

15E.52 Innovation fund investment tax credits.

1. For purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise requires:
 - a. “Board” means the same as defined in [section 15.102](#).
 - b. “Innovation fund” means one or more early-stage capital funds certified by the board.
 - c. “Innovative business” means a business applying novel or original methods to the manufacture of a product or the delivery of a service. “Innovative business” includes but is not limited to a business engaged in the industries of advanced manufacturing, biosciences, and information technology.
2.
 - a. A tax credit shall be allowed against the taxes imposed in [chapter 422, divisions II, III, and V](#), and in [chapter 432](#), and against the moneys and credits tax imposed in [section 533.329](#), for a portion of a taxpayer’s equity investment in the form of cash in an innovation fund.
 - b. An individual may claim a tax credit under this section of a partnership, limited liability company, S corporation, estate, or trust electing to have income taxed directly to the individual. The amount claimed by the individual shall be based upon the pro rata share of the individual’s earnings from the partnership, limited liability company, S corporation, estate, or trust.
3. The amount of a tax credit allowed under [this section](#) shall equal twenty-five percent of the taxpayer’s equity investment in an innovation fund.
4. A taxpayer shall not claim a tax credit under [this section](#) if the taxpayer is a venture capital investment fund allocation manager for the Iowa fund of funds created in [section 15E.65](#) or an investor that receives a tax credit for the same investment in a qualifying business as described in [section 15E.44](#) or in a community-based seed capital fund as described in [section 15E.45](#), Code 2015.
5.
 - a. To receive a tax credit, a taxpayer must submit an application to the board. The board shall issue certificates under [this section](#) on a first-come, first-served basis, which certificates may be redeemed for tax credits. The board shall issue such certificates so that not more than the amount allocated for such tax credits under [section 15.119, subsection 2](#), may be claimed. The board shall not issue a certificate before September 1, 2014.
 - b. If in a fiscal year the aggregate amount of tax credits applied for exceeds the amount allocated for that fiscal year under [section 15.119, subsection 2](#), the board shall establish a wait list for certificates. Applications that were approved but for which certificates were not issued shall be placed on the wait list in the order the applications were received by the board and shall be given priority for receiving certificates in succeeding fiscal years.
 - c. The board shall not issue a certificate to a taxpayer for an equity investment in an innovation fund until such fund has been certified as an innovation fund pursuant to [subsection 7](#).
 - d. The board shall, in cooperation with the department of revenue, establish criteria and procedures for the allocation and issuance of tax credits by means of certificates issued by the board. The criteria shall include the contingencies that must be met for a certificate to be redeemable in order to receive a tax credit. The procedures established by the board, in cooperation with the department of revenue, shall relate to the procedures for the issuance and transfer of the certificates and for the redemption of a certificate and related tax credit.
 - e. A certificate and related tax credit issued pursuant to [this section](#) shall be deemed a vested right of the original holder or any transferee thereof, and the state shall not cause either to be redeemed in such a way that amends or rescinds the certificate or that curtails, limits, or withdraws the related tax credit, except as otherwise provided in [this section](#) or upon consent of the proper holder. A certificate issued pursuant to [this section](#) cannot pledge the credit of the state and any such certificate so pledged to secure the debt of the original holder or a transferee shall not constitute a contract binding the state.
6. Any tax credit in excess of the taxpayer’s liability for the tax year may be credited to the tax liability for the following five years or until depleted, whichever is earlier. A tax credit shall not be carried back to a tax year prior to the tax year in which the taxpayer claims the tax credit.
7. An innovation fund shall submit an application for certification to the board. The board

shall approve the application and certify the innovation fund if all of the following criteria are met:

- a. The fund is organized for the purposes of making investments in promising early-stage companies which have a principal place of business in the state.
- b. The fund proposes to make investments in innovative businesses.
- c. The fund seeks to secure private funding sources for investment in such businesses.
- d. The fund proposes to provide multiple rounds of funding and early-stage private sector funding to innovative businesses with a high growth potential, and proposes to focus such funding on innovative businesses that show a potential to produce commercially viable products or services within a reasonable period of time.
- e. The fund proposes to evaluate all prospective innovative businesses using a rigorous approach and proposes to collaborate and coordinate with the authority and other state and local entities in an effort to achieve policy consistency.
- f. The fund proposes to collaborate with the regents institutions of this state and to leverage relationships with such institutions in order to potentially commercialize research developed at those institutions.
- g. The fund proposes to obtain at least fifteen million dollars in binding investment commitments and to invest a minimum of fifteen million dollars in companies that have a principal place of business in the state.

8. The board shall not certify an innovation fund after June 30, 2023.

9. An innovation fund shall collect and provide to the board the information required in [subsection 10](#), paragraphs “e” and “f”, in the manner and form prescribed by the board. An innovation fund failing to comply with [this subsection](#) may have its certification revoked by the board.

10. On or before January 31 of each year, the board, in cooperation with the department of revenue, shall submit to the general assembly and the governor a report describing the activities of the innovation funds during the preceding fiscal year. The report shall at a minimum include the following information:

- a. The amount of tax credit certificates issued to equity investors in each innovation fund.
- b. The amount of approved tax credit applications that were placed on the wait list for certificates.
- c. The amount of tax credits claimed.
- d. The amount of tax credits transferred to other persons.
- e. The amount of investments in each innovation fund.
- f. For each investment by an innovation fund in a business:
 - (1) The amount of the investment.
 - (2) The name and industry of the business.
 - (3) The location or locations from which the business operates.
 - (4) The number of employees of the business located in Iowa and the number of employees of the business located outside Iowa on the date of the initial investment by the innovation fund in the business.
 - (5) The number of employees of the business located in Iowa and the number of employees of the business located outside Iowa at the close of the fiscal year which is the subject of the report.

11. Tax credit certificates issued pursuant to [this section](#) may be transferred, in whole or in part, to any person. A tax credit certificate shall only be transferred once. Within ninety days of transfer, the transferee shall submit the transferred tax credit certificate to the department of revenue along with a statement containing the transferee’s name, tax identification number, and address, the denomination that each replacement tax credit certificate is to carry, and any other information required by the department of revenue.

12. Within thirty days of receiving the transferred tax credit certificate and the transferee’s statement, the department of revenue shall issue one or more replacement tax credit certificates to the transferee. Each replacement tax credit certificate must contain the information required for the original tax credit certificate. A replacement tax credit certificate may designate a different tax than the tax designated on the original tax credit certificate.

A tax credit shall not be claimed by a transferee under [this section](#) until a replacement tax credit certificate identifying the transferee as the proper holder has been issued.

13. The transferee may use the amount of the tax credit transferred against the taxes imposed in [chapter 422, divisions II, III, and V](#), and in [chapter 432](#), and against the moneys and credits tax imposed in [section 533.329](#), for any tax year the original transferor could have claimed the tax credit. Any consideration received for the transfer of the tax credit shall not be included as income under [chapter 422, divisions II, III, and V](#). Any consideration paid for the transfer of the tax credit shall not be deducted from income under [chapter 422, divisions II, III, and V](#).

[2011 Acts, ch 118, §23, 36, 89; 2011 Acts, ch 130, §40, 47, 71; 2012 Acts, ch 1126, §33; 2013 Acts, ch 117, §2 – 8; 2015 Acts, ch 138, §119, 126, 127; 2018 Acts, ch 1161, §30, 43](#)

Referred to in [§2.48, 15.119, 15.410, 422.11Z, 422.33, 422.60, 432.12M, 511.8\(20\)\(b\), 515.35, 533.329](#)

2015 amendment to subsection 4 takes effect July 2, 2015, and applies to equity investments in a qualifying business made on or after that date; [2015 Acts, ch 138, §126, 127](#)