As Introduced

136th General Assembly Regular Session 2025-2026

H. B. No. 342

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Representative Williams

To amend section 5747.98 and to enact section

5747.74 of the Revised Code to create an income	2
tax credit for employers that provide a marriage	3
bonus and to name this act the Invest in	4
Marriage Act.	5
BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:	
Section 1. That section 5747.98 be amended and section	6
5747.74 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:	7
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Sec. 5747.74. (A) As used in this section:	8
(1) "Marriage bonus" means additional compensation paid to	9
an employee in the calendar year that the employee marries upon	10
the employee's submission of a marriage license or record of	11
marriage to the employer.	12
(2) "Qualifying marriage bonus policy" means a policy	13
adopted by an employer that entitles each of the employer's	14
employees to a marriage bonus of at least one thousand dollars.	15
	1.0
(B)(1) There is hereby allowed a nonrefundable credit	16
against a taxpayer's aggregate tax liability for a taxpayer who	17
is an employer, or who owns a direct or indirect interest in an	18
employer, that pays a marriage bonus to an employee pursuant to	19
a qualifying marriage bonus policy. The total credit available	20

with respect to an employee shall equal one thousand dollars.	21
In the case of a taxpayer who is an employer, the credit	22
shall be claimed for the taxable year in which the bonus was	23
paid. If a taxpayer holds a direct or indirect equity interest	24
in an employer that paid a marriage bonus, the taxpayer shall	25
claim the taxpayer's distributive or proportionate share of the	26
credit for the taxpayer's taxable year that includes the last	27
day of the entity's taxable year.	28
(2) The total amount of marriage bonuses paid by an	29
employer and eligible for the credit allowed under this section	30
<pre>per taxable year shall not exceed fifty thousand dollars.</pre>	31
(C) The credit shall be claimed in the order required	32
under section 5747.98 of the Revised Code. Any credit amount in	33
excess of the aggregate amount of tax due under section 5747.02	34
of the Revised Code, after allowing for any other credits	35
preceding the credit in that order, may be carried forward for	36
five taxable years, but the amount of the excess credit allowed	37
in any such year shall be deducted from the balance carried	38
forward to the next year.	39
(D) The tax commissioner may require a taxpayer to furnish	40
any information necessary to support a claim for a credit under	41
this section, including the taxpayer's qualifying marriage bonus	42
policy and pay stubs for the compensated employee. An employer	43
shall maintain for at least five years the records described in	44
division (A) of this section.	45
(E) The commissioner may adopt any rules necessary to	46
administer this section.	47
Sec. 5747.98. (A) To provide a uniform procedure for	48
calculating a taxpayer's aggregate tax liability under section	49

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5747.02 of the Revised Code, a taxpayer shall claim any credits	50
to which the taxpayer is entitled in the following order:	51
Either the retirement income credit under division (B) of	52
section 5747.055 of the Revised Code or the lump sum retirement	53
income credits under divisions (C), (D), and (E) of that	54
section;	55
Either the senior citizen credit under division (F) of	56
section 5747.055 of the Revised Code or the lump sum	57
distribution credit under division (G) of that section;	58
The dependent care credit under section 5747.054 of the	59
Revised Code;	60
The credit for displaced workers who pay for job training	61
under section 5747.27 of the Revised Code;	62
The campaign contribution credit under section 5747.29 of	63
the Revised Code;	64
The twenty-dollar personal exemption credit under section	65
5747.022 of the Revised Code;	66
The joint filing credit under division $\frac{(G)}{(E)}$ of section	67
5747.05 of the Revised Code;	68
The earned income credit under section 5747.71 of the	69
Revised Code;	70
The nonrefundable credit for education expenses under	71
section 5747.72 of the Revised Code;	72
The nonrefundable credit for donations to scholarship	73
granting organizations under section 5747.73 of the Revised	74
Code;	75
The nonrefundable credit for tuition paid to a	76

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nonchartered nonpublic school under section 5747.75 of the Revised Code;	77 78
The nonrefundable vocational job credit under section 5747.057 of the Revised Code;	79 80
The nonrefundable job retention credit under division (B) of section 5747.058 of the Revised Code;	81 82
The enterprise zone credit under section 5709.66 of the Revised Code;	83 84
The credit for beginning farmers who participate in a financial management program under division (B) of section 5747.77 of the Revised Code;	85 86 87
The credit for commercial vehicle operator training expenses under section 5747.82 of the Revised Code;	88 89
The nonrefundable welcome home Ohio (WHO) program credit under section 122.633 of the Revised Code;	90 91
The nonrefundable credit for paying marriage bonuses under section 5747.74 of the Revised Code;	92 93
The credit for selling or renting agricultural assets to beginning farmers under division (A) of section 5747.77 of the Revised Code;	94 95 96
The credit for purchases of qualifying grape production property under section 5747.28 of the Revised Code;	97 98
The small business investment credit under section 5747.81 of the Revised Code;	99 100
The nonrefundable lead abatement credit under section 5747.26 of the Revised Code;	101 102
The opportunity zone investment credit under section	103

122.84 of the Revised Code;	104
The enterprise zone credits under section 5709.65 of the Revised Code;	105 106
The research and development credit under section 5747.331 of the Revised Code;	107 108
The credit for rehabilitating a historic building under section 5747.76 of the Revised Code;	109 110
The nonrefundable Ohio low-income housing tax credit under section 5747.83 of the Revised Code;	111 112
The nonrefundable affordable single-family home credit under section 5747.84 of the Revised Code;	113 114
The nonresident credit under division (A) of section 5747.05 of the Revised Code;	115 116
The credit for a resident's out-of-state income under division (B) of section 5747.05 of the Revised Code;	117 118
The refundable motion picture and broadway theatrical production credit under section 5747.66 of the Revised Code;	119 120
The refundable credit for film and theater capital improvement projects under section 5747.67 of the Revised Code;	121 122
The refundable jobs creation credit or job retention credit under division (A) of section 5747.058 of the Revised Code;	123 124 125
The refundable credit for taxes paid by a qualifying entity granted under section 5747.059 of the Revised Code;	126 127
The refundable credits for taxes paid by a qualifying pass-through entity granted under division (I) of section	128 129
5747.08 of the Revised Code;	130

The refundable credit under section 5747.80 of the Revised	131
Code for losses on loans made to the Ohio venture capital	132
program under sections 150.01 to 150.10 of the Revised Code;	133
The refundable credit for rehabilitating a historic	134
building under section 5747.76 of the Revised Code;	135
The refundable credit under section 5747.39 of the Revised	136
Code for taxes levied under section 5747.38 of the Revised Code	137
paid by an electing pass-through entity.	138
(B) For any credit, except the refundable credits	139
enumerated in this section and the credit granted under division	140
(H) of section 5747.08 of the Revised Code, the amount of the	141
credit for a taxable year shall not exceed the taxpayer's	142
aggregate amount of tax due under section 5747.02 of the Revised	143
Code, after allowing for any other credit that precedes it in	144
the order required under this section. Any excess amount of a	145
particular credit may be carried forward if authorized under the	146
section creating that credit. Nothing in this chapter shall be	147
construed to allow a taxpayer to claim, directly or indirectly,	148
a credit more than once for a taxable year.	149
Section 2. That existing section 5747.98 of the Revised	150
Code is hereby repealed.	151
Section 3. The enactment by this act of section 5747.74 of	152
the Revised Code applies to taxable years ending on or after the	153
effective date of this section.	154
Section 4. This act shall be known as the Invest in	155
Marriage Act.	156