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For: Scot	t Fitzgerald	(608) 266-5660							
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For: Administration

By/Representing: Nate Yahn

May Contact:

Drafter: fknepp Econ. Development - bus. dev.

Subject:

Addl. Drafters:

Extra Copies:

Submit via email: YES

Requester's email:

nate.yahn@wisconsin.gov

Carbon copy (CC:) to:

fern.knepp@legis.wisconsin.gov

Pre Topic:

No specific pre topic given

Topic:

WHEDA small business loan guarantee program changes

**Instructions:** 

See attached

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#### WHEDA's Economic Development Modernization BILL 1 Points

\*\* Chapter 234.83, Small business development loan guarantee program.

The program currently limits the maximum guarantee to the lesser of 80% of the loan amount or \$200,000. The Team recommends:

• Increase the maximum guarantee to the lesser of 80% of the loan amount or \$500,000.

The Team feels this change is necessary for the following reasons. First, the overall cost to complete a project has increased due to general increases in input costs (i.e. materials, labor, licensing, etc.). It now costs more to complete the same project that was undertaken just a few years ago.

Second, by offering a larger guarantee, WHEDA becomes a viable financing option on larger projects that will likely create more jobs for Wisconsin. Coupled with WHEDA's existing niches (i.e. mixed-use projects, flexible underwriting, guarantees to non-profits), WHEDA's guarantees will become attractive to a broader customer base.

Additionally, larger guarantees will create more fee income and recurring revenue for the Wisconsin Development Reserve Fund which will allow the programs to become more self sustaining.

The Small Business Guarantee program now limits participation to businesses with 50 or fewer full time employees at the time of application. **The Team recommends**:

• Eligible businesses will employ 250 or fewer employees on a full time basis at the time of application.

If the maximum guarantee is increased as proposed, the Team expects that it will attract larger businesses. The Statutes do not limit participation based on annual sales and to assure that the program still focuses on smaller businesses, the Team felt that the 250 employee threshold will allow the program to broaden its focus while maintaining a bias toward smaller operations.

The Small Business Guarantee program is restricted by its eligible borrower requirements. **The Team recommends**:

• Delete the requirement that the owner of the business be actively engaged in the business.

Removing this requirement increases the types of businesses the program can finance. Finally, the Small Business Guarantee program is limited to "rural communities." **The Team recommends**: Delete the definition of rural community.

Removing this definition allows WHEDA to guarantee small business loans in every Wisconsin community.



## State of Misconsin **2011 - 2012 LEGISLATURE**

In-4-13-11



## **2011 BILL**

AN ACT ...; relating to: small business loan guarantees by the Wisconsin Housing percent

and Economic Development Authority.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) administers the small business development loan guarantee program, Under the small business development loan guarantee program, WHEDA may guarantee repayment of up to the lesser of \$200,000 or 80% of the principal of a loan made by a private lender to a small business or the elected governing body of a federally recognized American Indian tribe in this state. A small business development loan that is guaranteed by WHEDA may be used for expenses associated with the expansion or acquisition of a business, with the start-up of a day care business, or the start-up of a small business in a vacant storefront in the downtown area of a rural community. Under current law, a small business means a business that employs fewer than 50 full-time employees.

This bill makes the following changes to the small business development loan (guarantee) program:

1. The cap on the amount of a loan that may be guaranteed under the program is raised from \$200,000 or 80% of the principal of the loan to \$500,000 or 80% of the principal of the loan.

2. The definition of "small business" is expanded from businesses that employ up to 50 full time employees to businesses that employ up to 250 full time employees.

3. The requirement that the owner of a small business be actively engaged in the small business in order to qualify for the program is deleted.

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4. The permitted use of proceeds of a loan for the start-up of a small business in a vacant storefront in a downtown area is expanded to apply to a community of any size by removing the limitation to rural communities.

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:

SECTION 1. 234.83 (1c) (intro.) and (b) of the statutes are consolidated, renumbered 234.83 (1c) and amended to read:

234.83 (1c) Definitions Definition. In this section: (b) "Small section, "small business" means a business, as defined in s. 560.60 (2), that employs 50 250 or fewer employees on a full-time basis.

History: 1991 a. 39; 1993 a. 394; 1997 a. 27; 1999 a. 9; 2001 a. 10; 2005 a. 75; 2009 a. 185.

SECTION 2. 234.83 (1c) (a) of the statutes is repealed.

**SECTION 3.** 234.83 (2) (a) (intro.) and 3. of the statutes are consolidated, renumbered 234.83 (2) (a) and amended to read:

234.83 (2) (a) A small business to which all of the following apply: 3. The, provided that the name of the owner of the small business does not appear on the statewide support lien docket under s. 49.854 (2) (b) or, if the name of the owner of the small business appears on that docket, the owner of the small business provides to the authority a payment agreement that has been approved by the county child support agency under s. 59.53 (5) and that is consistent with rules promulgated under s. 49.858 (2) (a).

History: 1991 a. 39; 1993 a. 394; 1997 a. 27; 1999 a. 9; 2001 a. 16; 2005 a. 75; 2006 a. 185.

SECTION 4. 234.83 (2) (a) 1. and 2. of the statutes are repealed.

SECTION 5. 234.83 (3) (a) 3. of the statutes is amended to read:

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234.83 (3) (a) 3. The start-up of a small business in a vacant storefront in the
downtown area of a rural community city, town, or village in this state, including the
purchase or improvement of land, buildings, machinery, equipment, or inventory.

History: 1991 a. 39; 1993 a. 394; 1997 a. 27; 1999 a. 9; 2001 a. 16; 2005 a. 75; 2009 a. 185.

SECTION 6. 234.83 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

234.83 (4) Guarantee of Repayment. The authority may guarantee repayment of a portion of the principal of any loan eligible for a guarantee under sub. (1m). That portion may not exceed 80% of the principal of the loan or \$200,000 \$500,000, whichever is less. The authority shall establish the portion of the principal of an eligible loan that will be guaranteed, using the procedures described in the agreement under s. 234.93 (2) (a). The authority may establish a single portion for all guaranteed loans that do not exceed \$250,000 \$625,000 and a single portion for all guaranteed loans that exceed \$250,000 \$625,000 or establish on an individual basis different portions for eligible loans that do not exceed \$250,000 \$625,000.

History: 1991 a. 39; 1993 a. 394; 1997 a. 27; 1999 a. 9; 2001 a. 16; 2005 a. 75; 2009 a. 185.

Parisi, Lori

From:

Hanaman, Cathlene

Sent:

Thursday, September 29, 2011 5:13 PM

To:

Parisi, Lori

Cc:

Barman, Mike; Basford, Sarah

Lori:

The two drafts of Fern's should be changed so that the requester is Sen Fitz. And then jacket for Assbly and Sen Sen Fitz.

Joe has a couple of the same.