

STATE TRANSPORTATION PRESERVATION ACT OF 1976 (EXCERPT)
Act 295 of 1976

474.65a Rail infrastructure loan fund.

Sec. 15a. (1) The rail infrastructure loan fund is created to implement the rail infrastructure loan program in the state transportation department. Subject to the maximum established by this section, the legislature shall appropriate an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000.00 each year to the rail infrastructure loan fund until the maximum in subsection (5) is met. Interest earned and repayments received and any penalties assessed and received for failure to repay loans on time shall be credited to the fund. The rail infrastructure loan fund is a self-sustaining revolving loan fund to finance construction and improvements that are designed for improvements to freight railroad infrastructure for the purposes of preserving, rebuilding, rehabilitating, or constructing facilities or improvements on railroad operating property or property adjacent to railroad operating property, in this state. Construction is limited to those facilities or improvements required to continue rail service on a particular line or to improve the efficiency and safety of existing rail service. If the department determines that the public interest requires, a loan may be made to eligible applicants provided by subsection (2) to acquire rail property for the purpose of preserving freight rail service or improving the efficiency of existing freight rail service. An eligible applicant described in subsection (2) may apply for a loan from the fund for the purposes described in this section or for use as nonfederal match for any federal rail infrastructure loan program.

(2) The fund shall provide noninterest bearing loans for the purposes described in this section. The department shall evaluate loan applications according to the relative merit of the project in conjunction with program goals and make recommendations to the state transportation commission regarding each loan application. The state transportation commission shall approve or deny the loans and establish loan disbursement and payment schedules based on the needs of the work in progress. A loan shall fund not more than 90% of the rail portion of project costs, and the loan repayment period shall not exceed 10 years. A county, city, township, village, economic development corporation, and railroad and current or potential users of freight railroad services are eligible applicants.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, at the end of each fiscal year, unexpended funds shall remain in the rail infrastructure loan fund and shall be available for the purposes of the program in the succeeding fiscal year. For the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, \$5,700,000.00 in unobligated fund balance shall be deposited in the comprehensive transportation fund. Amounts in the fund may be combined by the state treasurer with other amounts in the state treasury for purposes of cash management. The earnings from the investment of the fund shall accrue to the fund. The fund shall be accounted for separately from other funds of the state. The fund may receive gifts or grants for the purposes of the fund. Any penalties assessed and received for failure to repay a loan on time and money that is received by this state as repayment for rail infrastructure loans made pursuant to this program shall remain within the rail infrastructure loan fund and shall only be used for the purposes of rail infrastructure loans as provided in this section.

(4) By December 31 each year, the department shall report to the house and senate appropriations subcommittees on transportation and the house and senate fiscal agencies the following information, as appropriate, regarding this section and on a separate report the rail freight fund under section 17:

(a) The beginning fund balance of each fund, revenues received, expenditures and encumbrances incurred, and the ending fund balance for each fund for the preceding fiscal year.

(b) The projects funded during the preceding fiscal year.

(c) The status of projects funded in the preceding fiscal years including the degree to which the projects funded have achieved the objectives of this act.

(d) Status of all outstanding loans.

(e) Any other information considered necessary by the department.

(5) The state's total contribution to the rail infrastructure loan fund shall not exceed \$15,000,000.00 exclusive of interest and any penalties assessed, received, and credited to the fund.

History: Add. 2002, Act 747, Imd. Eff. Dec. 30, 2002;—Am. 2010, Act 161, Imd. Eff. Sept. 17, 2010.