

2003 SENATE BILL 261

September 24, 2003 – Introduced by Senators KANAVAS, STEPP, LEIBHAM, DARLING, BROWN, WELCH, ZIEN, LASSA and ROESSLER, cosponsored by Representatives NISCHKE, MCCORMICK, LADWIG, MUSSER, MONTGOMERY, TOWNS, OWENS, M. LEHMAN, WEBER, VAN ROY, KRAWCZYK, OLSEN and OTT. Referred to Joint Committee on Finance.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 71.05 (6) (a) 15., 71.21 (4), 71.26 (2) (a), 71.34 (1) (g), 71.45 (2)
2 (a) 10. and 77.92 (4); and *to create* 71.05 (24), 71.07 (5d), 71.10 (4) (gx), 71.28
3 (5d), 71.30 (3) (eop), 71.47 (5d), 71.49 (1) (eop) and 560.03 (24) to (27) of the
4 statutes; **relating to:** creating a qualified new business venture tax credit and
5 a capital gains tax exemption regarding investments in certified venture
6 capital funds and qualified new business ventures, requiring a study of new
7 Wisconsin businesses, facilitating the development of certain investor
8 networks, and granting rule-making authority.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill creates an income and franchise tax credit for investments in a new business venture that has its headquarters and the majority of its employees in this state. The bill requires a business desiring certification as a new business venture for purposes of this tax credit to apply to the Department of Commerce. The amount of the tax credit is equal to 20 percent of the taxpayer's investment in a new business venture in the taxable year, except that if the taxpayer's investment exceeds \$100,000 in the taxable year the taxpayer may claim 20 percent of \$100,000 plus ten percent of the amount of the investment that exceeds \$100,000. In addition, if the taxpayer is a broker-dealer, the taxpayer may claim a tax credit in amount equal to

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ten percent of the first \$500,000 raised in an offering of a new business venture in the taxable year. Under current law, a broker-dealer is, generally, any person engaged in the business of effecting transactions in securities.

This bill also requires the Department of Commerce, in cooperation with the Department of Financial Institutions and the University of Wisconsin System, to annually conduct and publish the results of a study of Wisconsin businesses to determine new business formation trends and identify obstacles faced by new Wisconsin businesses and areas where changes in governmental policy may satisfy the needs of new Wisconsin businesses. In addition, the bill requires the Department of Commerce, in cooperation with the Department of Financial Institutions and the University of Wisconsin System, to provide education and other support to facilitate the development of networks of investors that review new businesses or proposed new businesses for potential investment (commonly called “angel capital networks”).

Under current law, there is an income tax exclusion for individuals and tax-option corporations for 60 percent of the net capital gains realized from the sale of assets held for at least one year.

Under this bill, an individual; an individual partner or member of a partnership, limited liability company, or limited liability partnership; or an individual shareholder of a tax-option corporation (claimant) may elect to defer the payment of income taxes on the gain realized from the sale of any asset held more than one year, to the extent that the gain is not already excluded from taxation, or any asset that is an investment in a venture capital fund (original asset), if the claimant completes a number of requirements.

Under the bill, the claimant must place the gain from the original asset in a segregated account in a financial institution, purchase another capital asset that is an investment in a venture capital fund or in a qualified new business venture (replacement asset) within 90 days after the sale of the original asset that generated the gain, and notify the Department of Revenue (DOR) on a form prepared by DOR that the claimant is deferring the payment of income tax on the gain from the original asset because the proceeds have been reinvested. The cost of the replacement asset must be equal to or greater than the gain generated by the sale of the original asset.

The bill also specifies that the basis of the replacement asset shall be its cost minus the gain generated by the sale of the original asset. If a claimant defers the payment of income taxes on the gain generated by the sale of the original asset, the claimant may not use that gain to net the claimant’s gains and losses as the claimant could do if the claimant did not elect to defer the payment of taxes on the gain.

Under this bill, the Department of Commerce must promulgate rules establishing a procedure for certifying venture capital funds for purposes of the capital gains tax exemption described above. A venture capital fund may obtain a certification only if the venture capital fund is a private seed and venture capital partnership or entity fund, the venture capital fund has its principal place of business in Wisconsin, and the venture capital fund commits to make equity investments in businesses located in Wisconsin. The bill requires the Department of Commerce, upon request of any person, to issue a written notice indicating whether a venture capital fund is certified. Each such notice that indicates a venture

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capital fund is certified must include the following statement: “THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE HAS NOT RECOMMENDED OR APPROVED AN INVESTMENT IN THIS VENTURE CAPITAL FUND OR ASSESSED THE MERITS OR RISKS OF SUCH AN INVESTMENT. INVESTORS SHOULD RELY SOLELY ON THEIR OWN INVESTIGATION AND ANALYSIS AND SEEK INVESTMENT, FINANCIAL, LEGAL, AND TAX ADVICE BEFORE MAKING THEIR OWN DECISION REGARDING INVESTMENT IN THIS ENTERPRISE.” The bill also requires the Department of Commerce, upon issuing or discontinuing a certification, to notify DOR and give DOR a copy of the certification or discontinuance.

This bill will be referred to the Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions for a detailed analysis, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 71.05 (6) (a) 15. of the statutes is amended to read:

2 71.05 **(6)** (a) 15. The amount of the credits computed under s. 71.07 (2dd), (2de),
3 (2di), (2dj), (2dL), (2dm), (2dr), (2ds), (2dx), (3g), ~~and (3s)~~, and (5d) and not passed
4 through by a partnership, limited liability company, or tax-option corporation that
5 has added that amount to the partnership’s, company’s, or tax-option corporation’s
6 income under s. 71.21 (4) or 71.34 (1) (g).

7 **SECTION 2.** 71.05 (24) of the statutes is created to read:

8 71.05 **(24)** INCOME TAX DEFERRAL; INVESTMENTS IN CERTAIN VENTURE CAPITAL FUNDS
9 AND QUALIFIED NEW BUSINESS VENTURES. (a) In this subsection:

10 1. “Claimant” means an individual; an individual partner or member of a
11 partnership, limited liability company, or limited liability partnership; or an
12 individual shareholder of a tax-option corporation.

13 2. “Financial institution” has the meaning given in s. 69.30 (1) (b).

14 3. “Long-term capital gain” means the gain realized from the sale of any asset
15 held more than one year.

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1 (b) To the extent that the gains are not excluded from taxation under sub. (6)
2 (b) 9., a claimant may subtract from federal adjusted gross income any amount of a
3 long-term capital gain, or any gain realized from the sale of an asset that is an
4 investment in a qualified new business venture that is certified under s. 560.03 (26)
5 or a venture capital fund that is certified under s. 560.03 (27), if the claimant does
6 all of the following:

7 1. Immediately deposits the gain in a segregated account in a financial
8 institution.

9 2. Within 90 days after the sale of the asset that generated the gain, purchases
10 another capital asset, which is an investment in a qualified new business venture
11 that is certified under s. 560.03 (26) or a venture capital fund that is certified under
12 s. 560.03 (27), of equal or greater value using all of the proceeds in the account
13 described under subd. 1.

14 3. After purchasing a capital asset as described under subd. 2., immediately
15 notifies the department, on a form prepared by the department, that the claimant
16 will not declare on the claimant's income tax return the gain described under subd.
17 1. because the claimant has reinvested the capital gain as described under subd. 2.

18 (c) The basis of the purchased capital asset described in par. (b) 2. shall be
19 calculated by subtracting the gain described in par. (b) 1. from the cost of the
20 purchased asset described in par. (b) 2.

21 (d) If a claimant defers the payment of income taxes on a capital gain under this
22 subsection, the claimant may not use the gain described under par. (b) 1. to net
23 capital gains and losses, as described under sub. (10) (c).

24 **SECTION 3.** 71.07 (5d) of the statutes is created to read:

25 **71.07 (5d) QUALIFIED NEW BUSINESS VENTURE CREDIT.** (a) In this subsection:

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- 1 1. “Broker–dealer” has the meaning given in s. 551.02 (3).
- 2 2. “Claimant” means a person who files a claim under this subsection.
- 3 3. “Qualified new business venture” means a business that is certified under
4 s. 560.03 (26).
- 5 (b) Subject to the limitations provided in this subsection and in s. 560.03 (26),
6 a claimant may claim as a credit against the tax imposed under s. 71.02, up to the
7 amount of those taxes, any of the following:
- 8 1. An amount equal to 20 percent of the claimant’s investment in a qualified
9 new business venture in the taxable year, except that if the claimant’s investment
10 exceeds \$100,000 in the taxable year the claimant may claim 20 percent of \$100,000
11 plus 10 percent of the amount of the investment that exceeds \$100,000.
- 12 2. If the claimant is a broker–dealer, an amount equal to 10 percent of the first
13 \$500,000 raised in an offering of a qualified new business venture in the taxable year.
- 14 (c) The carry–over provisions of s. 71.28 (4) (e) and (f), as they apply to the credit
15 under s. 71.28 (4), apply to the credit under this subsection.
- 16 (d) Partnerships, limited liability companies, and tax–option corporations may
17 not claim the credit under this subsection, but the eligibility for, and the amount of,
18 the credit are based on the amounts described under par. (b) that are attributable to
19 their business operations. A partnership, limited liability company, or tax–option
20 corporation shall compute the amount of credit that each of its partners, members,
21 or shareholders may claim and shall provide that information to each of them.
22 Partners, members of limited liability companies, and shareholders of tax–option
23 corporations may claim the credit in proportion to their ownership interest.
- 24 (e) Section 71.28 (4) (g) and (h), as it applies to the credit under s. 71.28 (4),
25 applies to the credit under this subsection.

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1 **SECTION 4.** 71.10 (4) (gx) of the statutes is created to read:

2 71.10 **(4)** (gx) Qualified new business venture credit under s. 71.07 (5d).

3 **SECTION 5.** 71.21 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 71.21 **(4)** Credits computed by a partnership under s. 71.07 (2dd), (2de), (2di),
5 (2dj), (2dL), (2dm), (2ds), (2dx), (3g), ~~and (3s)~~, and (5d) and passed through to
6 partners shall be added to the partnership's income.

7 **SECTION 6.** 71.26 (2) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

8 71.26 **(2)** (a) *Corporations in general.* The “net income” of a corporation means
9 the gross income as computed under the Internal Revenue Code as modified under
10 sub. (3) minus the amount of recapture under s. 71.28 (1di) plus the amount of credit
11 computed under s. 71.28 (1), (3), (4), and (5) plus the amount of the credit computed
12 under s. 71.28 (1dd), (1de), (1di), (1dj), (1dL), (1dm), (1ds), (1dx), ~~and (3g)~~, and (5d)
13 and not passed through by a partnership, limited liability company, or tax-option
14 corporation that has added that amount to the partnership's, limited liability
15 company's, or tax-option corporation's income under s. 71.21 (4) or 71.34 (1) (g) plus
16 the amount of losses from the sale or other disposition of assets the gain from which
17 would be wholly exempt income, as defined in sub. (3) (L), if the assets were sold or
18 otherwise disposed of at a gain and minus deductions, as computed under the
19 Internal Revenue Code as modified under sub. (3), plus or minus, as appropriate, an
20 amount equal to the difference between the federal basis and Wisconsin basis of any
21 asset sold, exchanged, abandoned, or otherwise disposed of in a taxable transaction
22 during the taxable year, except as provided in par. (b) and s. 71.45 (2) and (5).

23 **SECTION 7.** 71.28 (5d) of the statutes is created to read:

24 71.28 **(5d)** QUALIFIED NEW BUSINESS VENTURE CREDIT. (a) In this subsection:

25 1. “Broker-dealer” has the meaning given in s. 551.02 (3).

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1 2. “Claimant” means a person who files a claim under this subsection.

2 3. “Qualified new business venture” means a business that is certified under
3 s. 560.03 (26).

4 (b) Subject to the limitations provided in this subsection and in s. 560.03 (26),
5 a claimant may claim as a credit against the tax imposed under s. 71.23, up to the
6 amount of those taxes, any of the following:

7 1. An amount equal to 20 percent of the claimant’s investment in a qualified
8 new business venture in the taxable year, except that if the claimant’s investment
9 exceeds \$100,000 in the taxable year the claimant may claim 20 percent of \$100,000
10 plus 10 percent of the amount of the investment that exceeds \$100,000.

11 2. If the claimant is a broker–dealer, an amount equal to 10 percent of the first
12 \$500,000 raised in an offering of a qualified new business venture in the taxable year.

13 (c) The carry–over provisions of sub. (4) (e) and (f), as they apply to the credit
14 under sub. (4), apply to the credit under this subsection.

15 (d) Partnerships, limited liability companies, and tax–option corporations may
16 not claim the credit under this subsection, but the eligibility for, and the amount of,
17 the credit are based on the amounts described under par. (b) that are attributable to
18 their business operations. A partnership, limited liability company, or tax–option
19 corporation shall compute the amount of credit that each of its partners, members,
20 or shareholders may claim and shall provide that information to each of them.
21 Partners, members of limited liability companies, and shareholders of tax–option
22 corporations may claim the credit in proportion to their ownership interest.

23 (e) Subsection (4) (g) and (h), as it applies to the credit under sub. (4), applies
24 to the credit under this subsection.

25 **SECTION 8.** 71.30 (3) (eop) of the statutes is created to read:

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1 71.30 (3) (eop) Qualified new business venture credit under s. 71.28 (5d).

2 **SECTION 9.** 71.34 (1) (g) of the statutes is amended to read:

3 71.34 (1) (g) An addition shall be made for credits computed by a tax-option
4 corporation under s. 71.28 (1dd), (1de), (1di), (1dj), (1dL), (1dm), (1ds), (1dx), (3), and
5 (3g), and (5d) and passed through to shareholders.

6 **SECTION 10.** 71.45 (2) (a) 10. of the statutes is amended to read:

7 71.45 (2) (a) 10. By adding to federal taxable income the amount of credit
8 computed under s. 71.47 (1dd) to (1dx) and (5d) and not passed through by a
9 partnership, limited liability company or tax-option corporation that has added that
10 amount to the partnership's, limited liability company's or tax-option corporation's
11 income under s. 71.21 (4) or 71.34 (1) (g) and the amount of credit computed under
12 s. 71.47 (1), (3), (4) and (5).

13 **SECTION 11.** 71.47 (5d) of the statutes is created to read:

14 71.47 (5d) QUALIFIED NEW BUSINESS VENTURE CREDIT. (a) In this subsection:

15 1. "Broker-dealer" has the meaning given in s. 551.02 (3).

16 2. "Claimant" means a person who files a claim under this subsection.

17 3. "Qualified new business venture" means a business that is certified under
18 s. 560.03 (26).

19 (b) Subject to the limitations provided in this subsection and in s. 560.03 (26),
20 a claimant may claim as a credit against the tax imposed under s. 71.43, up to the
21 amount of those taxes, any of the following:

22 1. An amount equal to 20 percent of the claimant's investment in a qualified
23 new business venture in the taxable year, except that if the claimant's investment
24 exceeds \$100,000 in the taxable year the claimant may claim 20 percent of \$100,000
25 plus 10 percent of the amount of the investment that exceeds \$100,000.

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1 2. If the claimant is a broker–dealer, an amount equal to 10 percent of the first
2 \$500,000 raised in an offering of a qualified new business venture in the taxable year.

3 (c) The carry–over provisions of s. 71.28 (4) (e) and (f), as they apply to the credit
4 under s. 71.28 (4), apply to the credit under this subsection.

5 (d) Partnerships, limited liability companies, and tax–option corporations may
6 not claim the credit under this subsection, but the eligibility for, and the amount of,
7 the credit are based on the amounts described under par. (b) that are attributable to
8 their business operations. A partnership, limited liability company, or tax–option
9 corporation shall compute the amount of credit that each of its partners, members,
10 or shareholders may claim and shall provide that information to each of them.
11 Partners, members of limited liability companies, and shareholders of tax–option
12 corporations may claim the credit in proportion to their ownership interest.

13 (e) Section 71.28 (4) (g) and (h), as it applies to the credit under s. 71.28 (4),
14 applies to the credit under this subsection.

15 **SECTION 12.** 71.49 (1) (eop) of the statutes is created to read:

16 71.49 (1) (eop) Qualified new business venture credit under s. 71.47 (5d).

17 **SECTION 13.** 77.92 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

18 77.92 (4) “Net business income”, with respect to a partnership, means taxable
19 income as calculated under section 703 of the Internal Revenue Code; plus the items
20 of income and gain under section 702 of the Internal Revenue Code, including taxable
21 state and municipal bond interest and excluding nontaxable interest income or
22 dividend income from federal government obligations; minus the items of loss and
23 deduction under section 702 of the Internal Revenue Code, except items that are not
24 deductible under s. 71.21; plus guaranteed payments to partners under section 707
25 (c) of the Internal Revenue Code; plus the credits claimed under s. 71.07 (2dd), (2de),

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1 (2di), (2dj), (2dL), (2dm), (2dr), (2ds), (2dx), ~~and (3g), and (3s), and (5d)~~; and plus or
2 minus, as appropriate, transitional adjustments, depreciation differences, and basis
3 differences under s. 71.05 (13), (15), (16), (17), and (19); but excluding income, gain,
4 loss, and deductions from farming. “Net business income”, with respect to a natural
5 person, estate, or trust, means profit from a trade or business for federal income tax
6 purposes and includes net income derived as an employee as defined in section 3121
7 (d) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

8 **SECTION 14.** 560.03 (24) to (27) of the statutes are created to read:

9 560.03 **(24)** In cooperation with the department of financial institutions and
10 the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, annually conduct and
11 publish the results of a study of Wisconsin businesses to determine new business
12 formation trends and identify obstacles faced by new Wisconsin businesses and areas
13 where changes in governmental policy may satisfy the needs of new Wisconsin
14 businesses. As part of the study, the department of commerce shall conduct a survey
15 of Wisconsin businesses.

16 **(25)** In cooperation with the department of financial institutions and the Board
17 of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, provide education and other
18 support to facilitate the development networks of investors that review new
19 businesses or proposed new businesses for potential investment.

20 **(26)** Certify businesses as qualified new business ventures for purposes of ss.
21 71.07 (5d), 71.28 (5d), and 71.47 (5d). The department shall promulgate rules for the
22 administration of this subsection. The rules shall require a business desiring
23 certification to submit an application to the department. The department shall
24 maintain a list of businesses certified under this subsection and shall permit public
25 access to the list through the department’s Internet website. The department shall

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1 notify the department of revenue of every business certified under this subsection
2 and the date on which any such business is decertified. A business may be certified
3 under this subsection, and may maintain such certification, only if the business
4 satisfies all of the following conditions:

5 (a) It has its headquarters in this state.

6 (b) At least 51 percent of the employees employed by the business are employed
7 in this state.

8 (c) Its average annual net income for each of the 2 taxable years immediately
9 preceding the taxable year for which a credit is claimed does not exceed \$20,000,000.

10 (d) It's net worth in the taxable year for which a credit is claimed does not
11 exceed \$75,000,000.

12 (e) It is not engaged predominantly in providing professional services by
13 accountants, lawyers, or physicians.

14 (f) It is not engaged predominantly in trade or in the leisure and hospitality
15 industry.

16 (g) It is not engaged in banking or lending or in developing real estate for resale.

17 (h) It does not make loans to, or investments in, certified capital companies, as
18 defined in s. 560.30 (2).

19 (i) It has been in operation in this state for at least 3 consecutive years but not
20 more than 10 consecutive years.

21 **(27)** Certify venture capital funds as follows:

22 (a) The department shall promulgate rules establishing a procedure for the
23 department to certify venture capital funds for purposes of the capital gains tax
24 exemption under s. 71.05 (24). The rules shall do all of the following:

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1 1. Require a venture capital fund that desires to obtain a certification to file an
2 application with the department.

3 2. Permit a venture capital fund to obtain a certification only if the venture
4 capital fund is a private seed and venture capital partnership or entity fund, the
5 venture capital fund has its principal place of business in Wisconsin, and the venture
6 capital fund commits to make equity investments in businesses, as described under
7 sub. (26), that are located in Wisconsin.

8 3. Require an applicant for certification or a certified venture capital fund to
9 provide the department with any information the department determines is
10 necessary to ensure eligibility for certification and compliance with this subsection
11 and rules promulgated under this subsection.

12 (b) Upon request of any person, the department shall issue a written notice
13 indicating whether a venture capital fund is certified under this subsection for
14 purposes of the capital gains tax exemption under s. 71.05 (24). Each notice under
15 this paragraph that indicates a venture capital fund is certified shall include the
16 following statement: “THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE HAS NOT
17 RECOMMENDED OR APPROVED AN INVESTMENT IN THIS VENTURE CAPITAL FUND OR ASSESSED
18 THE MERITS OR RISKS OF SUCH AN INVESTMENT. INVESTORS SHOULD RELY SOLELY ON THEIR
19 OWN INVESTIGATION AND ANALYSIS AND SEEK INVESTMENT, FINANCIAL, LEGAL, AND TAX
20 ADVICE BEFORE MAKING THEIR OWN DECISION REGARDING INVESTMENT IN THIS ENTERPRISE.”

21 (c) Upon the issuance or discontinuance of a certification, the department of
22 commerce shall notify the department of revenue and provide the department of
23 revenue a copy of the certification or discontinuance.

24 **SECTION 15. Nonstatutory provisions.**

