2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 796

BY REPRESENTATIVES WILLARD, ADAMS, BACALA, BOYD, BRASS, BRYANT, BUTLER, CARRIER, WILFORD CARTER, CORMIER, DAVIS, DESHOTEL, DUBUISSON, DUPLESSIS, EDMONDS, FISHER, FREEMAN, GLOVER, GOUDEAU, GREEN, HILFERTY, HOLLIS, HUGHES, ILLG, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, TRAVIS JOHNSON, JORDAN, KERNER, LAFLEUR, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MARCELLE, MARINO, MCFARLAND, NELSON, NEWELL, PIERRE, PRESSLY, SCHAMERHORN, SELDERS, THOMAS, THOMPSON, WHITE, AND WRIGHT

1 AN ACT

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To amend and reenact R.S. 51:2312(A)(1) and to enact R.S. 51:2401, relative to certain small business grants; to provide for the authority of the Department of Economic Development; to create the Small Business Innovation Fund; to provide for uses of monies in the fund; to provide for the administration of grants; to provide for eligibility of applicants; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 51:2312(A)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 51:2401 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2312. Powers and authority; duties

A. The corporation shall serve as the single review board for all financial assistance, loans, incentives or inducements, customized workforce training, investment programs, and any related appropriations, grants, or joint ventures administered by the Department of Economic Development, excluding those financial incentive programs administered by the State Board of Commerce and Industry. The corporation shall formulate and implement the policies for the delivery of services to obtain the following effects:

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1 (1) The support of innovative private sector research and development 2 activities by Louisiana businesses intended to generate commercial products, 3 processes, or services by providing matching funds to those Louisiana small 4 businesses that will apply for received federal Small Business Innovative Innovation 5 Research (SBIR) Phase I or Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grant 6 funds, for such federal applications submitted or received after January 1, 2023. 7 8 §2401. Small Business Innovation Fund; purpose; program administration 9 A. There is hereby created in the state treasury, as a special fund, the "Small 10 Business Innovation Fund", hereinafter referred to as the "fund". 11 B. The monies in the fund shall be used to provide financial assistance to certain Louisiana businesses applying for Small Business Innovation Research, 12 hereinafter referred to as "SBIR", or Small Business Technology Transfer, 13 14 hereinafter referred to as "STTR", federal research grants. 15 C. After compliance with the requirements of Article VII, Section 9(B) of 16 the Constitution of Louisiana relative to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund, 17 all monies received for the purpose of the fund shall be deposited into the fund. 18 D. Monies in the fund shall be invested in the same manner as monies in the 19 general fund. Interest earned on investment of monies in the fund shall be credited 20 to the fund. Unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of the 21 fiscal year shall remain in the fund. 22 E. Subject to appropriation and the provisions of this Section, monies in the 23 fund shall be used by the Department of Economic Development for awarding grants 24 to selected applicants. The Louisiana Economic Development Corporation, 25 hereinafter referred to as "corporation", in conjunction with the Louisiana State 26 University and Agricultural and Mechanical College Louisiana Technology Transfer 27 Office, hereinafter referred to as "LTTO", shall administer awards to selected applicants in the form of grants. The LTTO shall establish criteria for grant 28 29 eligibility, provide for an application process, and select eligible Louisiana business

applicants to receive monies from the fund.

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HB NO. 796 **ENROLLED** 1 F. Up to one hundred fifty thousand dollars shall be annually disbursed from 2 the fund as follows: 3 (1) Up to sixty thousand dollars shall be disbursed to selected applicants in 4 the form of grants for the purpose of assisting in the completion of Phase I SBIR or STTR federal grant applications. Any grant received pursuant to this Paragraph shall 5 6 not exceed five thousand dollars per applicant. 7 (2) Up to sixty thousand dollars shall be disbursed to selected applicants in 8 the form of grants for the purpose of assisting in the completion of Phase II SBIR or 9 STTR federal grant applications. Any grant received pursuant to this Paragraph shall 10 not exceed ten thousand dollars per applicant. 11 (3) Up to thirty thousand dollars shall be appropriated to the LTTO for the 12 purpose of funding technical assistance, outreach programs, and program-related 13 promotions. 14 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not 15 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature 16 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If 17 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become 18 effective on the day following such approval. SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIAN

APPROVED: ____