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H.627

Introduced by Committee on Commerce and Economic Development

Date:

Subject: Commerce and trade; economic development

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to increase the maximum size and expand eligibility for certain loans offered by the Vermont Economic Development Authority.

An act relating to the Vermont Economic Development Authority

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. chapter 12 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 12. VERMONT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Subchapter 1. General Provisions

* * *

§ 212. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(6) “Eligible facility” or “eligible project” means any industrial, commercial, or agricultural enterprise or endeavor approved by the Authority that meets the criteria established in the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Strategy

1 adopted by the Governor under section 280b of this title, including land and
2 rights in land, air, or water; buildings; structures; machinery; and equipment
3 of such eligible facilities or eligible projects, except that an eligible facility or
4 project shall not include the portion of an enterprise or endeavor relating to the
5 sale of goods at retail where such goods are manufactured primarily out of
6 state State, and except further that an eligible facility or project shall not
7 include the portion of an enterprise or endeavor relating to housing unless
8 otherwise authorized in this chapter. Such enterprises or endeavors may
9 include:

10 (A) Quarrying; mining; manufacturing; processing, including the
11 further processing of agricultural products; assembling; or warehousing of
12 goods or materials for sale or distribution or the maintenance of safety
13 standards in connection therewith, and including Vermont-based manufacturers
14 that are adversely impacted by the State's regulation or ban of products as they
15 transition from the manufacture of the regulated or banned products to the
16 design and manufacture of environmentally sound substitutes.

17 (B) The conduct of research and development activities, including
18 research and development of computer software and telecommunications
19 equipment.

20 (C) Use as the national or regional headquarters for a multistate
21 business enterprise or ~~for purposes of subchapter 4 of this chapter only~~, use as

1 the national headquarters of a nonprofit organization whose purpose is the
2 promotion of business, industry, or agriculture, including the registry of animal
3 breeds.

4 (D) Collecting or processing any kind of waste material for reuse or
5 disposal.

6 (E) Reducing, mitigating, or eliminating pollution of land, air, or
7 water by substances, heat, or sound.

8 (F) For the purposes of subchapter 4 of this chapter only, in addition
9 to the foregoing, the conduct of any trade or business that is eligible for tax-
10 exempt financing under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

11 (G) For purposes of subchapter 4 of this chapter only, transporting of
12 goods, materials, or agricultural products for sale or distribution or the
13 maintenance of safety standards in connection therewith, including railroad
14 terminals, trucking terminals, and airport facilities.

15 (H) Use as a small business incubator facility.

16 (I) Processing or converting post-consumer materials into industrial
17 feed stocks, or manufacturing products from these feed stocks, or both,
18 excluding the converting of recyclable materials into a fuel or fuel product. As
19 used in this subdivision, “post-consumer materials” means only those products
20 generated by a business or a consumer that have served their intended end
21 uses, and that have been separated or diverted from solid waste.

1 (J) Travel and tourism projects and enterprises, and related
2 recreational activities, provided that the project or enterprise will maintain a
3 reasonable level of full-time employment throughout the year consistent with
4 the size and nature of the business and general business custom in the industry.

5 (K) The business of information technology, or the collection,
6 processing, or management of data, documents, or records.

7 (L) A captive or commercial insurance underwriter; a mortgage,
8 commercial, or consumer credit provider; or an entity engaged in
9 underwriting or brokering services.

10 (M) A renewable energy plant, as defined in 30 V.S.A. § 8002, if the
11 construction of the plant requires a certificate of public good under 30 V.S.A.
12 § 248 and all or part of the electricity generated by the plant will be under
13 contract to a Vermont electric distribution utility.

14 (N) Industrial park planning, development, or improvement.

15 (O) For purposes of subchapter 5 of this chapter, a
16 telecommunications plant, as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 1911(2), owned by a
17 municipality individually or in concert with one or more other municipalities
18 as a communications union district established under 30 V.S.A. chapter 82.

19 (P) Any combination of the ~~foregoing~~ activities, uses, or purposes
20 specified in this subdivision (6). An eligible facility may include structures,
21 appurtenances incidental to ~~the foregoing~~ an eligible project, such as utility

1 lines, storage accommodations, offices, dependent care facilities, or
2 transportation facilities.

3 (Q) Businesses providing intangible products and services, excluding
4 the following:

5 (i) businesses engaged in pyramid sale distribution plans, where a
6 participant's primary incentive is based on the sales made by an ever-
7 increasing number of participants;

8 (ii) businesses deriving more than one-third of their gross annual
9 revenue from legal gambling activities;

10 (iii) private clubs and businesses that limit the number of
11 memberships for reasons other than capacity; and

12 (iv) businesses principally engaged in teaching, instructing,
13 counseling, or indoctrinating religion or religious beliefs, whether in a
14 religious or secular setting.

15 (R) Mixed-use properties, provided that not less than 50 percent of
16 the total square footage is dedicated for commercial use.

17 ~~(S) Licensed assisted living developments, with or without associated~~
18 ~~independent living, provided that the Authority shall consult with and defer to~~
19 ~~the Vermont Housing Finance Agency on applications that are eligible for~~
20 ~~financing from both the Authority and the Agency.~~

(S) After consultation with and deference to the Vermont Housing Finance Agency on applications that are eligible for financing from both the Authority and the Agency, financing for one or more of the following types of long-term care facilities licensed by the State pursuant to 33 V.S.A. chapter 71 and other applicable law, and any independent living facility, as defined in 32 V.S.A. § 9202(18), associated with the licensed facility:

(i) an assisted living residence;

(ii) a home for the terminally ill;

(iii) a nursing home;

(iv) a residential care home; and

(v) a therapeutic community residence.

* * *

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2 (18) “Project” or “eligible facility” means the creation, establishment,
3 acquisition, construction, expansion, improvement, reclamation, or renovation
4 of an eligible facility.

5 (19) “Project costs” means any costs or expenses reasonably incidental
6 to a project and may without limitation include the costs of:

7 (A) issuing bonds under subchapter 4 of this chapter to finance a
8 project;

9 (B) acquiring land, buildings, structures, and facilities, whether by
10 lease, purchase, construction, or otherwise;

- 1 (C) acquiring rights in or over land, air, or water;
- 2 (D) improving land and improving buildings, structures, and
3 facilities by remodeling, reconstruction, replacement, or enlargement;
- 4 (E) acquiring and installing machinery and equipment;
- 5 (F) obtaining professional or advisory services;
- 6 (G) interest prior to and during construction and until one year after
7 the completion of a project;
- 8 (H) creating reserves in connection with the issue of bonds under
9 subchapter 4 of this chapter; and
- 10 (I) acquiring or committing to acquire any federally guaranteed
11 security and pledging the proceeds thereof to secure the payment of bonds.

12 * * *

13 (28) "Loan," for the purposes of subchapters 5, 7, and 10 of this chapter,
14 means a loan, or a financing lease, provided that such lease transfers the
15 ownership of the leased property to the lessee following the payment of all
16 required lease payments as specified in the lease agreement.

17 * * *

18 Subchapter 5. Direct Mortgage Loans

19 § 261. ADDITIONAL POWERS

20 In addition to powers enumerated elsewhere in this chapter, the Authority
21 may:

1 (3) The making of the loan will be of public use and benefit.

2 (4) The proposed loan will be adequately secured by a mortgage on real
3 property or equipment, or both.

4 (5) The principal obligation of the Authority's mortgage does not
5 exceed ~~\$1,500,000.00~~ \$5,000,000.00, which may be secured by land and
6 buildings or by machinery and equipment, or both; unless:

7 (A) an integral element of the project consists of the generation of
8 heat or electricity employing biomass, geothermal, methane, solar, or wind
9 energy resources to be primarily consumed at the project, in which case the
10 principal obligation of the Authority's mortgage does not exceed
11 ~~\$2,000,000.00~~ \$6,000,000.00, which may be secured by land and by buildings,
12 or machinery and equipment, or both; such principal obligation does not
13 exceed 40 percent of the cost of the project; and the mortgagor is able to obtain
14 financing for the balance of the cost of the project from other sources as
15 provided in the following section; or

16 (B) a single loan for which the principal amount of the Authority's
17 mortgage does not exceed \$3,000,000.00 for an eligible facility consisting of a
18 municipal telecommunications plant, as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 1911(2).

19 (6) The mortgagor is responsible and able to manage its responsibilities
20 as mortgagor and owner of the project.

