

Representative Carl R. Albrecht proposes the following substitute bill:

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TAX INCREMENT

FINANCING

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Carl R. Albrecht

Senate Sponsor: Derrin R. Owens

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies provisions related to economic development tax increment financing.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms, including modifying the definitions of "new commercial project," "high paying job," and "significant capital investment," related to new commercial projects located in rural areas of the state;
- ▶ modifies provisions related to the authorization of tax credits by the Governor's Office of Economic Development for new commercial projects located in rural areas of the state;
- ▶ modifies the types of new commercial projects that may qualify for tax credits authorized by the Governor's Office of Economic Development; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None



26 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

27 AMENDS:

28 **63N-1-102**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 465

29 **63N-2-103**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapters 399, 465, 498 and last
30 amended by Coordination Clause, Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 465

31 **63N-2-104**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 281

32 **63N-2-105**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2016, Chapter 350

33

34 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

35 Section 1. Section **63N-1-102** is amended to read:

36 **63N-1-102. Definitions.**

37 As used in this title:

38 (1) "Baseline jobs" means the number of full-time employee positions that existed
39 within a business entity in the state before the date on which a project related to the business
40 entity is approved by the office or by the board.

41 (2) "Baseline state revenue" means the amount of state tax revenue collected from a
42 business entity or the employees of a business entity during the year before the date on which a
43 project related to the business entity is approved by the office or by the board.

44 (3) "Board" means the Board of Business and Economic Development created in
45 Section **63N-1-401**.

46 (4) "Council" means the Governor's Economic Development Coordinating Council
47 created in Section **63N-1-501**.

48 (5) "Executive director" means the executive director of the office.

49 (6) "Full-time employee" means an employment position that is filled by an employee
50 who works at least 30 hours per week and:

51 (a) may include an employment position filled by more than one employee, if each
52 employee who works less than 30 hours per week is provided benefits comparable to a
53 full-time employee; and

54 (b) may not include an employment position that is shifted from one jurisdiction in the
55 state to another jurisdiction in the state.

56 (7) "High paying job" means a newly created full-time employee position where the

57 aggregate average annual gross wage of the employment position, not including health care or
58 other paid or unpaid benefits, is:

59 (a) at least 110% of the average wage of the county in which the employment position
60 exists[-]; or

61 (b) for an employment position related to a project described in Chapter 2, Part 1,
62 Economic Development Tax Increment Financing, and that is located within the boundary of a
63 county of the third, fourth, fifth, or sixth class, or located within a municipality in a county of
64 the second class and where the municipality has a population of 10,000 or less:

65 (i) at least 100% of the average wage of the county in which the employment position
66 exists; or

67 (ii) an amount determined by rule made by the office in accordance with Title 63G,
68 Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, if the office determines the project is in a
69 county experiencing economic distress.

70 (8) (a) "Incremental job" means a full-time employment position in the state that:

71 [~~(a)~~] (i) did not exist within a business entity in the state before the beginning of a
72 project related to the business entity; and

73 [~~(b)~~] (ii) is created in addition to the number of baseline jobs that existed within a
74 business entity.

75 (b) "Incremental job" includes a full-time employment position where the employee is
76 hired:

77 (i) directly by a business entity; or

78 (ii) by a professional employer organization, as defined in Section 31A-40-102, on
79 behalf of a business entity.

80 (9) "New state revenue" means the state revenue collected from a business entity or a
81 business entity's employees during a calendar year minus the baseline state revenue calculation.

82 (10) "Office" or "GOED" means the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

83 (11) "State revenue" means state tax liability paid by a business entity or a business
84 entity's employees under any combination of the following provisions:

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

86 (b) Title 59, Chapter 10, Part 1, Determination and Reporting of Tax Liability and
87 Information;

- 88 (c) Title 59, Chapter 10, Part 2, Trusts and Estates;
 89 (d) Title 59, Chapter 10, Part 4, Withholding of Tax; and
 90 (e) Title 59, Chapter 12, Sales and Use Tax Act.

91 Section 2. Section **63N-2-103** is amended to read:

92 **63N-2-103. Definitions.**

93 As used in this part:

94 (1) "Authority" means:

- 95 (a) the Utah Inland Port Authority, created in Section [11-58-201](#); or
 96 (b) the Military Installation Development Authority, created in Section [63H-1-201](#).

97 (2) "Authority project area" means a project area of:

- 98 (a) the Utah Inland Port Authority, created in Section [11-58-201](#); or
 99 (b) the Military Installation Development Authority, created in Section [63H-1-201](#).

100 (3) ~~Ĥ~~ **(a)** ~~Ĥ~~ "Business entity" means a person that enters into an agreement with the
 100a office to
 101 initiate a new commercial project in Utah that will qualify the person to receive a tax credit
 102 under Section [59-7-614.2](#) or [59-10-1107](#).

102a ~~Ĥ~~ **(b) With respect to a tax credit authorized by the office in accordance with**
 102b **Subsection 63N-2-104(3)(c)(ii), "business entity" includes a nonprofit entity.** ~~Ĥ~~

103 (4) "Community reinvestment agency" has the same meaning as that term is defined in
 104 Section [17C-1-102](#).

105 (5) "Development zone" means an economic development zone created under Section
 106 [63N-2-104](#).

107 (6) "Local government entity" means a county, city, town, or authority that enters into
 108 an agreement with the office to have a new commercial project that:

109 (a) is [~~initiated~~] located within:

- 110 (i) the boundary of the county, city, or town; or
 111 (ii) an authority project area; and

112 (b) qualifies the county, city, town, or authority to receive a tax credit under Section
 113 [59-7-614.2](#).

114 (7) (a) "New commercial project" means an economic development opportunity that
 115 involves new or expanded industrial, manufacturing, agricultural, mining, distribution, or
 116 business services in Utah.

117 (b) "New commercial project" does not include retail business.

118 [~~(8) "Significant capital investment" means an amount of at least \$10,000,000 to~~

119 ~~purchase capital or fixed assets, which may include real property, personal property, and other~~
 120 ~~fixtures related to a new commercial project:]~~

121 ~~[(a) that represents an expansion of existing operations in the state; or]~~

122 ~~[(b) that maintains or increases the business entity's existing work force in the state.]~~

123 (8) "Significant capital investment" means an investment in capital or fixed assets in
 124 the following amounts, which may include real property, personal property, and other fixtures
 125 related to a new commercial project that represents an expansion of existing operations in the
 126 state or that increases the business entity's existing workforce in the state:

127 (a) except as described in Subsection (8)(b), an amount of at least \$10,000,000 for a
 128 new commercial project located within the boundary of a county of the first or second class;

129 (b) an amount of at least \$500,000 for a new commercial project located within the
 130 boundary of a county of the third or fourth class, or located within a municipality in a county of
 131 the second class and where the municipality has a population of 10,000 or less;

132 (c) an amount of at least \$250,000 for a new commercial project located within the
 133 boundary of a county of the fifth or sixth class; or

134 (d) an amount determined by rule made by the office in accordance with 63G, Chapter
 135 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.

136 (9) "Tax credit" means an economic development tax credit created by Section
 137 59-7-614.2 or 59-10-1107.

138 (10) "Tax credit amount" means the amount the office lists as a tax credit on a tax
 139 credit certificate for a taxable year.

140 (11) "Tax credit certificate" means a certificate issued by the office that:

141 (a) lists the name of the business entity, local government entity, or community
 142 development and renewal agency to which the office authorizes a tax credit;

143 (b) lists the business entity's, local government entity's, or community development and
 144 renewal agency's taxpayer identification number;

145 (c) lists the amount of tax credit that the office authorizes the business entity, local
 146 government entity, or community development and renewal agency for the taxable year; and

147 (d) may include other information as determined by the office.

148 Section 3. Section **63N-2-104** is amended to read:

149 **63N-2-104. Creation of economic development zones -- Tax credits -- Assignment**

150 **of tax credit.**

151 (1) The office, with advice from the board, may create an economic development zone
152 in the state if the following requirements are satisfied:

153 (a) the area is zoned agricultural, commercial, industrial, manufacturing, business park,
154 research park, or other appropriate business related use in a community-approved master plan;

155 (b) the request to create a development zone has first been approved by an appropriate
156 local government entity; and

157 (c) local incentives have been or will be committed to be provided within the area.

158 (2) (a) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act,
159 the office shall make rules establishing the requirements for a business entity or local
160 government entity to qualify for a tax credit for a new commercial project in a development
161 zone under this part.

162 (b) The office shall ensure that the requirements described in Subsection (2)(a) include
163 the following:

164 (i) the new commercial project is within the development zone;

165 (ii) the new commercial project includes direct investment within the geographic
166 boundaries of the development zone;

167 (iii) the new commercial project brings new incremental jobs to Utah;

168 (iv) the new commercial project includes the creation of high paying jobs in the state,
169 significant capital investment in the state, or significant purchases from vendors, contractors, or
170 service providers in the state, or a combination of these three economic factors;

171 (v) the new commercial project generates new state revenues; and

172 (vi) a business entity, a local government entity, or a community reinvestment agency
173 to which a local government entity assigns a tax credit under this section meets the
174 requirements of Section [63N-2-105](#).

175 (3) (a) The office, after consultation with the board, may enter into a written agreement
176 with a business entity or local government entity authorizing a tax credit to the business entity
177 or local government entity if the business entity or local government entity meets the
178 requirements described in this section.

179 (b) (i) With respect to a new commercial project, the office may authorize a tax credit
180 to a business entity or a local government entity, but not both.

181 (ii) In determining whether to authorize a tax credit with respect to a new commercial
182 project to a business entity or a local government entity, the office shall authorize the tax credit
183 in a manner that the office determines will result in providing the most effective incentive for
184 the new commercial project.

185 (c) (i) Except as provided in Subsection ~~[(3)(c)(ii);~~ (3)(c)(ii)(A), for a new commercial
186 project that is located within the boundary of a county of the first or second class, the office
187 may not authorize or commit to authorize a tax credit that exceeds:

188 (A) 50% of the new state revenues from the new commercial project in any given year;
189 or

190 (B) 30% of the new state revenues from the new commercial project over the lesser of
191 the life of a new commercial project or 20 years.

192 (ii) If the office authorizes or commits to authorize a tax credit for a new commercial
193 project located within the boundary of:

194 (A) a municipality with a population of 10,000 or less located within a county of the
195 second class and that is experiencing economic hardship as determined by the office, the office
196 shall authorize a tax credit of up to 50% of new state revenues from the new commercial
197 project over the lesser of the life of the new commercial project or 20 years;

198 (B) a county of the third class, the office shall authorize a tax credit of up to 50% of
199 new state revenues from the new commercial project over the lesser of the life of the new
200 commercial project or 20 years; and

201 (C) a county of the fourth, fifth, or sixth class, the office shall authorize a tax credit of
202 50% of new state revenues from the new commercial project over the lesser of the life of the
203 new commercial project or 20 years.

204 (iii) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, the office may not authorize
205 a tax credit under this section for a business entity that has claimed a High Cost Infrastructure
206 Development Tax Credit described in Section 63M-4-603 related to the same new commercial
207 project.

208 ~~[(ii) If the eligible business entity makes capital expenditures in the state of~~
209 ~~\$1,500,000,000 or more associated with a new commercial project, the office may:]~~

210 ~~[(A) authorize or commit to authorize a tax credit not exceeding 60% of new state~~
211 ~~revenues over the lesser of the life of the project or 20 years, if the other requirements of this~~

212 ~~part are met;]~~

213 ~~[(B) establish the year that state revenues and incremental jobs baseline data are~~
214 ~~measured for purposes of an incentive under this Subsection (3)(c)(ii); and]~~

215 ~~[(C) offer an incentive under this Subsection (3)(c)(ii) or modify an existing incentive~~
216 ~~previously granted under Subsection (3)(c)(i) that is based on the baseline measurements~~
217 ~~described in Subsection (3)(c)(ii)(B), except that the incentive may not authorize or commit to~~
218 ~~authorize a tax credit of more than 60% of new state revenues in any one year.]~~

219 (d) (i) A local government entity may by resolution assign a tax credit authorized by
220 the office to a community reinvestment agency.

221 (ii) The local government entity shall provide a copy of the resolution described in
222 Subsection (3)(d)(i) to the office.

223 (iii) If a local government entity assigns a tax credit to a community reinvestment
224 agency, the written agreement described in Subsection (3)(a) shall:

225 (A) be between the office, the local government entity, and the community
226 reinvestment agency;

227 (B) establish the obligations of the local government entity and the community
228 reinvestment agency; and

229 (C) establish the extent to which any of the local government entity's obligations are
230 transferred to the community reinvestment agency.

231 (iv) If a local government entity assigns a tax credit to a community reinvestment
232 agency:

233 (A) the community reinvestment agency shall retain records as described in Subsection
234 (4)(d); and

235 (B) a tax credit certificate issued in accordance with Section [63N-2-105](#) shall list the
236 community reinvestment agency as the named applicant.

237 (4) The office shall ensure that the written agreement described in Subsection (3):

238 (a) specifies the requirements that the business entity or local government entity shall
239 meet to qualify for a tax credit under this part;

240 (b) specifies the maximum amount of tax credit that the business entity or local
241 government entity may be authorized for a taxable year and over the life of the new commercial
242 project;

243 (c) establishes the length of time the business entity or local government entity may
244 claim a tax credit;

245 (d) requires the business entity or local government entity to retain records supporting a
246 claim for a tax credit for at least four years after the business entity or local government entity
247 claims a tax credit under this part; and

248 (e) requires the business entity or local government entity to submit to audits for
249 verification of the tax credit claimed.

250 Section 4. Section 63N-2-105 is amended to read:

251 **63N-2-105. Qualifications for tax credit -- Procedure.**

252 (1) The office shall certify a business entity's or local government entity's eligibility for
253 a tax credit as provided in this part.

254 (2) A business entity or local government entity seeking to receive a tax credit as
255 provided in this part shall provide the office with:

256 (a) an application for a tax credit certificate, including a certification, by an officer of
257 the business entity, of any signature on the application;

258 (b) (i) for a business entity, documentation of the new state revenues from the business
259 entity's new commercial project that were paid during the preceding calendar year; or

260 (ii) for a local government entity, documentation of the new state revenues from the
261 new commercial project within the area of the local government entity that were paid during
262 the preceding calendar year;

263 (c) known or expected detriments to the state or existing businesses in the state;

264 (d) if a local government entity seeks to assign the tax credit to a community
265 reinvestment agency as described in Section 63N-2-104, a statement providing the name and
266 taxpayer identification number of the community reinvestment agency to which the local
267 government entity seeks to assign the tax credit;

268 (e) (i) with respect to a business entity, a document that expressly directs and
269 authorizes the State Tax Commission to disclose to the office the business entity's returns and
270 other information that would otherwise be subject to confidentiality under Section 59-1-403 or
271 Section 6103, Internal Revenue Code;

272 (ii) with respect to a local government entity that seeks to claim the tax credit:

273 (A) a document that expressly directs and authorizes the State Tax Commission to

274 disclose to the office the local government entity's returns and other information that would
275 otherwise be subject to confidentiality under Section 59-1-403 or Section 6103, Internal
276 Revenue Code; and

277 (B) if the new state revenues collected as a result of a new commercial project are
278 attributable in whole or in part to a new or expanded industrial, manufacturing, mining,
279 agricultural, distribution, or business service within a new commercial project within the area
280 of the local government entity, a document signed by an authorized representative of the new
281 or expanded industrial, manufacturing, mining, agricultural, distribution, or business service
282 that:

283 (I) expressly directs and authorizes the State Tax Commission to disclose to the office
284 the returns of the new or expanded industrial, manufacturing, distribution, or business service
285 and other information that would otherwise be subject to confidentiality under Section
286 59-1-403 or Section 6103, Internal Revenue Code; and

287 (II) lists the taxpayer identification number of the new or expanded industrial,
288 manufacturing, mining, agricultural, distribution, or business service; or

289 (iii) with respect to a local government entity that seeks to assign the tax credit to a
290 community reinvestment agency:

291 (A) a document signed by the members of the governing body of the community
292 reinvestment agency that expressly directs and authorizes the State Tax Commission to
293 disclose to the office the returns of the community reinvestment agency and other information
294 that would otherwise be subject to confidentiality under Section 59-1-403 or Section 6103,
295 Internal Revenue Code; and

296 (B) if the new state revenues collected as a result of a new commercial project are
297 attributable in whole or in part to a new or expanded industrial, manufacturing, mining,
298 agricultural, distribution, or business service within a new commercial project within the
299 community reinvestment agency, a document signed by an authorized representative of the new
300 or expanded industrial, manufacturing, mining, agricultural, distribution, or business service
301 that:

302 (I) expressly directs and authorizes the State Tax Commission to disclose to the office
303 the returns of the new or expanded industrial, manufacturing, mining, agricultural, distribution,
304 or business service and other information that would otherwise be subject to confidentiality

305 under Section 59-1-403 or Section 6103, Internal Revenue Code; and

306 (II) lists the taxpayer identification number of the new or expanded industrial,
307 manufacturing, mining, agricultural, distribution, or business service; and

308 (f) for a business entity only, documentation that the business entity has satisfied the
309 performance benchmarks outlined in the written agreement described in Subsection
310 63N-2-104(3)(a), including:

311 (i) the creation of new incremental jobs that are also high paying jobs;

312 (ii) significant capital investment;

313 (iii) significant purchases from Utah vendors and providers; or

314 (iv) a combination of these benchmarks.

315 (3) (a) The office shall submit the documents described in Subsection (2)(e) to the
316 State Tax Commission.

317 (b) Upon receipt of a document described in Subsection (2)(e), the State Tax
318 Commission shall provide the office with the returns and other information requested by the
319 office that the State Tax Commission is directed or authorized to provide to the office in
320 accordance with Subsection (2)(e).

321 (4) If, after review of the returns and other information provided by the State Tax
322 Commission, or after review of the ongoing performance of the business entity or local
323 government entity, the office determines that the returns and other information are inadequate
324 to provide a reasonable justification for authorizing or continuing a tax credit, the office shall:

325 (a) (i) deny the tax credit; or

326 (ii) terminate the agreement described in Subsection 63N-2-104(3)(a) for failure to
327 meet the performance standards established in the agreement; or

328 (b) inform the business entity or local government entity that the returns or other
329 information were inadequate and ask the business entity or local government entity to submit
330 new documentation.

331 (5) If after review of the returns and other information provided by the State Tax
332 Commission, the office determines that the returns and other information provided by the
333 business entity or local government entity provide reasonable justification for authorizing a tax
334 credit, the office shall, based upon the returns and other information:

335 (a) determine the amount of the tax credit to be granted to the business entity, local

336 government entity, or if the local government entity assigns the tax credit as described in
337 Section [63N-2-104](#), to the community reinvestment agency to which the local government
338 entity assigns the tax credit;

339 (b) issue a tax credit certificate to the business entity, local government entity, or if the
340 local government entity assigns the tax credit as described in Section [63N-2-104](#), to the
341 community reinvestment agency to which the local government entity assigns the tax credit;
342 and

343 (c) provide a duplicate copy of the tax credit certificate to the State Tax Commission.

344 (6) A business entity, local government entity, or community reinvestment agency may
345 not claim a tax credit unless the business entity, local government entity, or community
346 reinvestment agency has a tax credit certificate issued by the office.

347 (7) (a) A business entity, local government entity, or community reinvestment agency
348 may claim a tax credit in the amount listed on the tax credit certificate on its tax return.

349 (b) A business entity, local government entity, or community reinvestment agency that
350 claims a tax credit under this section shall retain the tax credit certificate in accordance with
351 Section [59-7-614.2](#) or [59-10-1107](#).