

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2253

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON (23).

4491H.02I

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 143, RSMo, by adding thereto seven new sections relating to the first-time business owner savings account act.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 143, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto seven new sections, to
2 be known as sections 143.1140, 143.1141, 143.1143, 143.1144, 143.1145, 143.1146, and
3 143.1147, to read as follows:

143.1140. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "First-Time
2 Business Owner Tax Deduction".

3 2. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

4 (1) "Deduction", an amount subtracted from the taxpayer's Missouri adjusted
5 gross income to determine Missouri taxable income for the tax year in which such
6 deduction is claimed;

7 (2) "Eligible expenses", the same meaning as that term is defined under section
8 143.1143;

9 (3) "First-time business owner savings account", the same meaning as that term
10 is defined under section 143.1143;

11 (4) "First-time business owner savings account act", sections 143.1141 to
12 143.1147;

13 (5) "Taxpayer", any individual who is a resident of this state and subject to the
14 income tax imposed under this chapter, excluding withholding tax imposed under
15 sections 143.191 to 143.265.

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets ~~thus~~ in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

16 **3. For all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, a taxpayer shall be**
17 **allowed a deduction equal to fifty percent of the taxpayer's contributions to a first-time**
18 **business owner savings account in the tax year of the contribution.**

19 **4. The amount of the deduction claimed shall not exceed the amount of the**
20 **taxpayer's Missouri adjusted gross income for the tax year the deduction is claimed.**

21 **5. The assets of a first-time business owner savings account and any income**
22 **therefrom shall be exempt from all taxation by the state or any of its political**
23 **subdivisions. Income earned or received as a result of assets in a first-time business**
24 **owner savings account shall not be subject to state income tax imposed under chapter**
25 **143. The exemption from taxation under this section shall apply only to assets and**
26 **income maintained, accrued, or expended under the requirements of the first-time**
27 **business owner savings account act, and no exemption shall apply to assets and income**
28 **expended for any other purposes. Annual contributions made to the savings program,**
29 **up to and including eight hundred dollars per participating taxpayer or up to and**
30 **including one thousand six hundred dollars for married individuals filing a combined**
31 **tax return, shall be subtracted from gross income to determine Missouri adjusted gross**
32 **income under section 143.121.**

33 **6. If any deductible contributions to or earnings from the program referred to in**
34 **this section are distributed and not used to pay for eligible expenses or are not held for**
35 **the minimum length of time under subsection 2 of section 143.1145, the amount so**
36 **distributed shall be added to the Missouri adjusted gross income of the participant or, if**
37 **the participant is not living, the amount shall be added to the Missouri adjusted gross**
38 **income of the participant's beneficiary.**

39 **7. The department of revenue shall promulgate rules to implement the**
40 **provisions of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section**
41 **536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become**
42 **effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and,**
43 **if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable, and if any**
44 **of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to**
45 **delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held**
46 **unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or**
47 **adopted after August 28, 2024, shall be invalid and void.**

48 **8. Under section 23.253 of the Missouri sunset act:**

49 **(1) The provisions of the new program authorized under this section shall**
50 **automatically sunset on December thirty-first six years after the effective date of this**
51 **section unless reauthorized by an act of the general assembly;**

52 (2) If such program is reauthorized, the program authorized under this section
53 shall automatically sunset on December thirty-first six years after the effective date of
54 the reauthorization of this section; and

55 (3) This section shall terminate on September first of the calendar year
56 immediately following the calendar year in which the program authorized under this
57 section is sunset.

 143.1141. Sections 143.1141 to 143.1147 shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "First-Time Business Owner Savings Account Act".

 143.1143. As used in sections 143.1141 to 143.1147, the following terms mean:

2 (1) "Account holder", an individual who establishes an account with a financial
3 institution that is designated as a first-time business owner savings account in
4 accordance with section 143.1144;

5 (2) "Department", the department of revenue;

6 (3) "Eligible expenses", any business expenses that result from the start-up of a
7 new business or that occur during the first month of a new business including, but not
8 limited to, incorporation fees; legal fees; marketing expenses; purchases of equipment,
9 inventory, real estate, or supplies; rent; security deposits; vehicles; or wages of
10 employees;

11 (4) "Financial institution", any state bank, state trust company, savings and loan
12 association, federally chartered credit union doing business in this state, credit union
13 chartered by the state of Missouri, national bank, broker-dealer, mutual fund, insurance
14 company, or other similar financial entity qualified to do business in this state;

15 (5) "First-time business owner", an individual who:

16 (a) Either individually or jointly, has never owned, been a partner in, or held the
17 majority of shares in a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, or limited liability
18 company; and

19 (b) Is a member of a minority;

20 (6) "First-time business owner savings account" or "account", an account with a
21 financial institution designated as such in accordance with subsection 1 of section
22 143.1144;

23 (7) "Member of a minority", any individual who has been subjected to racial or
24 ethnic prejudice or cultural bias because of his or her identity as a member of a group
25 without regard to his or her individual qualities. Such groups shall include, but not be
26 limited to, groups based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin;

27 (8) "Qualified beneficiary", a first-time business owner, designated by an
28 account holder, for whose eligible expenses the moneys in a first-time business owner
29 savings account are or will be used.

143.1144. 1. Beginning January 1, 2025, any individual may open an account with a financial institution and designate the account, in its entirety, as a first-time business owner savings account to be used to pay or reimburse a qualified beneficiary's eligible expenses for starting a new business. An individual may be the account holder of multiple accounts, and an individual may jointly own the account with another person if such persons file a joint income tax return. To be eligible for the tax deduction under section 143.1140, an account holder shall comply with the requirements of this section.

2. An account holder shall designate, not later than April fifteenth of the year following the tax year in which the account was established, a first-time business owner as the qualified beneficiary of the first-time business owner savings account. The account holder may designate himself or herself as the qualified beneficiary. The account holder may change the designated qualified beneficiary at any time, but no first-time business owner savings account shall have more than one qualified beneficiary at any time. No account holder shall have multiple accounts with the same qualified beneficiary, but an individual may be designated as the qualified beneficiary of multiple accounts.

3. (1) The following limits apply to a first-time business owner savings account:

(a) The maximum contribution to a first-time business owner savings account is one thousand six hundred dollars per year for an individual and three thousand two hundred dollars per year for account holders who file a joint tax return;

(b) The maximum amount of all contributions for all tax years to a first-time business owner savings account is twenty thousand dollars; and

(c) The maximum balance of a first-time business owner savings account is thirty thousand dollars.

(2) If a limit in subdivision (1) of this subsection is exceeded, thereafter no interest or other income earned on the investment of moneys in the first-time business owner savings account shall be included in the tax deduction under section 143.1140.

(3) Moneys may remain in a first-time business owner savings account for an unlimited duration without the interest or income being subject to recapture or penalty.

4. The account holder shall not use moneys in an account to pay expenses of administering the account, except that a service fee may be deducted from the account by a financial institution. The account holder shall be responsible for maintaining documentation for the first-time business owner savings account and for eligible expenses related to the qualified beneficiary starting a new business.

143.1145. 1. (1) For purposes of the tax benefit conferred under the first-time
2 business owner savings account act, the moneys in a first-time business owner savings
3 account may be:

4 (a) Used for eligible expenses related to a qualified beneficiary starting a new
5 business located in this state;

6 (b) Used for eligible expenses related to a qualified beneficiary starting a new
7 business located outside this state if the qualified beneficiary is active-duty military and
8 was stationed in Missouri for any time after the creation of the account;

9 (c) Transferred to another newly created first-time business owner savings
10 account; and

11 (d) Used to pay a service fee that is deducted by the financial institution.

12 (2) Subdivision (1) of this subsection applies whether the qualified beneficiary is
13 the sole owner of the new business or a joint owner with another person who does not
14 qualify as a qualified beneficiary.

15 2. Moneys withdrawn from a first-time business owner savings account shall be
16 subject to recapture in the tax year in which such moneys are withdrawn if:

17 (1) At the time of the withdrawal, it has been less than a year since the first
18 deposit in the first-time business owner savings account; or

19 (2) The moneys are used for any purpose other than those specified under
20 subsection 1 of this section.

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22 The recapture shall be an amount equal to the moneys withdrawn and shall be added to
23 the Missouri adjusted gross income of the account holder or, if the account holder is not
24 living, the qualified beneficiary.

25 3. If any moneys are subject to recapture under subsection 2 of this section, the
26 account holder shall pay to the department a penalty in the same tax year as the
27 recapture. If the withdrawal was made ten or fewer years after the first deposit in the
28 first-time business owner savings account, the penalty shall be equal to five percent of
29 the amount subject to recapture, and, if the withdrawal was made more than ten years
30 after the first deposit in the account, the penalty shall be equal to ten percent of the
31 amount subject to recapture. These penalties shall not apply if:

32 (1) The withdrawn moneys are used for eligible expenses related to a qualified
33 beneficiary starting a new business outside of the state; or

34 (2) The withdrawn moneys are from a first-time business owner savings account
35 for which the qualified beneficiary died and the account holder does not designate a new
36 qualified beneficiary during the same tax year.

37 **4. If the account holder dies or, if the first-time business owner savings account is**
38 **jointly owned, the account holders die and the account does not have a surviving**
39 **transfer-on-death beneficiary, all of the moneys in the account that were used for a tax**
40 **deduction under section 143.1140 shall be subject to recapture in the tax year of the**
41 **death or deaths, but no penalty shall be due to the department.**

143.1146. 1. The department shall establish forms for an account holder to
2 **annually report information about a first-time business owner savings account**
3 **including, but not limited to, how the moneys withdrawn from the fund are used, and**
4 **shall identify any supporting documentation that is required to be maintained. To be**
5 **eligible for the tax deduction under section 143.1140, an account holder shall annually**
6 **file with the account holder's state income tax return all forms required by the**
7 **department under this section, any Internal Revenue Service Form 1099 Series forms**
8 **for the account issued by the financial institution, and any other supporting**
9 **documentation the department requires.**

10 **2. The department may promulgate rules and regulations necessary to**
11 **administer the provisions of the first-time business owner savings account act. Any**
12 **rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under**
13 **the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and**
14 **is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This**
15 **section and chapter 536 are nonseverable, and if any of the powers vested with the**
16 **general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to**
17 **disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of**
18 **rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2024, shall be**
19 **invalid and void.**

143.1147. 1. No financial institution shall be required to:

2 **(1) Designate an account as a first-time business owner savings account or**
3 **designate the beneficiaries of an account in the financial institution's account contracts**
4 **or systems or in any other way;**

5 **(2) Track the use of moneys withdrawn from a first-time business owner savings**
6 **account; or**

7 **(3) Report any information to the department or any other governmental agency**
8 **that is not otherwise required by law.**

9 **2. No financial institution shall be responsible or liable for:**

10 **(1) Determining or ensuring that an account holder is eligible for a tax deduction**
11 **under section 143.1140;**

12 **(2) Determining or ensuring that moneys in the account are used for eligible**
13 **expenses; or**

14 **(3) Reporting or remitting taxes or penalties related to use of moneys in a first-**
15 **time business owner savings account.**

16 **3. In implementing section 143.1140 and sections 143.1141 to 143.1147, the**
17 **department shall not establish any administrative, reporting, or other requirements on**
18 **financial institutions that are outside the scope of normal account procedures.**

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