As Introduced

136th General Assembly

Regular Session 2025-2026

H. B. No. 332

Representatives Mathews, T., Hiner

Cosponsors: Representatives Thomas, D., Deeter, Williams, Fischer

То	amend sections 135.61, 135.62, 135.621, 135.623,	1
	1733.04, and 1733.24 and to enact section 135.67	2
	of the Revised Code to create the small defense	3
	business linked deposit program.	4

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 135.61, 135.62, 135.621, 135.623,	5
1733.04, and 1733.24 be amended and section 135.67 of the	6
Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:	7
Sec. 135.61. (A) For the purposes of this section:	8
(1) "Eligible borrower," "eligible credit union," and	9
"eligible lending institution" have the same meanings as in	10
section 135.62 of the Revised Code.	11
(2) "Eligible participant" and "eligible savings	12
institution" have the same meanings as in section 135.70 of the	13
Revised Code.	14
(B) The treasurer of state may invest in linked deposits	15
under sections 135.61 to 135.66 <u>135.67</u> and 135.70 to 135.71 of	16
the Revised Code, provided that at the time any such linked	17
deposits are placed, purchased, or designated, the combined	18
amount of investments of public money of the state in linked	19

deposits of any kind is not more than twelve per cent of the	20
state's total average investment portfolio, as determined by the	21
treasurer of state. When deciding whether to invest in any	22
linked deposits, the treasurer of state shall give priority to	23
the investment, liquidity, and cash flow needs of the state.	24
(C) The treasurer of state may, in accordance with section	25
111.15 of the Revised Code, adopt rules necessary for the	26
implementation and administration of linked deposits authorized	27
by this section, including, but not limited to, the manner in	28
which an eligible lending institution or eligible savings	29
institution is designated, and the manner in which linked	30
deposits are placed, purchased, designated, held, and	31
collateralized.	32
(D) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of the Revised	33
Code, the treasurer of state may require an eligible credit	34
union that holds linked deposits authorized under this section	35
to pay interest at a rate not lower than the product of the	36
interest rate set in the deposit agreement, as required by	37
sections 135.623 and 135.703 of the Revised Code, multiplied by	38
the sum of one plus the treasurer of state's assessment rate.	39
The treasurer of state may, in accordance with section 119.03 of	40
the Revised Code, adopt rules necessary for the implementation	41
of this division.	42
(E)(1) Records of the treasurer of state, an eligible	43
lending institution, or an eligible savings institution are not	44
public records within the meaning of section 149.43 of the	45
Revised Code if any of the following apply:	46
(a) The record is provided by an eligible borrower to an	47
eligible lending institution, or by an eligible participant to	48
orrand remains incorpacton, or of an orrande pareterpant to	10

an eligible savings institution, to obtain a financial service

or product from such institution.	50
(b) The record results from a transaction between the	51
eligible borrower and the eligible lending institution, or the	52
eligible participant and the eligible savings institution,	53
involving a financial product or service.	54
(c) An eligible lending institution or eligible savings	55
institution otherwise obtains the record about an eligible	56
borrower or eligible participant in connection with providing a	57
financial product or service.	58
(2) The records specified in division (E)(1) of this	59
section may include names, addresses, telephone numbers, social	60
security numbers, income, credit scores, information obtained	61
through cookies and other internet collection devices, loan	62
amounts, contributors to a linked deposit savings account, and	63
amounts contributed to, earned by, or distributed from a linked	64
deposit savings account.	65
Sec. 135.62. As used in sections 135.62 to 135.66 135.67	66
of the Revised Code:	67
(A) "Discount interest rate" means an interest rate below	68
the prevailing interest rate that the treasurer of state	69
determines eligible lending institutions are willing to pay to	70
hold linked deposits.	71
(B) "Eligible borrower" means a borrower that has met all	72
the requirements necessary to participate in the adoption linked	73
deposit program under section 135.63 of the Revised Code,	74
agricultural linked deposit program under section 135.64 of the	75
Revised Code, small business linked deposit program under	76
section 135.65 of the Revised Code, or home improvement linked	77
deposit program under section 135.66 of the Revised Code, or	78

H. B. No. 332
As Introduced

small defense business linked deposit program under section	79
135.67 of the Revised Code.	80
(C) "Eligible credit union" means, notwithstanding any	81
contrary provision of sections 135.01 to 135.21 of the Revised	82
Code, a federal credit union, a foreign credit union licensed	83
pursuant to section 1733.39 of the Revised Code, or a credit	84
union as defined in section 1733.01 of the Revised Code, located	85
in this state.	86
(D) "Eligible lending institution" means a financial	87
institution that is eligible to make loans, agrees to	88
participate in the applicable linked deposit program, and is one	89
of the following:	90
(1) A public depository of state funds, or an eligible	91
credit union designated under division (A) of section 135.12 of	92
the Revised Code;	93
(2) For the agricultural linked deposit program,	94
notwithstanding any contrary provision of sections 135.01 to	95
135.21 of the Revised Code, an institution of the farm credit	96
system organized under the federal "Farm Credit Act of 1971," 85	97
Stat. 583, 12 U.S.C. 2001, as amended.	98
(E) "Homestead" means a dwelling owned and occupied in	99
this state as a single-family primary residence by an individual	100
for the purpose of qualifying for the home improvement linked	101
deposit program. "Homestead" includes a house, condo, a unit in	102
a multiple-unit dwelling, manufactured home or mobile home taxed	103
as real property pursuant to division (B) of section 4503.06 of	104
the Revised Code, or any other building with a residential	105
classification, as allowed by the treasurer of state.	106
"Homestead" includes so much of the land surrounding the	107

dwelling as is reasonably necessary for the use of the dwelling	108
as a residence, as determined by the treasurer of state.	109
(F) "Linked deposit" means a certificate of deposit, a	110
share certificate, other financial institution instrument, or	111
portion of an existing deposit of interim funds made in	112
accordance with section 135.09 of the Revised Code placed,	113
purchased, or designated by the treasurer of state with an	114
eligible lending institution; provided the institution agrees to	115
lend up to the value of such certificate of deposit, share	116
certificate, or other financial institution instrument, or	117
designated portion of an existing deposit to eligible borrowers	118
for applicable linked deposit programs at the rate established	119
in division (A) of section 135.624 of the Revised Code, and in	120
accordance with the deposit agreement provided in section	121
135.623 of the Revised Code.	122
(G) "Linked deposit program" means a program authorized	123
under sections 135.61 to $\frac{135.66}{135.67}$ of the Revised Code and	124
established by the treasurer of state pursuant to such sections.	125
(H) "Loan" means a contractual agreement under which an	126
eligible lending institution agrees to lend money to an eligible	127
borrower in the form of an upfront lump sum, a line of credit,	128
or any other reasonable arrangement approved by the treasurer of	129
state.	130
(I) "Manufactured home" has the same meaning as in section	131
3781.06 of the Revised Code.	132
(J) "Mobile home" has the same meaning as in section	133
4501.01 of the Revised Code.	134
(K) "Other financial institution instrument" means:	135
(1) For the agricultural linked deposit program under	136

section 135.64 of the Revised Code, an investment by the	137
treasurer of state in bonds, notes, debentures, or other	138
obligations or securities issued by the federal farm credit bank	139
with regard to an eligible lending institution;	140
(2) For all linked deposit programs other than the	141
agricultural linked deposit program, a product that otherwise	142
would pay the prevailing interest rate approved by the treasurer	143
of state, for the purpose of providing eligible borrowers with	144
the benefits of the applicable linked deposit program, and in	145
accordance with the deposit agreement provided in section	146
135.623 of the Revised Code.	147
(L) "Owner" includes a holder of one of the several	148
estates in fee, a vendee in possession under a purchase	149
agreement or a land contract, a mortgagor, a life tenant, one or	150
more tenants with a right of survivorship, tenants in common, a	151
settlor of a revocable or irrevocable inter vivos trust holding	152
the title to a homestead occupied by the settlor as of right	153
under the trust, or any other determination as made by the	154
treasurer of state.	155
(M) "Prevailing interest rate" means a current market	156
interest rate selected by the treasurer of state that eligible	157
lending institutions are willing to pay to hold deposits of the	158
treasurer of state.	159
(N) "Qualifying adoption expense" means any expense	160
incurred to legally adopt a child as described in division (C)	161
of section 3107.055 of the Revised Code, including any costs	162
incurred by the eligible borrower proximately relating to the	163
completion and approval of the home study under section 3107.031	164
of the Revised Code, and any other expense as determined by the	165
treasurer of state.	166

(O) "Treasurer of state's assessment rate" means a rate	167
not exceeding ten per cent that is calculated in a manner	168
determined by the treasurer of state and that seeks to account	169
for the effect that varying tax treatment among different types	170
of financial institutions has on the ability of financial	171
institutions to pay competitive interest rates to hold deposits.	172
Sec. 135.621. (A) An eligible lending institution that	173
desires to receive a linked deposit shall accept and review	174
applications for loans from eligible borrowers for linked	175
deposit programs in which the eligible lending institution	176
participates. The eligible lending institution shall apply all	177
usual lending standards to determine the credit worthiness of	178
each eligible borrower. No loan shall exceed the amount	179
determined by the treasurer of state.	180
(B) An eligible borrower shall certify on its loan	181
application that the reduced rate loan will be used exclusively	182
for the purposes of the applicable linked deposit program, as	183
described in section 135.63, 135.64, 135.65, or 135.66, or	184
135.67 of the Revised Code. Whoever knowingly makes a false	185
statement concerning such application is guilty of the offense	186
of falsification under section 2921.13 of the Revised Code.	187
(C) The eligible lending institution shall forward to the	188
treasurer of state a linked deposit loan package, in the form	189
and manner prescribed by the treasurer of state. The package	190
shall include such information as required by the treasurer of	191
state, including the amount of each loan requested by each	192
eligible borrower and all other information as described in	193
section 135.63, 135.64, 135.65, or 135.66, or 135.67 of the	194
Revised Code for the applicable linked deposit program. The	195
institution shall certify both of the following:	196

H. B. No. 332 Page 8
As Introduced

(1) That each applicant is an eligible borrower and, for	197
each such eligible borrower, the present borrowing rate;	198
(2) That the eligible lending institution applied all of	199
its usual lending standards to determine the credit worthiness	200
of each eligible borrower.	201
(D) No fee shall be charged to any party for the	202
preparation, processing, or reporting of any application to an	203
eligible lending institution or the treasurer of state for	204
participation in a linked deposit program.	205
Sec. 135.623. (A) An eligible lending institution shall	206
enter into a deposit agreement with the treasurer of state,	207
which shall include requirements necessary to carry out the	208
purposes of sections 135.62 to 135.66 135.67 of the Revised	209
Code.	210
(B) The deposit agreement shall specify the maturity	211
period of the linked deposit considered appropriate by the	212
treasurer of state, which shall not exceed five years, as well	213
as any other information, terms, or conditions the treasurer of	214
state may require. Interest shall be paid by the eligible	215
lending institution at times determined by the treasurer of	216
state.	217
Sec. 135.67. (A) As used in this section:	218
(1) "Armed forces" has the same meaning as in section	219
5903.01 of the Revised Code.	220
(2) "Gross receipts" has the same meaning as in section	221
5751.01 of the Revised Code.	222
(B) The general assembly finds that the defense industry	223
makes significant contributions to the economic well-being of	224

H. B. No. 332 As Introduced

this state. However, various economic challenges, such as	225
tightened capital availability, inflationary pressures, and	226
rising interest rates, can discourage fledgling businesses,	227
particularly small businesses, from taking root in this state	228
and engaging with the defense industry. Accordingly, it is	229
declared to be the public policy of the state to make reduced	230
rate loans available to defense-oriented businesses through the	231
small defense business linked deposit program.	232
(C) An eligible borrower for the small defense business	233
linked deposit program is any person that has all the following	234
<pre>characteristics:</pre>	235
(1) Is currently headquartered or domiciled in this state,	236
and has been headquartered or domiciled in this state for at	237
least five years preceding the person's application for	238
participation in the linked deposit program;	239
(2) Maintains offices or operating facilities in this	240
state that comprise not less than fifty-one per cent of the	241
total of all offices and operating facilities maintained by the	242
<pre>person;</pre>	243
(3) Is a party to, or has been a party to, a contract with	244
the armed forces or an agency or instrumentality of the United	245
States government for the provision of goods or services to the	246
<pre>armed forces;</pre>	247
(4) Has less than twenty-five million dollars in gross	248
receipts for the twelve months preceding application to the	249
<pre>linked deposit program;</pre>	250
(5) Is organized for profit.	251
(D) An eligible lending institution for the small defense	252
business linked deposit program must be able to make commercial	253

<pre>loans.</pre>	254
(E) An eligible borrower shall certify on the loan	255
application that the reduced rate loan will be used exclusively	256
in this state to create new jobs, preserve existing jobs and	257
employment opportunities, or materially contribute to the	258
preservation or growth of the eligible borrower's business.	259
Sec. 1733.04. (A) In addition to the authority conferred	260
by section 1701.13 of the Revised Code, but subject to any	261
limitations contained in sections 1733.01 to 1733.45 of the	262
Revised Code, and its articles and regulations, a credit union	263
may do any of the following:	264
(1) Make loans as provided in section 1733.25 of the	265
Revised Code;	266
(2) Invest its money as provided in section 1733.30 of the	267
Revised Code;	268
(3) If authorized by the code of regulations, rebate to	269
the borrowing members a portion of the member's interest paid to	270
the credit union;	271
(4) If authorized by the regulations, charge a membership	272
or entrance fee;	273
(5) Purchase group savings life insurance and group credit	274
life insurance;	275
(6) Make reasonable contributions to any nonprofit civic,	276
charitable, or service organizations;	277
(7) Act as trustee or custodian, for which reasonable	278
compensation may be received, under any written trust instrument	279
or custodial agreement created or organized in the United States	280
and forming part of a tax-advantaged savings plan that qualifies	281

H. B. No. 332 Page 11 As Introduced

for specific tax treatment under sections 223, 401(d), 408,	282
408A, and 530 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 223,	283
401(d), 408, 408A, and 530, as amended, for its members or	284
groups of its members, provided that the funds of such plans are	285
invested in share accounts or share certificate accounts of the	286
credit union. These services include, but are not limited to,	287
acting as a trustee or custodian for member retirement,	288
education, or health savings accounts.	289
(8) Participate in and pledge assets in connection with	290
the linked deposit programs under sections 135.61 to $\frac{135.66}{}$	291
135.67 of the Revised Code and sections 135.70 to 135.71 of the	292
Revised Code.	293
(B) The authority of a credit union shall be subject to	294
the following:	295
(1) A credit union may not borrow money in excess of	296
twenty-five per cent of its shares and undivided earnings,	297
without prior specific authorization by the superintendent of	298
credit unions.	299
(2) A credit union may not pay a commission or other	300
compensation to any person for securing members or for the sale	301
of its shares, except that reasonable incentives may be made	302
available directly to members or potential members to promote	303
thrift.	304
(C)(1) A credit union may have service facilities other	305
than its home office.	306
(2) Real estate may be acquired by lease, purchase, or	307
otherwise as necessary and to the extent required for use of the	308
credit union presently and in the future operation of its office	309

or headquarters, and in case of a purchase of real estate, the

H. B. No. 332 Page 12 As Introduced

superintendent must first be notified in writing prior to the	311
purchase of the real estate. Nothing herein contained shall be	312
deemed to prohibit a credit union from taking title to real	313
estate in connection with a default in the payment of a loan,	314
provided that title to such real estate shall not be held by the	315
credit union for more than two years without the prior written	316
approval of the superintendent. A credit union also may lease	317
space in any real estate it acquires in accordance with rules	318
adopted by the superintendent.	319
(D)(1) As used in division (D) of this section:	320
(a) "School" means an elementary or secondary school.	321
(b) "Student" means a child enrolled in a school.	322
(c) "Student branch" means the designation provided to the	323
credit union for the in-school services and financial education	324
offered to students.	325
(2) A credit union, upon agreement with a school board, in	326
the case of a public school, or the governing authority, in the	327
case of a nonpublic school, and with the permission of the	328
superintendent, may open and maintain a student branch.	329
(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section,	330
any student enrolled in the school maintaining a student branch	331
who is not otherwise qualified for membership in the credit	332
union maintaining the student branch is qualified to be a member	333
of that student branch.	334
(4) The student's membership in the student branch expires	335
upon the student's graduation from secondary school.	336

(5) The student branch is for the express use of students

and may not be used by faculty, staff, or lineal ancestors or

337

descendants of students.	339
(6) Faculty, staff, or lineal ancestors or descendants of	340
students are not eligible for membership in the credit union	341
maintaining the student branch unless otherwise qualified by	342
this section to be members.	343
(7) The superintendent may adopt rules appropriate to the	344
formation and operation of student branches.	345
(E) A credit union may guarantee the signature of a member	346
in connection with a transaction involving tangible or	347
intangible property in which a member has or seeks to acquire an	348
interest.	349
Sec. 1733.24. (A) A credit union is authorized to receive	350
funds for deposit in share accounts, share draft accounts, and	351
share certificates from its members, from other credit unions,	352
and from an officer, employee, or agent of the federal, state,	353
or local governments, or political subdivisions of the state, in	354
accordance with such terms, rates, and conditions as may be	355
established by its board of directors, and for purposes of the	356
linked deposit programs created under sections 135.61 to $\frac{135.66}{}$	357
$\underline{135.67}$ of the Revised Code and sections 135.70 to 135.71 of the	358
Revised Code.	359
(B) The shares and share accounts of the credit union may	360
be of one or more classes, as designated by the board of	361
directors, subject to approval of the superintendent of credit	362
unions based on rules that shall assure equitable distribution	363
of dividends among classes, considering costs and advantages of	364
each class to the members of the credit union, including without	365
limitation special services rendered, length of ownership,	366

367

minimum investment, conditions of repurchase, and other

appropriate standards or combinations thereof. In the event the	368
articles of incorporation of the credit union indicate the	369
authorized number of shares to be unlimited, the designation of	370
classification of shares and share accounts of the credit union	371
may be effected by the board of directors, subject to the	372
approval of the superintendent, and does not require amendment	373
of the articles of incorporation. All shares of the credit union	374
shall have a par value per share as set by the board of	375
directors. Redemptions and liquidating dividends shall be	376
prorated to each member on the basis of the price paid the	377
credit union for such share, irrespective of the class of such	378
shares.	379
(C)(1) Each credit union shall have one class of shares	380
designated as "membership share." The membership shares, or if a	381
credit union has but one class of shares, then all of the shares	382
of the credit union, shall have a par value as set by the board	383
of directors.	384
(2) Two or more persons that are eligible for membership	385
that have jointly subscribed for one or more shares under a	386
joint account each may be admitted to membership.	387
(D) A credit union need not issue certificates for any or	388
all of its classes of shares but irrespective of whether	389
certificates are issued, a registry of shares must be kept,	390
including all of the transactions of the credit union pertaining	391
to such shares.	392
(E) A credit union is authorized to maintain share draft	393
accounts in accordance with rules prescribed by the	394
superintendent. The credit union may pay dividends on share	395
draft accounts, may pay dividends at different rates on	396

different types of share draft accounts, and may permit the

owners of such share draft accounts to make withdrawals by	398
negotiable or transferable instruments or other orders for the	399
purpose of making transfers to third parties.	400

- (F) Unless otherwise provided by written agreement of the 401 parties, the rights, responsibilities, and liabilities attaching 402 to a share draft withdrawn from, transferred to, or otherwise 403 handled by a credit union are defined in and governed by 404 Chapters 1303. and 1304. of the Revised Code, as if the credit 405 union were a bank.
- (G) Unless otherwise provided in the articles or

 regulations, a member may designate any person or persons to own

 or hold shares, or share accounts with the member in joint

 tenancy with right of survivorship and not as tenants in common.

 407
- (H) Shares or share accounts may be issued in the name of 411 a custodian under the Ohio transfers to minors act, a member in 412 trust for a beneficiary, a fiduciary or custodian in trust for a 413 member beneficiary, or a fiduciary or custodian in trust upon 414 the death of a member. Redemption of such shares or payment of 415 such share accounts to a member, to the extent of the payment, 416 discharges the liability of the credit union to the member and 417 the beneficiary, and the credit union shall be under no 418 obligation to see to the application of the payment. Unless 419 prior to the death of a member, the member has notified the 420 credit union in writing in a form approved by the credit union 421 of a different beneficiary to receive the proceeds of such 422 423 shares or share accounts, then the proceeds shall be paid to the beneficiary or to the beneficiary's parent or legal 424 representative. Any payment made pursuant to written 425 instructions of the member or pursuant to the provisions herein 426 contained shall be a valid and sufficient release and discharge 427

H. B. No. 332 Page 16 As Introduced

of the credit union in connection with any such share or share	428
accounts.	429
(I)(1) Except as otherwise provided in the articles or	430
regulations, and subject to the provisions thereof, a minor may	431
purchase shares, share accounts, or other depository	432
instruments, and except for qualification as a voting member,	433
the credit union may deal with the minor with respect to shares,	434
share accounts, or other depository instruments owned by the	435
minor as if the minor were a person of legal age.	436
(2) If shares, share accounts, or other depository	437
instruments are issued in the name of a minor, redemption of any	438
part or all of the shares or withdrawal of funds by payment to	439
the minor of the shares or funds and any declared dividends or	440
interest releases the credit union from all obligation to the	441
minor as to the shares reduced or funds withdrawn.	442
(J) The regulations may require advance written notice of	443
a member's intention to withdraw the member's shares. Such	444
advance notice shall not exceed sixty days.	445
(K) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,	446
funds deposited in a share account, share certificate, or in any	447
other manner pursuant to a program offered by a credit union to	448
promote consumer savings do not constitute valuable	449
consideration for purposes of a scheme of chance under Chapter	450
2915. of the Revised Code.	451
Section 2. That existing sections 135.61, 135.62, 135.621,	452
135.623, 1733.04, and 1733.24 of the Revised Code are hereby	453
repealed.	454