

payments of principal and interest on loans made from the Fund, and investment earnings on money in it.

The Director must adopt rules that establish both of the following:

(1) Requirements and procedures for the making of loans such as eligibility criteria, a stipulation that an applicant must demonstrate that the loan will help to achieve long-term economic stability in the area, and criteria for repayments of the loans, including the establishment of an interest rate that does not exceed two points less than prime after a lake has been declared as an area no longer under economic distress;

(2) Any other provisions necessary to administer the Program.

Finally, the Director must assist businesses and other entities in determining the amount of loans needed.

### **Abandoned Gas Station Cleanup Grant Program**

(Section 610.20)

The bill creates the Abandoned Gas Station Cleanup Grant Program in the Development Services Agency for the purpose of cleanup and remediation of Class C release sites to provide for and enable the environmentally safe and productive reuse of publicly owned lands. Grants may be used for both of the following:

(1) The cleanup or remediation, or planning and assessment for that cleanup or remediation, of contamination;

(2) Addressing property conditions or circumstances that may be deleterious to public health and safety or the environment or that preclude or inhibit environmentally sound or economic reuse of the property as authorized by the constitutional provisions governing the Clean Ohio Program.

Under the bill, grants may be awarded to a property owner, defined as a county, municipal corporation, township, or port authority or an organization that owns publicly owned lands. Publicly owned lands include land that is owned by an organization that has entered into a relevant agreement with such a political subdivision.

Cleanup or remediation is any action at a Class C release site to contain, remove, or dispose of petroleum or other hazardous substances or remove underground storage tanks used to store petroleum or other hazardous substances. A Class C release is a release of petroleum occurring or identified from an underground storage tank system



that is subject to the Underground Storage Tanks Law for which the person responsible for the release is specifically determined by the State Fire Marshal not to be a viable person capable of undertaking or completing the corrective actions required under that Law. A Class C release also includes any release designated as such in accordance with rules adopted by the State Fire Marshal under that Law.

Under the program, the Director of Development Services may do either or both of the following:

(1) Award a grant of not more than \$100,000 to a property owner for a property assessment on a Class C release site;

(2) Award a grant of not more than \$500,000 to a property owner for cleanup or remediation of a Class C release site.

For the bill's purposes, a property assessment is a property assessment conducted in accordance with the Voluntary Action Program Law or a corrective action process or source investigation process under the State Fire Marshal's rules governing petroleum underground storage tanks.

A property owner must use the grant to create a site that provides opportunities for economic impact through redevelopment. The Director may consult with the Environmental Protection Agency, the State Fire Marshal, the Ohio Water Development Authority, and the Ohio Public Works Commission in connection with the bill's grant program and the awarding of the grants. The bill states that the statutes governing Clean Ohio grants and loans for brownfield revitalization projects do not apply to the grant program.

Under the bill, an authorized representative of the property owner must sign and submit an affidavit with a grant application certifying that the property owner did not cause or contribute to any prior release of petroleum or other hazardous substances on the site. If the Director approves an application, the Director may enter into an agreement with the property owner to award a grant to the property owner. The agreement must be executed prior to paying or disbursing any grant funds approved by the Director under the bill.

### **Abandoned Service Station Cleanup Fund**

The bill creates the Abandoned Service Station Cleanup Fund in the state treasury. Money in the Fund must be used to award grants pursuant to the Abandoned Gas Station Cleanup Grant Program. At the request of the Director of Development Services, the Director of Budget and Management may transfer not more than \$20



million from the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund to the Abandoned Service Station Cleanup Fund as needed to provide for grants awarded under the bill.

### **Third Frontier Internship Program**

(Section 701.90)

Requires the Third Frontier Commission to operate, for fiscal years 2016 and 2017, an Ohio Third Frontier Internship Program. The Program is to contribute to the expansion of a technologically proficient workforce in Ohio, and is to encourage the retention in Ohio of highly knowledgeable and talented students through employing upon graduation at for-profit companies doing business in Ohio.

The Third Frontier Commission in the Development Services Agency coordinates and administers science and technology programs to promote the economic growth of the state. The Commission approves funding from the state's Third Frontier Research and Development Fund to support the Internship Program, which is administered by the Ohio Development Services Agency's Business Services Division.

### **Fund closures**

#### **Motion Picture Tax Credit Program Operating Fund**

(R.C. 122.174 and 122.85)

The bill abolishes the Motion Picture Tax Credit Program Operating Fund. The Fund consists of application fees paid by motion picture companies applying for certification of a motion picture as a tax credit-eligible production and all grants, gifts, fees, and contributions made to the Director of Development Services for marketing and promotion of the motion picture industry in Ohio. Money in the Fund is used to cover administrative costs of the Motion Picture Tax Credit Program and the Ohio Film Office.

Under the bill, the revenue currently required to be deposited into the Fund is to be deposited into the existing Business Assistance Fund instead. The Business Assistance Fund is used by the Director to pay expenses related to the administration of the Business Services Division of DSA.

#### **Industrial Site Improvements Fund**

(R.C. 122.95 and 122.951; R.C. 122.952 (repealed))

Under current law, the Director may make grants from the Industrial Site Improvement Fund to eligible counties for the purpose of acquiring commercial or



industrial land or buildings and making improvements to commercial or industrial areas within a county, if the grant would create new jobs or preserve existing jobs. The Fund consists of money appropriated to it by the General Assembly.

The bill abolishes the Fund, but retains the grant program.

### **Rural Industrial Park Loan Fund**

(R.C. 122.26 (repealed))

The bill abolishes the Rural Industrial Park Loan Fund, which is currently used by the Director to provide financial assistance in the form of loans and loan guarantees for the development or improvement of industrial parks. The Rural Industrial Park Loan Program, however, is retained under the bill.

### **Report deadlines**

#### **Annual financial report regarding economic assistance programs**

(R.C. 122.64)

The Director is currently required to make a report of the activities and operations of DSA's bond financed economic assistance programs for the preceding fiscal year and submit that report to the Governor and General Assembly by August 1 of each year. The bill changes the due date to October 1.

#### **Career Exploration Internship Program report deadline**

(R.C. 122.177)

The bill moves from January 7 to August 1 of each year, until 2017, the date by which DSA must submit a report regarding the Career Exploration Internship Program to the Governor and General Assembly leaders. Under current law, DSA administers the Program to award grants to businesses that employ a student intern in a career exploration internship.

### **Housing Trust Reserve Fund**

(R.C. 174.02, 174.09, and 319.63)

The bill creates the Housing Trust Reserve Fund in the state treasury. It is to consist of specified housing trust fund fees collected by county recorders under existing law and paid to the Treasurer of State. Currently, the Treasurer of State deposits the first \$50 million of those housing trust fund fees received each year in the Low- and Moderate-Income Housing Trust Fund and deposits any amounts in excess of \$50

