Tax credit -- Application procedure.**

272 (1) An applicant shall provide the office with:

273 (a) an application for a tax credit certificate;

274 (b) documentation that the applicant meets the requirements described in Subsection
275 63M-4-603(1), to the satisfaction of the office, for the taxable year for which the applicant
276 seeks to claim a tax credit; and

277 (c) documentation that expressly directs and authorizes the State Tax Commission to
278 disclose to the office the applicant's returns and other information concerning the applicant that
279 would otherwise be subject to confidentiality under Section 59-1-403 or Section 6103, Internal
280 Revenue Code.

281 (2) (a) The office shall, for an applicant, submit the documentation described in
282 Subsection (1)(c) to the State Tax Commission.

283 (b) Upon receipt of the documentation described in Subsection (1)(c), the State Tax
284 Commission shall provide the office with the documentation described in Subsection (1)(c).

285 (3) If, after the office reviews the documentation from the State Tax Commission
286 under Subsection (2)(b) and the information the applicant submits to the office under Section
287 63M-4-603 the office, in consultation with the Utah Energy Infrastructure Authority Board
288 created in Section 63H-2-202, determines that the applicant is not eligible for the tax credit
289 under Section 63M-4-603, or that the applicant's documentation is inadequate, the office shall:

290 (a) deny the tax credit; or

291 (b) inform the applicant that the documentation supporting the applicant's claim for a
292 tax credit was inadequate and request that the applicant supplement the applicant's
293 documentation.

294 (4) Except as provided in Subsection (5), if after the office reviews the documentation
295 described in Subsection (2)(b) and the information described in Subsection 63M-4-603(6) the
296 office, in consultation with the Utah Energy Infrastructure Authority Board created in Section
297 63H-2-202, determines that the documentation supporting an applicant's claim for a tax credit
298 adequately demonstrates that the applicant is eligible for the tax credit under Section
299 63M-4-603, the office shall, on the basis of the documentation:

300 (a) enter, with the applicant, into the agreement described in Subsection 63M-4-603(3);

301 (b) issue a tax credit certificate to the applicant; and

302 (c) provide a duplicate copy of the tax credit certificate described in Subsection (4)(b)
303 to the State Tax Commission.

304 (5) The office may deny an applicant a tax credit based on the recommendation of the

305 Utah Energy Infrastructure Authority Board, as provided in Subsection [63M-4-603\(2\)](#).

306 (6) An infrastructure cost-burdened entity may not claim a tax credit under Section
307 [59-7-516](#) or [59-10-1033](#) unless the infrastructure cost-burdened entity receives a tax credit
308 certificate from the office.

309 (7) An infrastructure cost-burdened entity that claims a tax credit shall retain the tax
310 credit certificate in accordance with Subsection [63M-4-603\(7\)](#).

311 (8) Except for the information that is necessary for the office to disclose in order to
312 make the report described in Section [63M-4-605](#), the office shall treat a document an applicant
313 or infrastructure cost-burdened entity provides to the office as a protected record under Section
314 [63G-2-305](#).

315 Section 8. Section **63M-4-605** is enacted to read:

316 **63M-4-605. Report to the Legislature.**

317 The office shall report annually to the Public Utilities and Technology Interim
318 Committee and the Revenue and Taxation Interim Committee describing:

319 (1) the office's success in attracting high cost infrastructure projects to the state and the
320 resulting increase in infrastructure-related revenue under this part;

321 (2) the amount of tax credits the office has granted or will grant and the time period
322 during which the tax credits have been or will be granted; and

323 (3) the economic impact on the state by comparing infrastructure-related revenue to tax
324 credits that have been or will be granted under this part.

325 Section 9. **Effective date.**

326 (1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), this bill takes effect on May 12, 2015.

327 (2) The actions affecting the following sections take effect for a taxable year beginning
328 on or after January 1, 2016:

329 (a) Section [59-7-618](#); and

330 (b) Section [59-10-1033](#).