As Amended by Senate Committee

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Session of 2001

SENATE BILL No. 231

By Senator Haley

2-5

AN ACT establishing the family development account program and family development account reserve fund.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the family development account program.

Sec. 2. As used in this act:

- "Account holder" means a person who is the owner of a family development account.
- "Community-based organization" means any religious or charitable association that is approved by the secretary of commerce and housing to implement the family development account reserve fund.
 - "Department" means the department of commerce and housing.
- (d) "Family development account" means a financial instrument established in section 3, and amendments thereto.
- (e) "Family development account reserve fund" means the fund created by an approved community-based organization for the purposes of funding the costs incurred in the administration of the program by the financial institutions and the community-based organizations and for providing matching funds for moneys in family development accounts.
- "Federal poverty level" means the most recent poverty income guidelines published in the calendar year by the United States department of health and human services.
- "Financial institution" means any bank, trust company, savings bank, credit union or savings and loan association or any other financial institution regulated by the state of Kansas, any agency of the United States or other state with an office in Kansas which is approved by the secretary to create and manage the necessary financial instruments setting up family development accounts for eligible families or individuals to implement this program.
- "Matching funds" means the moneys contributed designated for contribution from a family development account reserve fund to a family

development account by a community-based organization at a one-to-one ratio up to a three-to-one ratio.

- (i) "Program" means the Kansas family development account program established in sections 1 through 8, and amendments thereto.
- (j) "Program contributor" means a person or entity who makes a contribution to a family development account reserve fund.
 - (k) "Secretary" means the secretary of commerce and housing.
- Sec. 3. (a) There is hereby established within the department a program to be known as the family development account program. The program shall provide eligible families and individuals with an opportunity to establish special savings accounts for moneys which may be used by such families and individuals for education, home ownership or small business capitalization the purposes enumerated by section 4.
- (b) The secretary shall adopt rules and regulations and policies to implement and administer the provisions of sections 1 through 8, and amendments thereto.
- (c) The secretary shall enter into contracts as deemed appropriate to carry out the provisions of this act.
- (d) The department of commerce and housing shall prepare a request for proposals from community-based organizations seeking to administer a family development account reserve fund on a not-for-profit basis. The community-based organization proposals shall include:
- (1) A requirement that the community-based organization make matching contributions to the development account of an individual account holder's or family's contributions to the family development account;
- (2) a process for including account holders in decision making regarding the investment of funds in the accounts;
- (3) specifications of the population or populations targeted for priority participation in the program;
- (4) a requirement that the individual account holder or the family of the account holder attend economic literacy education seminars;
- (5) a process for including economic literacy *education* seminars in the family development account program; and
- (6) a process for regular evaluation and review of family development accounts to ensure program compliance by account holders.
- (e) A notice of the request for proposals shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper having general circulation in the community at least 30 days before any action thereon. The request for proposals shall also be posted on readily accessible bulletin boards in all offices of the department and sent elsewhere as the secretary of commerce and housing deems best.
 - (f) In reviewing the proposals of community-based organizations, the

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department shall consider the following factors:

- (1) The not-for-profit status of such organization;
- (2) the fiscal accountability of the community-based organization;
- (3) the ability of the community-based organization to provide or raise moneys for matching contributions;
- (4) the ability of the community-based organization to establish and administer a reserve fund account which shall receive all contributions from program contributors; and
- (5) the significance and quality of proposed auxiliary services; including economic literacy education seminars and their relationship to the goals of the family development account program.
- (g) No more than 20% of all funds in the reserve fund account may be used for administrative costs of the program in the first and second years of the program, and no more than 15% of such funds may be used for administrative costs in any subsequent year. Funds deposited by account holders shall not be used for administrative costs.
- Sec. 4. A family or individual whose household income is less than or equal to 200% of the federal poverty level may open a family development account for the purpose of accumulating and withdrawing moneys for specified expenditures. The account holder may withdraw moneys from the account on the approval of the *financial institution community-based organization*, without penalty, for any of the following expenditures:
- (a) Educational costs for any family member at an accredited institution of higher education;
- (b) job training costs for any family member 18 years of age or older, at an accredited or licensed training program;
 - (c) purchase of a primary residence;
 - d) major repairs or improvements to a primary residence; or
- (e) start-up capitalization of a small business for any family member 18 years of age or older.
- Sec. 5. (a) Financial institutions seeking to administer family development accounts on a not for profit basis approved by the department shall be permitted to establish family development accounts pursuant to sections 1 through 8, and amendments thereto. The financial institution shall certify to the department, on forms prescribed by the department and accompanied by any documentation required by the department, that such accounts have been established pursuant to this act and that deposits have been made on behalf of the account holder.
- (b) A financial institution establishing a family development account shall:
 - (1) Keep the account in the name of the account holder;
 - (2) permit deposits to be made in the account by the following, sub-

ject to the indicated conditions:

- (A) The account holder; or
- (B) a community-based organization on behalf of the account holder. Such a deposit may include moneys to match the account holder's deposits, up to a three to one match ratio;
- (3) require the account to earn at least the market rate of interest; and
- (4) permit the account holder to withdraw moneys **upon approval of a community-based organization** from the account for any of the purposes listed in subsections (a) through (e) of section 4, and amendments thereto.
- (c) The total of all deposits by the account holder into a family development account in a calendar year shall not exceed \$2,000. The total balance in a family development account at any time shall not exceed \$50,000.
- Sec. 6. (a) Account holders who withdraw moneys from a family development account not in accordance with subsections (a) through (e) of section 4, and amendments thereto, shall forfeit all matching moneys in the account.
- (b) All moneys forfeited by an account holder pursuant to subsection (a) shall be returned to the family development account reserve fund of the contributing community-based organization.
- (c) In the event of an account holder's death, the account may be transferred to the ownership of a contingent beneficiary. An account holder shall name contingent beneficiaries at the time the account is established and may change such beneficiaries at any time. If the named beneficiary is deceased or otherwise cannot accept the transfer, the moneys shall be transferred to the family development account reserve fund of the contributing community-based organization.
- Sec. 7. (a) Moneys deposited in a family development account by an account holder, pursuant to section 4, and amendments thereto, shall be exempt from income taxation imposed under the Kansas income tax act unless withdrawn for an unapproved use.
- (b) Earnings by any financial institution attributable to its family development accounts shall be exempt from privilege taxation imposed by article 11 of chapter 79 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated.
- (c) Interest earned by a family development account shall be exempt from taxation under the Kansas income tax act.
- (d) Any funds in a family development account, including accrued interest, shall be disregarded when determining eligibility to receive, or the amount of, any public assistance or benefits.
- (e) A program contributor shall be allowed a credit against state income tax imposed under the Kansas income tax act in an amount not to

exceed \$50,000 [\$25,000] per program contributor or \$6% [25%] of the contribution amount, whichever is less.

- (f) The department of commerce and housing shall verify all tax credit claims by contributors. The administration of the community-based organization, with the cooperation of the participating financial institutions, shall submit the names of contributors and the total amount each contributor contributes to the family development account reserve fund for the calendar year. The secretary shall determine the date by which such information shall be submitted to the secretary by the local administrator. The department shall submit verification of qualified tax credits pursuant to sections 1 through 8 and amendments thereto to the department of revenue.
- (g) The total tax credits authorized pursuant to this section shall not exceed \$4,000,000 \$500,000 in any fiscal year.
- (h) The provisions of this section shall be applicable to all taxable years commencing after December 31, 2000 [tax years 2001, 2002 and 2003].
- Sec. 8. (a) Subject to appropriations, the department shall award annually up to \$100,000 for an independent evaluation of the program. The secretary shall develop the necessary criteria and prepare requests for proposals to perform an independent evaluation of the program. Notice for the request for proposals shall be performed as set out in subsection (e) of section 3 and amendments thereto.
- (b) Based on the independent evaluation, the department shall provide a comprehensive report on the program to the legislature during each legislative session, beginning in the year 2002.
- Sec. 9. [8.] This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.