Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law. Act 925 of the Regular Session

1	State of Arkansas	As Engrossed: H4/1/19	
2	92nd General Assembly	A Bill	
3	Regular Session, 2019		HOUSE BILL 1920
4			
5	By: Representative Capp		
6	By: Senator K. Hammer		
7			
8		For An Act To Be Entitled	
9	AN ACT CONC	CERNING THE CONSOLIDATION OF VENT	TURE
10	CAPITAL PRO	OGRAMS IN THE STATE; TO AMEND THE	E VENTURE
11	CAPITAL INV	VESTMENT ACT OF 2001; TO REPEAL 3	THE
12	ARKANSAS RI	ISK CAPITAL MATCHING FUND ACT OF	2007; AND
13	FOR OTHER P	PURPOSES.	
14			
15			
16		Subtitle	
17	TO COM	NSOLIDATE VENTURE CAPITAL PROGRA	MS
18	IN THE	E STATE; TO AMEND THE VENTURE	
19	CAPITA	AL INVESTMENT ACT OF 2001; AND T	0
20	REPEAI	L THE ARKANSAS RISK CAPITAL MATC	HING
21	FUND A	ACT OF 2007.	
22			
23			
24	BE IT ENACTED BY THE GE	ENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF A	ARKANSAS:
25			
26	SECTION 1. Arkan	nsas Code § 15-3-503(b)(2)(C), co	oncerning the programs
27	and initiatives for whi	ich the Board of Directors of the	e Division of Science
28	and Technology of the A	Arkansas Economic Development Cor	mmission shall make
29	funding recommendations	s, is amended to read as follows	:
30	(C)	Arkansas Risk Capital Matching I	Fund Act of 2007, § 15-
31	5-1601 et seq. Venture	Capital Investment Act of 2001,	§ 15-5-1401 et seq.;
32			
33	SECTION 2. Arkan	nsas Code § 15-5-703(8), concern	ing the definitions
34	used under the Arkansas	s Development Finance Authority S	Small Business Act of
35	1989, is amended to rea	ad as follows:	
36	(8) "Direc	ct Fund" means a cash fund used t	for qualified

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1 investments to invest exclusively in Arkansas small businesses, preferably as 2 a co-investor with other professional venture investors or accredited investors as defined in \$\frac{15-5-1603}{15-5-1403}\$, consisting of the total dollar 3 4 amount of cash funds of the authority from any combination of: 5 (A) The Venture Capital Investment Trust as defined in § 6 $\frac{15-5-1603}{15-5-1403}$ that is dedicated and made available by the board; and 7 (B) An authorized source under § 15-5-711; 8 9 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 15-5-703(11), concerning the definitions 10 used under the Arkansas Development Finance Authority Small Business Act of 11 1989, is amended to read as follows: 12 (11) "Qualified investment" means any form of investment by the 13 Venture Capital Investment Trust as defined in $\frac{15-5-1603}{15-5-1403}$ in the 14 capital structure of a small business: 15 (A) Through the Direct Fund; or 16 (B) By investing in or cooperating with other investment 17 entities, including without limitation an accredited investor as defined in § 18 15-5-1603 15-5-1403; 19 20 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 15-5-1403, concerning the definitions used 21 under the Venture Capital Investment Act of 2001, is amended to add 22 additional subdivisions to read as follows: 23 (12) "Accredited investor" means an accredited investor as defined in 17 C.F.R. § 230.215, as it existed on January 1, 2013; 24 25 (13) "Equity capital" means capital invested in common stock or preferred stock, royalty rights, limited partnership interests, limited 26 27 liability company interests, and any other equity, securities, or rights that 28 evidence ownership or investment in private enterprises; 29 (14) "Near-equity capital" means capital invested in unsecured, 30 undersecured, subordinated, or convertible loans or debt securities; (15) "Review committee" means a committee composed of the 31 President of the Arkansas Development Finance Authority, the Executive 32 33 Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, and the members of the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Development Finance Authority; 34 35 (16) "Technology-based enterprises" means a group of growing 36 businesses in one (1) or more of the following business sectors:

1	(A) Advanced materials and manufacturing systems;
2	(B) Agriculture, food, and environmental sciences;
3	(C) Biotechnology, bioengineering, medical technology, and
4	life sciences;
5	(D) Information technology;
6	(E) Transportation logistics; and
7	(F) Biobased products;
8	(17) "Venture capital funds" means private, for-profit
9	investment funds that seek to invest in technology-based enterprises; and
10	(18) "Venture Capital Investment Trust" means the public trust
11	formed July 21, 2003, under § 28-72-201 et seq., the trustees of which are
12	the President of the Arkansas Development Finance Authority, the Executive
13	Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, and the Director of
14	the Department of Finance and Administration, and that has as a principal
15	purpose increasing the availability of equity capital and near-equity capital
16	for emerging and expanding enterprises in the State of Arkansas.
17	
18	SECTION 5. Arkansas Code Title 15, Chapter 5, Subchapter 14, is
19	amended to add additional sections to read as follows:
20	15-5-1410. Legislative findings.
21	The General Assembly finds:
22	(1) There is a need to strengthen and advance the infrastructure
23	that supports and accelerates the advancement of the growth of technology-
24	based enterprises in Arkansas;
25	(2) There exists a shortage of risk capital and financial
26	assistance at the early stages of development for technology-based
27	enterprises;
28	(3) An improved investment climate for early stage technology-
29	based enterprises is expected to increase, advance, and accelerate the growth
30	and development of technology-based enterprises in Arkansas;
31	(4) The ultimate goal of supporting technology-based enterprises
32	is to convert research and development activities and early stage technology-
33	based enterprises into viable commercial ventures; and
34	(5) The provision of financial investment and assistance to aid
35	early stage technology-based enterprises is expected to strengthen the
36	economic base of the State of Arkansas and create better paying jobs, thereby

1	benefiting all residents of the state.
2	
3	15-5-1411. Creation of the Arkansas Venture Capital Development Fund.
4	(a) There is established the Arkansas Venture Capital Development
5	Fund, and within that fund the Arkansas Venture Capital Development Fund
6	Account, which fund and account shall be held by and maintained as a separate
7	fund and separate account within the Venture Capital Investment Trust.
8	(b)(1) The fund is a Direct Fund, as defined in § 15-5-703, created
9	for the purpose of providing financial assistance to technology-based
10	enterprises located in Arkansas with the expectation of:
11	(A) Developing jobs paying in excess of county and state
12	average wages;
13	(B) Improving the growth, development, and advancement of
14	technology-based enterprises; and
15	(C) Converting research and development activities and
16	early stage technology-based enterprises into viable and productive
17	commercial ventures.
18	(2) The fund shall target financial assistance toward:
19	(A) Technology-based enterprises that are in the early
20	stages of development and that are not yet able to attract adequate private
21	sources of traditional financing or venture or investor-backed capital for
22	their growth and development; and
23	(B) Venture capital funds that have a direct connection to
24	Arkansas and are focused on providing equity capital or near-equity capital
25	to technology-based enterprises.
26	
27	15-5-1412. Eligibility for financial assistance — Limitation.
28	(a) For a technology-based enterprise or venture capital fund to be
29	eligible for financial assistance under this subchapter, the technology-based
30	enterprise or venture capital fund shall:
31	(1) Demonstrate that at least one dollar (\$1.00) of financial
32	assistance provided by the Arkansas Venture Capital Development Fund will
33	result in at least one dollar (\$1.00) of new private financial assistance;
34	(2) Demonstrate a reasonable expectation that financial
35	assistance from the Arkansas Venture Capital Development Fund can, over time,
36	result in private financial assistance that is at least ten (10) times the

1	amount of financial assistance provided by the Arkansas Venture Capital
2	Development Fund; and
3	(3) Have no more than five hundred (500) employees.
4	(b) Funds from the Arkansas Venture Capital Development Fund shall not
5	be used to provide financial assistance that exceeds five million dollars
6	(\$5,000,000) to any single technology-based enterprise or venture capital
7	fund.
8	
9	15-5-1413. Funding of Arkansas Venture Capital Development Fund.
10	(a) The trustees of the Venture Capital Investment Trust may accept
11	moneys and funds for the Arkansas Venture Capital Development Fund from any
12	source.
13	(b) Moneys and funds received by the trustees of the trust for the
14	fund shall be dedicated and used solely as authorized in this subchapter.
15	(c)(1) Moneys and funds received by the Arkansas Development Finance
16	Authority or the Arkansas Economic Development Commission designated for use
17	or ownership by the fund shall be deposited to the trust and held in the
18	Arkansas Venture Capital Development Fund Account, as applicable and as
19	specified in this subchapter, until used for the purposes of this subchapter.
20	(2) Moneys deposited to the trust for the purposes of providing
21	financial assistance to technology-based enterprises under this subchapter
22	shall be allocated to the Arkansas Venture Capital Development Fund Account
23	according to a ratio approved by the trustees of the trust.
24	
25	15-5-1414. Review committee.
26	The review committee shall:
27	(1) Recommend to the trustees of the Venture Capital Investment
28	Trust the payment of fees and expenses out of the Arkansas Venture Capital
29	Development Fund for the operation of the fund; and
30	(2) Approve an investment policy under this subchapter.
31	
32	<u>15-5-1415. Annual report.</u>
33	The trustees of the Venture Capital Investment Trust shall publish an
34	annual report within five (5) months after the close of each fiscal year that
35	shall:
36	(1) Include an annual audit of the Arkansas Venture Capital

5

1	Development Fund's activities conducted by the trustees with the assistance
2	of the review committee;
3	(2) Be presented in writing, and by testimony if requested, to
4	the:
5	(A) Governor;
6	(B) House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic
7	Development;
8	(C) Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and
9	Economic Development;
10	(D) Arkansas Development Finance Authority; and
11	(E) Arkansas Economic Development Commission; and
12	(3) Document and review the progress of the trustees of the
13	trust and the review committee in implementing the investment and financial
14	assistance activities under this subchapter.
15	
16	15-5-1416. Powers of the trustees of the Venture Capital Investment
17	Trust.
18	The trustees of the Venture Capital Investment Trust may promulgate
19	guidelines and rules and make any contract, execute any document, perform any
20	act, or enter into any financial or other transaction necessary to implement
21	the duties of the trustees under this subchapter.
22	
23	SECTION 6. Arkansas Code Title 15, Chapter 5, Subchapter 16, is
24	repealed.
25	Subchapter 16 - Arkansas Risk Capital Matching Fund Act of 2007
26	
27	15-5-1601. Title.
28	This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas Risk
29	Capital Matching Fund Act of 2007".
30	15 5 1602 Tagialarina income
31 32	15-5-1602. Legislative intent. The General Assembly finds:
33	(1) There is a need to strengthen and advance the infrastructure
34	that supports and accelerates the advancement of the growth of technology-
35	based enterprises in Arkansas;
36	(2) There exists a shortage of risk capital and financial
50	(2) Inclo exists a shortage of fish capital and financial

1	assistance at the early stages of development for technology based
2	enterprises;
3	(3) An improved investment climate for early stage technology-
4	based enterprises is expected to increase, advance, and accelerate the growth
5	and development of technology-based enterprises in Arkansas;
6	(4) The ultimate goal of supporting technology-based enterprises
7	is to convert research and development activities and early stage technology-
8	based enterprises into viable commercial ventures; and
9	(5) The provision of financial investment and assistance to aid
10	early stage technology-based enterprises is expected to strengthen the
11	economic base of the State of Arkansas and create better paying jobs, thereby
12	benefiting all citizens of the state.
13	
14	15-5-1603. Definitions.
15	As used in this subchapter:
16	(1) "Accredited investor" means an accredited investor as
17	defined in 17 C.F.R. § 230.215, as it existed on January 1, 2013;
18	(2) "Enterprise Development Account" means a separate account
19	bearing that name and to be maintained within the Arkansas Risk Capital
20	Matching Fund, the moneys in which account shall be used for the purposes and
21	in the manner prescribed by this subchapter;
22	(3) "Equity capital" means capital invested in common stock or
23	preferred stock, royalty rights, limited partnership interests, limited
24	liability company interests, and any other equity, securities, or rights that
25	evidence ownership or investment in private enterprises;
26	(4) "Near-equity capital" means capital invested in unsecured,
27	undersecured, subordinated, or convertible loans or debt securities;
28	(5) "Review committee" means a committee composed of the
29	President of the Arkansas Development Finance Authority and the Executive
30	Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission;
31	(6) "Technology-based enterprises" means a group of growing
32	businesses in one (1) or more of the following business sectors:
33	(A) Advanced materials and manufacturing systems;
34	(B) Agriculture, food, and environmental sciences;
35	(C) Biotechnology, bioengineering, medical technology, and
36	life sciences;

I	(D) Information technology;
2	(E) Transportation logistics; and
3	(F) Biobased products;
4	(7) "Technology Validation Account" means the separate account
5	bearing that name and to be maintained as a separate account within the
6	Arkansas Risk Capital Matching Fund, the moneys in which account shall be
7	used for the purposes and in the manner prescribed by this subchapter; and
8	(8) "Venture Capital Investment Trust" means the public trust
9	formed July 21, 2003, under § 28-72-201 et seq., the trustees of which are
10	the President of the Arkansas Development Finance Authority, the Executive
11	Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, and the Director of
12	the Department of Finance and Administration, and that has as a principal
13	purpose increasing the availability of equity capital and near-equity capital
14	for emerging and expanding enterprises in the State of Arkansas.
15	
16	15-5-1604. Creation of Arkansas Risk Capital Matching Fund.
17	(a) There is established the Arkansas Risk Capital Matching Fund, and
18	within that fund the Enterprise Development Account and the Technology
19	Validation Account, which fund and accounts shall be held by and maintained
20	as a separate fund and separate accounts within the Venture Capital
21	Investment Trust.
22	(b)(1) The fund is created for the purpose of providing financial
23	assistance to technology based enterprises located in Arkansas, with the
24	expectation of developing jobs paying in excess of county and state average
25	wages, improving the growth, development, and advancement of technology-based
26	enterprises, and converting research and development activities and early
27	stage technology-based enterprises into viable and productive commercial
28	ventures.
29	(2) The fund shall target the financial assistance toward those
30	technology based enterprises that are in the early stages of development and
31	that are not yet able to attract adequate private sources of traditional
32	financing or venture or investor-backed capital for their growth and
33	development. ←
34	
35	15-5-1605. Funding of Arkansas Risk Capital Matching Fund.
36	(a) The trustees of the Venture Capital Investment Trust may accept

1 moneys and funds for the Arkansas Risk Capital Matching Fund from any source. 2 (b) Moneys and funds received by the trustees of the trust for the fund shall be dedicated and used solely as authorized in this subchapter. 3 4 (c)(1) Moneys and funds received by the Arkansas Development Finance 5 Authority or the Arkansas Economic Development Commission designated for use 6 or ownership by the fund shall be deposited to the trust and held in the 7 Technology Validation Account and the Enterprise Development Account of the 8 fund, as applicable and as specified in this subchapter, until used for the 9 purposes of this subchapter. 10 (2)(A) Moneys deposited to the trust for the purposes of 11 providing financial assistance to technology-based enterprises under this 12 subchapter shall be allocated between the Technology Validation Account and 13 the Enterprise Development Account according to a ratio recommended by the 14 private sector advisory committee and approved by the trustees of the trust 15 from time to time. 16 (B) Until a different ratio is approved by the trustees, 17 moneys shall be allocated as follows: 18 (i) Seventy-five percent (75%) of the moneys shall 19 be allocated to the Enterprise Development Account; and 20 (ii) Twenty-five percent (25%) of the moneys shall be allocated to the Technology Validation Account. 21 22 (d) The trustees of the trust will establish separate accounting and tracking and will be responsible for administering the moneys in the 23 Enterprise Development Account and the Technology Validation Account. 24 (e) Proceeds received by the trust as a return on or in full or 25 26 partial liquidation of any investments made from either the Enterprise 27 Development Account or the Technology Validation Account, subject to § 15-5-28 1607, shall be restricted in their use and dedicated and retained in either the Enterprise Development Account or the Technology Development Account or 29 30 allocated between those accounts, as recommended by the private sector advisory committee and approved by the trustees of the trust and not 31 commingled with other moneys held by the trust, and such proceeds may be used 32 33 and reused from time to time for the purposes specified for moneys held in 34 such accounts as provided by this subchapter. 35 (f) Moneys shall be withdrawn from either the Enterprise Development 36 Account or the Technology Validation Account, as appropriate, upon

1 requisition from the trustees of the trust for achieving the purposes of this 2 subchapter. (g)(1) Moneys and funds within the Technology Validation Account shall 3 4 be used within the parameters expressed in this subsection for the purpose of 5 assisting very early stage technology based enterprises in developing or 6 achieving one (1) or more of the following: 7 (A) A sound business plan; 8 (B) Market research; 9 (C) Marketing plans; 10 (D) Software or hardware and equipment relating to the 11 particular technology or technologies on which the technology-based 12 enterprise is being built; (E) Development of laboratory, preclinical, or other 13 14 testing procedures and results; 15 (F) Attaining proof of concept; 16 (C) Building of experimental or pilot-scale models of 17 products or facilities; or 18 (H) Achieving other similar milestones required for the 19 advancement of very early-stage technology-based enterprises as approved by 20 the review committee. 21 (2) Financial assistance provided from the Technology Validation 22 Account may be made in the form of equity capital or near equity capital, as 23 approved by the review committee. 24 (3) Financial assistance made from the Technology Validation 25 Account may but shall not be required to be structured or approved based on a 26 market rate-based rate of return or other benchmark rate of return expected 27 to be achieved with respect to an investment, it being the primary purpose of 28 investments made from the Technology Validation Account, within the reasonable discretion of the review committee, to assist in validating the 29 30 technology or technologies on which these technology based enterprises rely or are based, so that such technology based enterprises may be better enabled 31 32 to attract additional investments by angel investors or other investors. 33 (4) Financial assistance made from the Technology Validation 34 Account shall be required to be matched by a contribution of equity capital 35 or near equity capital, or other sources of funds as set forth in this 36 section, in some proportion as determined by the review committee on a case-

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1
    by case basis or as a matter of rule, but on not less than a one-to-nine
 2
    (1:9) basis with not less than one dollar ($1.00) from the applicant
    technology based enterprise for every nine dollars ($9.00) from the
 3
 4
    Technology Validation Account, from:
 5
                       (A) One (1) or more owners of any technology-based
 6
    enterprise receiving financial assistance from the fund;
 7
                       (B) Proceeds of state or federal research grants,
8
    including without limitation federal Small Business Innovation Research
9
    grants, Small Business Technology Transfer Program grants, United States
10
    Department of Defense research grants, National Institutes of Health research
11
     grants, or from any successor programs or agency grants; or
12
                       (C) Community-based investment sources.
13
                (5) Any technology-based enterprise receiving financial
14
    assistance to be disbursed from the Technology Validation Account shall have
15
    a business valuation as represented by the technology-based enterprise and
16
    approved by the review committee of not more than two million dollars
17
    ($2,000,000) determined prior to the making of the investment from the
18
    Technology Validation Account and as the maximum valuation may be adjusted
19
    from year to year by the review committee to take into account the effects of
20
     inflation.
21
                (6) The maximum investment that may be made to any one (1)
22
    technology based enterprise from the Technology Validation Account shall be
    one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000), as may be adjusted from year to year
23
    by the review committee to take into account the effects of inflation.
24
25
          (h)(1) Moneys and funds within the Enterprise Development Account
26
    shall be used within the parameters expressed in this subsection for the
27
    purpose of assisting early-stage technology-based enterprises in augmenting
28
    the investments made or proposed to be made in early-stage technology based
    enterprises from accredited investors or owners of the applicant technology-
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    based enterprise, or both, when established milestones for further
    development of early stage technology based enterprises are set forth in a
31
32
    business plan to be approved by the review committee.
33
                 (2) Financial assistance provided from the Enterprise
    Development Account may be made in the form of equity capital or near-equity
34
    capital, as approved by the review committee, and shall be on substantially
35
    the same terms and conditions as other investments proposed to be made by
36
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1 accredited investors or owners of the applicant technology based enterprise, 2 or both, contemporaneously with the assistance to be provided from the fund. 3 (3) Financial assistance made from the Enterprise Development 4 Account shall be required to be matched by investments from accredited 5 investors, owners of the applicant technology based enterprise, or both 6 accredited investors and owners of the applicant technology based enterprise 7 in the proportion determined by the review committee on a case by case basis 8 or as a matter of rule, but on not less than a four-to-one (4:1) basis with 9 not less than four dollars (\$4.00) from the applicant technology based 10 enterprise for every one dollar (\$1.00) from the Enterprise Development 11 Account. 12 (4) Any technology-based enterprise receiving financial 13 assistance to be disbursed from the Enterprise Development Account shall have 14 a business valuation as represented by the technology-based enterprise and 15 approved by the review committee of not more than twenty-five million dollars 16 (\$25,000,000), determined prior to the making of the investment from the 17 Enterprise Development Account and as the maximum valuation may be adjusted from year to year by the review committee to take into account the effects of 18 19 inflation. 20 (5) The maximum investment that may be made to any one (1) 21 technology-based enterprise from the Enterprise Development Account shall be 22 seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000), as may be adjusted from year 23 to year by the review committee to take into account the effects of 24 inflation. 25 26 15-5-1607. Review committee. 27

The review committee shall recommend to the trustees of the Venture Capital Investment Trust the payment of fees and expenses out of the Arkansas Risk Capital Matching Fund for the operation of the fund.

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15-5-1608. Annual report.

The trustees of the Venture Capital Investment Trust shall publish an annual report within five (5) months after the close of each fiscal year that shall:

(1) Include an annual audit of the Arkansas Risk Capital Matching Fund's activities conducted by the trustees with the assistance of

1	the review committee;
2	(2) Be presented in writing, and by testimony if requested, to
3	the:
4	(A) Covernor;
5	(B) House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic
6	Development;
7	(C) Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and
8	Economic Development;
9	(D) Arkansas Development Finance Authority; and
10	(E) Arkansas Economic Development Commission; and
11	(3) Document and review the progress of the trustees of the
12	trust and the review committee in implementing the investment and financial
13	assistance activities under this subchapter.
14	
15	15-5-1609. Powers of the trustees of the Venture Capital Investment
16	Trust.
17	The trustees of the Venture Capital Investment Trust shall have the
18	power to promulgate guidelines and rules, and make any contract, execute any
19	document, perform any act, or enter into any financial or other transaction
20	necessary to implement this subchapter.
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22	/s/Capp
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25	APPROVED: 4/11/19
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