

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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2017-2018 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

February 3, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. WOERNER, ORTIZ, LUPARDO, PEOPLES-STOKES, HAWLEY, BRINDISI, PALMESANO, JENNE, STEC, STIRPE, BLANKENBUSH, JONES, MAGEE -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. GIGLIO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means -- recommitted to the Committee on Ways and Means in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- again reported from said committee with amendments, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the tax law, in relation to providing insurance corporations with a tax credit for investments made in rural business growth funds; and to amend the state finance law, in relation to establishing the New York agriculture and rural jobs fund

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The tax law is amended by adding a new section 44 to read as follows:

§ 44. New York agriculture and rural jobs credit. (a) Definitions. For the purpose of this section the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) "Affiliate" means a person that directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with another person. For the purposes of this division, a person is "controlled by" another person if the controlling person holds, directly or indirectly, the majority voting or ownership interest in the controlled person or has control over the day-to-day operations of the controlled person by contract or by law.

(2) "Closing date" means the date on which a rural business growth fund has collected all of the amounts specified by subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph seven of subdivision (b) of this section.

(3) "Credit-eligible capital contribution" means an investment of cash by a person in a rural business growth fund that equals the amount spec-

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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ified on a tax credit certificate issued by the department under subparagraph (B) of paragraph six of subdivision (b) of this section. The investment shall purchase an equity interest in the rural business growth fund or purchase, at par value or premium, a debt instrument issued by the rural growth fund that meets all of the following criteria:

(A) The debt instrument has an original maturity date of at least five years after the date of issuance.

(B) The debt instrument has a repayment schedule that is not faster than a level principal amortization over five years.

(C) The debt instrument has no interest, distribution, or payment features dependent on the rural business growth fund's profitability or the success of the rural growth investments.

(4) "Eligible investment authority" means the amount stated on the notice issued under subparagraph (A) of paragraph six of subdivision (b) of this section certifying the rural business growth fund. At least sixty-five percent of a rural business growth fund's eligible investment authority shall be comprised of credit-eligible capital contributions.

(5) A business's "principal business operations" are in this state if at least eighty percent of the business's employees reside in this state, the individuals who receive eighty percent of the business's payroll reside in this state, or the business has agreed to use the proceeds of a rural growth investment to relocate at least eighty percent of its employees to this state or pay at least eighty percent of its payroll to individuals residing in this state.

(6) "Rural area" shall have the same meaning as defined in subdivision seven of section four hundred eighty-one of the executive law.

(7) "Rural business concern" means an operating company that, at the time if the initial investment in the company by a rural business growth fund, has its principal business operations in this state, has fewer than one hundred fifty employees or not more than ten million dollars in net income for the preceding taxable year, and meets either of the following criteria:

(A) The business's principal business operations are located in a rural area; or

(B) The business produces or provides any goods or services normally used by farmers, ranchers, or producers and harvesters of aquatic products in their business operations, or to improve the welfare or livelihood of such persons, or is involved in the processing and marketing of agricultural products, farm supply, and input suppliers, provided that such business is not located in a municipality with a population of more than fifty thousand. For the purposes of this section, "net income" means federal adjusted gross income as required to be reported under the Internal Revenue Code less federal and state taxes imposed on or measured by income. Any business which is classified as a rural business concern at the time of the initial investment in said business by a rural business growth fund shall remain classified as a rural business concern and may receive follow-on investments from any rural business growth fund, and such follow-on investments shall be rural growth investments even though such business may not meet the definition of a rural business concern at the time of such follow-on investments.

(8) "Rural business growth fund" means an entity certified by the department under this section.

(9) "Rural growth investment" means any capital or equity investment in a rural business concern or any loan to a rural business concern with a term of at least one year.

1     (10) "Taxable year" when used in reference to an insurance company  
2 means the calendar year ending on the thirty-first day of December next  
3 preceding the day the annual report is required to be returned under  
4 subdivision (d) of this section.

5     (b) Certification. (1) On and after August first, two thousand eigh-  
6 teen, an applicant that has developed a business plan to invest in rural  
7 business concerns in this state and has successfully solicited private  
8 investors to make capital contributions in support of the plan may apply  
9 to the department for certification as a rural business growth fund. The  
10 application shall include all of the following:

11     (A) The total eligible investment authority sought by the applicant  
12 under the business plan;

13     (B) Documents and other evidence sufficient to prove, to the satisfac-  
14 tion of the department, that the applicant meets all of the following  
15 criteria: (i) The applicant or an affiliate of the applicant is licensed  
16 as a rural business investment company under 7 U.S.C. 2009cc, or as a  
17 small business investment company under 15 U.S.C. 681.

18     (ii) As of the date the application is submitted, the applicant has  
19 invested more than one hundred million dollars in operating companies,  
20 including at least fifty million dollars in operating companies located  
21 in rural areas. In computing investments under this division, the appli-  
22 cant may include investments made by affiliates of the applicant.

23     (C) An estimate of the number of jobs that will be created or retained  
24 in this state as a result of the applicant's rural growth investments;

25     (D) A revenue impact assessment for the applicant's proposed rural  
26 growth investments prepared by a nationally recognized third-party inde-  
27 pendent economic forecasting firm using a dynamic economic forecasting  
28 model. The revenue impact assessment shall analyze the applicant's  
29 business plan over the ten years following the date the application is  
30 submitted to the department.

31     (E) A signed affidavit from each investor successfully solicited by  
32 the applicant to make a credit eligible capital contribution in support  
33 of the business plan. Each affidavit shall include information suffi-  
34 cient for the tax commissioner to identify the investor and shall state  
35 the amount of the investor's credit-eligible capital contribution.

36     (F) A nonrefundable application fee of five thousand dollars.

37     (2) The department shall review and make a determination with respect  
38 to each application submitted under paragraph one of this subdivision  
39 within thirty days of receipt. The department shall review and make  
40 determinations on the applications in the order in which the applica-  
41 tions are received by the department. Applications received by the  
42 department on the same day shall be deemed to have been received simul-  
43 taneously. Except as provided in paragraph four of subdivision (c) of  
44 this section, the department shall not approve more than one hundred  
45 million dollars in eligible investment authority or more than sixty-five  
46 million dollars in credit-eligible capital contributions.

47     (3) The department shall deny an application submitted under this  
48 section if any of the following are true: (A) The application is incom-  
49 plete.

50     (B) The application fee is not paid in full.

51     (C) The applicant does not satisfy all the criteria described in  
52 subparagraph (B) of paragraph one of this subdivision.

53     (D) The revenue impact assessment submitted under subparagraph (D) of  
54 paragraph one of this subdivision does not demonstrate that the appli-  
55 cant's business plan will result in a positive economic impact on this

1 state over a ten-year period that exceeds the credit eligible capital  
2 contributions sought by the applicant.

3 (E) The credit-eligible capital contributions described in affidavits  
4 submitted under subparagraph (E) of paragraph one of this subdivision do  
5 not equal sixty-five percent of the total amount of eligible investment  
6 authority sought under the applicant's business plan.

7 (F) The department has already approved the maximum amount of eligible  
8 investment authority and credit-eligible capital contributions allowed  
9 under paragraph two of this subdivision.

10 (4) If the department denies an application under paragraph three of  
11 this subdivision, the department shall send notice of its determination  
12 of the applicant. The notice shall include the reasons that the applica-  
13 tion was denied. If the application was denied for any reason other than  
14 the reason specified in subparagraph (F) of paragraph three of this  
15 subdivision, the applicant may provide additional information to the  
16 department to complete, clarify, or cure defects in the application.  
17 The additional information must be submitted within thirty days after  
18 the date the notice of denial was sent by the department. If the person  
19 or entity submits additional information within thirty days, the depart-  
20 ment shall reconsider the application within thirty days after receiving  
21 such additional information. If after submission of additional informa-  
22 tion, the department approves the application, then the submission date  
23 shall be the date of the original submission of the application. If the  
24 person or entity does not submit additional information within thirty  
25 days after the notice of denial was sent, the applicant may submit a new  
26 application with a new submission date at any time.

27 (5) Of approving multiple simultaneously submitted applications would  
28 result in exceeding the overall eligible investment limit prescribed by  
29 paragraph two of this subdivision, the department shall proportionally  
30 reduce the eligible investment authority and the credit-eligible capital  
31 contributions for each approved application as necessary to avoid  
32 exceeding the limit.

33 (6) The department shall not deny a rural business growth fund appli-  
34 cation or reduce the requested eligible investment authority for reasons  
35 other than those described in paragraphs three and five of this subdivi-  
36 sion. If the department approves such application, the department shall  
37 issue all of the following notices: (A) To the applicant, a written  
38 notice certifying that the applicant qualifies as a rural business  
39 growth fund and specifying the amount of the applicant's eligible  
40 investment authority; (B) To each investor whose affidavit was included  
41 in the application, a tax credit certificate specifying the amount of  
42 the investor's credit-eligible capital contribution; (C) To the commis-  
43 sioner, a copy of each tax credit certificate issued under subparagraph  
44 (B) of this paragraph.

45 (7) A rural business growth fund shall complete all of the following  
46 within sixty days of receiving the certification issued under subpara-  
47 graph (A) of paragraph six of this subdivision:

48 (A) Collect the credit-eligible capital contributions from each inves-  
49 tor issued a tax credit certificate under subparagraph (B) of paragraph  
50 six of this subdivision;

51 (B) Collect one or more investments of cash, which shall purchase an  
52 equity interest in the rural growth fund or a debt instrument issued by  
53 the rural growth fund at par value or premium, with a maturity date of  
54 at least five years from the closing date that, when added to the  
55 contributions collected under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, equal  
56 the fund's eligible investment authority. At least ten percent of the

1 fund's eligible investment authority shall be comprised of equity  
2 investments contributed by affiliates of the rural business growth fund,  
3 including employees, officers, and directors of such affiliates.

4 (C) Send to the department documentation sufficient to prove that the  
5 amounts described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this paragraph have  
6 been collected. If the rural business growth fund fails to fully comply  
7 with this paragraph, the fund's certification shall lapse.

8 (8) Eligible investment authority and corresponding credit-eligible  
9 capital contributions that lapse under paragraph seven of this subdivi-  
10 sion do not count toward limits on total eligible investment authority  
11 and credit-eligible capital contributions prescribed in paragraph two of  
12 this subdivision. Once eligible investment authority has lapsed, the  
13 department shall first award lapsed authority pro rata to each rural  
14 business growth fund that was awarded less than the requested eligible  
15 investment authority under paragraph five of this subdivision. Any  
16 remaining eligible investment authority may be awarded by the department  
17 to new applicants.

18 (9) Application fees submitted to the department pursuant to subpara-  
19 graph (F) of paragraph one of this subdivision shall be credited to the  
20 New York agriculture and rural jobs fund, created in section ninety-  
21 nine-bb of the state finance law.

22 (c) Revocation of certification. (1) The department shall revoke a tax  
23 credit certificate issued under subdivision (b) of this section if any  
24 of the following occur with respect to a rural business growth fund  
25 before the fund exits the program under paragraph five of this subdivi-  
26 sion.

27 (A) The rural business growth fund in which the credit-eligible capi-  
28 tal contribution was made does not invest sixty percent of its eligible  
29 investment authority in rural growth investments in this state within  
30 two years of the closing date and one hundred percent of its eligible  
31 investment authority in rural growth investments in this state within  
32 three years of the closing date.

33 (B) After investing one hundred percent of its eligible investment  
34 authority in rural growth investments in this state, the rural business  
35 growth fund fails to maintain that investment until the fifth anniver-  
36 sary of the closing date, including the reinvestment of such investment.  
37 For the purposes of this section, an investment is "maintained" even if  
38 the investment is sold or repaid so long as the rural business growth  
39 fund reinvests an amount equal to the capital returned or recovered by  
40 the fund from the original investment, exclusive of any profits real-  
41 ized, in other rural growth investments in this state within twelve  
42 months of the receipt of such capital. Amounts received periodically by  
43 a rural business growth fund shall be treated as continually invested in  
44 rural growth investments if the amounts are reinvested in one or more  
45 rural growth investments by the end of the following calendar year. A  
46 rural business growth fund is not required to reinvest capital returned  
47 from rural growth investments in the six months immediately preceding  
48 the fifth anniversary of the closing date, and such rural growth invest-  
49 ments shall be considered held continuously by the rural growth fund  
50 through the fifth anniversary of the closing date.

51 (C) The rural business growth fund invests more than the greater of  
52 seven million five hundred thousand dollars or twenty percent of its  
53 eligible investment authority in the same rural business concern,  
54 including amounts invested in affiliates of the rural business concern  
55 but excluding amounts reinvested in the rural business growth fund with  
56 repaid or redeemed rural business growth investments, provided such



1 reinvestments shall not count towards the requirement of subparagraph  
2 (A) of this paragraph.

3 (D) The rural business growth fund makes a rural growth investment in  
4 a rural business concern that directly or indirectly through an affil-  
5 iate owns, has the right to acquire an ownership interest, make a loan  
6 to, or make an investment in the rural business growth fund, an affil-  
7 iate of the rural business growth fund, or an investor in the rural  
8 business growth fund. This paragraph does not apply to investments in  
9 publicly traded securities by a rural business concern or an owner or  
10 affiliate of such concern.

11 (2) Before taking action under paragraph one of this subdivision, the  
12 department shall notify the rural business growth fund of the reasons  
13 for the pending action. If the rural business growth fund corrects the  
14 violations, other than violations of subparagraph (D) of paragraph one  
15 of this subdivision, outlined in the notice to the satisfaction of the  
16 department within one hundred eighty days of the date of the notice was  
17 sent, the department shall not revoke the tax credit certificates or  
18 levy a fine.

19 (3) If the department revokes a tax credit certificate under paragraph  
20 one of this subdivision, the commissioner shall make an assessment for  
21 the amount of the credit claimed by the certificate holder before the  
22 certificate was revoked. The commissioner shall make the assessment  
23 within one year after the certificate has been revoked.

24 (4) If tax credit certificates are revoked under paragraph one of this  
25 subdivision, the associated eligible investment authority and credit-el-  
26 igible capital contributions do not count toward the limit on total  
27 eligible investment authority and credit-eligible capital contributions  
28 described by paragraph two of subdivision (b) of this section. The  
29 department shall first award reverted authority pro rata to each rural  
30 business growth fund that was awarded less than the requested eligible  
31 investment authority under paragraph five of subdivision (b) of this  
32 section. Any remaining eligible investment authority may be awarded by  
33 the department to new applicants.

34 (5) (A) On or after the fifth anniversary of the closing date, a rural  
35 business growth fund that has not committed any of the acts described in  
36 paragraph one of this subdivision may apply to the department to exit  
37 the program as a rural business growth fund and no longer be subject to  
38 regulation under this section. The department shall respond to the  
39 application within thirty days after receiving such application. In  
40 evaluating such request the fact that no tax credit certificates have  
41 been revoked with respect to the rural business growth fund shall be  
42 sufficient evidence to prove that the fund is eligible to exit the  
43 program. The department shall not unreasonably deny an application  
44 submitted under this subdivision.

45 (B) The department shall send notice of its determination with respect  
46 to an application submitted under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph to  
47 the rural business growth fund. If the application is denied, the notice  
48 shall include the reasons for the determination.

49 (C) The department shall not revoke a tax credit certificate due to  
50 any actions of a rural business growth fund that occur after the date  
51 the fund's application for exiting the program is approved under subpar-  
52 agraph (A) of this paragraph.

53 (6) If the number of jobs created or retained by the rural business  
54 concern that received rural growth investments from the rural business  
55 growth fund is:

(A) Less than sixty percent of the number projected in the approved rural business growth fund's business plan filed as part of its application for certification under subdivision (b) of this section, then the state shall receive twenty percent of any distribution or payment to an equity holder in an approved rural business growth fund in excess of the sum of the amount of equity capital invested in the fund by such equity holder and an amount equal to any projected increase in the equity holder's federal or state tax liability, including penalties and interest, related to the equity holder's ownership, management, or operation of the fund; or

(B) Greater than sixty percent but less than eighty percent of the number projected in the approved rural business growth fund's business plan filed as part of its application for certification under subdivision (b) of this section, then the state shall receive ten percent of any distribution or payment to an equity holder in an approved rural business growth fund in excess of the sum of the amount of equity capital invested in the fund by such equity holder and an amount equal to any projected increase in the equity holder's federal or state tax liability, including penalties and interest, related to the equity holder's ownership, management, or operation of the fund.

(7) A rural business growth fund may, prior to making a rural growth investment, request from the department a written determination as to whether the business entity in which it proposes to invest qualifies as a rural business concern. The department, not later than the twentieth business day after the date of receipt of such request, shall notify the rural business growth fund of its determination. If the department fails to notify the rural fund of its determination by the twentieth business day, the business in which the rural business growth fund proposes to invest shall be considered an eligible rural business concern.

(d) Reports. (1) Each rural business growth fund shall submit a report to the department on or before the fifth business day after the second and third anniversaries of the closing date. The report shall provide documentation as to the rural growth investments made by the rural business growth fund. Such documentation shall include the following:

(A) A bank statement of the rural business growth fund displaying each rural growth investment;

(B) The name and location of each rural business concern in which the rural business growth fund has made a rural growth investment, including evidence that the business concern was qualified at the time the investment was made.

(2) On or before the last day of February of each year following the year in which the report required under paragraph one of this subdivision is due, the rural business growth fund shall submit an annual report to the department including the following:

(A) The number of employment positions created or retained as a result of the fund's rural growth investments as of the last day of the preceding calendar year;

(B) The average annual salary of the positions described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph;

(C) Any other information required by the department.

(3) The department shall adopt rules necessary to implement this subdivision.

§ 2. Section 1511 of the tax law is amended by adding a new subdivision (dd) to read as follows:

(dd) Credit for certain investments to a rural business growth fund. (1) There is hereby allowed a nonrefundable tax credit for taxpayers

1 that made a credit-eligible capital contribution to a rural business  
2 growth fund and were issued a tax credit certificate under subparagraph  
3 (B) of paragraph six of subdivision (b) of section forty-four of this  
4 chapter. The credit may be claimed against the tax imposed by this arti-  
5 cle and section one thousand one hundred twelve of the insurance law.  
6 The credit may not be sold, transferred, or allocated to any entity  
7 other than an affiliate of the taxpayer.

8 (2) On the closing date, the taxpayer shall earn a vested credit equal  
9 to the amount of the taxpayer's credit-eligible capital contribution to  
10 the rural business growth fund, as specified on the tax credit certif-  
11 icate. The taxpayer may claim up to twenty-five percent of the eligible  
12 investment authority for the two thousand twenty-three taxable year and  
13 up to twenty percent of the eligible investment authority for the two  
14 thousand twenty-four and two thousand twenty-five taxable years, exclu-  
15 sive of amounts carried forward pursuant to paragraph three of this  
16 subdivision.

17 (3) If the amount of the credit for a taxable year exceeds the tax  
18 otherwise due for that year, the excess shall be carried forward to  
19 ensuing taxable years until fully used. A taxpayer claiming a credit  
20 under this section shall submit a copy of the tax credit certificate  
21 with the taxpayer's return for each taxable year for which the credit is  
22 claimed.

23 § 3. The tax law is amended by adding a new section 187-q to read as  
24 follows:

25 § 187-q. Credit for certain investments to a rural business growth  
26 fund. 1. There is hereby allowed a nonrefundable tax credit for taxpay-  
27 ers that made a credit-eligible capital contribution to a rural business  
28 growth fund and were issued a tax credit certificate under subparagraph  
29 (B) of paragraph six of subdivision (b) of section forty-four of this  
30 chapter. The credit may be claimed against the tax imposed by this arti-  
31 cle. The credit may not be sold, transferred, or allocated to any entity  
32 other than an affiliate of the taxpayer.

33 2. On the closing date, the taxpayer shall earn a vested credit equal  
34 to the amount of the taxpayer's credit-eligible capital contribution to  
35 the rural business growth fund, as specified on the tax credit certif-  
36 icate. The taxpayer may claim up to twenty-five percent of the eligible  
37 investment authority for the two thousand twenty-three taxable year and  
38 up to twenty percent of the eligible investment authority for the two  
39 thousand twenty-four and two thousand twenty-five taxable years, exclu-  
40 sive of amounts carried forward pursuant to subdivision three of this  
41 section.

42 3. If the amount of the credit for a taxable year exceeds the tax  
43 otherwise due for that year, the excess shall be carried forward to  
44 ensuing taxable years until fully used. A taxpayer claiming a credit  
45 under this section shall submit a copy of the tax credit certificate  
46 with the taxpayer's return for each taxable year for which the credit is  
47 claimed.

48 § 4. Section 210-B of the tax law is amended by adding a new subdivi-  
49 sion 53 to read as follows:

50 53. Credit for certain investments to a rural business growth fund.  
51 (1) There is hereby allowed a nonrefundable tax credit for taxpayers  
52 that made a credit-eligible capital contribution to a rural business  
53 growth fund and were issued a tax credit certificate under subparagraph  
54 (B) of paragraph six of subdivision (b) of section forty-four of this  
55 chapter. The credit may be claimed against the tax imposed by this arti-



1 cle. The credit may not be sold, transferred, or allocated to any entity  
2 other than an affiliate of the taxpayer.

3 (2) On the closing date, the taxpayer shall earn a vested credit equal  
4 to the amount of the taxpayer's credit-eligible capital contribution to  
5 the rural business growth fund, as specified on the tax credit certif-  
6 icate. The taxpayer may claim up to twenty-five percent of the eligible  
7 investment authority for the two thousand twenty-three taxable year and  
8 up to twenty percent of the eligible investment authority for the two  
9 thousand twenty-four and two thousand twenty-five taxable years, exclu-  
10 sive of amounts carried forward pursuant to paragraph three of this  
11 subdivision.

12 (3) If the amount of the credit for a taxable year exceeds the tax  
13 otherwise due for that year, the excess shall be carried forward to  
14 ensuing taxable years until fully used. A taxpayer claiming a credit  
15 under this section shall submit a copy of the tax credit certificate  
16 with the taxpayer's return for each taxable year for which the credit is  
17 claimed.

18 § 5. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 99-bb to  
19 read as follows:

20 § 99-bb. New York agriculture and rural jobs fund. 1. There is hereby  
21 established in the joint custody of the state comptroller and the  
22 commissioner of taxation and finance a special fund to be known as the  
23 "New York agriculture and rural jobs fund".

24 2. Such fund shall consist of all application fees submitted pursuant  
25 to subparagraph (F) of paragraph one of subdivision (b) of section  
26 forty-four of the tax law, and all other moneys appropriated, credited,  
27 or transferred thereto from any other fund or source pursuant to law.

28 3. Moneys of the fund, following appropriation by the legislature  
29 shall be expended only for the purposes of providing funding for the New  
30 York agriculture and rural jobs credit set forth in section forty-four  
31 of the tax law. Moneys shall be paid out of the fund on the audit and  
32 warrant of the state comptroller on vouchers approved and certified by  
33 the commissioner of taxation and finance. Any interest received by the  
34 comptroller on moneys on deposit in the New York agriculture and rural  
35 jobs fund shall be retained in and become part of such fund.

36 § 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.