1	State of Arkansas	A Bill		
2	86th General Assembly	A DIII	CENTA ME DILI	020
3	Regular Session, 2007		SENATE BILL	830
4	D G / D 1			
5	By: Senator Broadway			
6				
7 8		For An Act To Be Entitled		
9	ли леч	TO AN ACT TO BE ENGINEED TO AUTHORIZE THE CREATION AND OPERATION	J OF	
10		RCH PARK AUTHORITIES FOR THE PURPOSES OF	VOF	
11		IC DEVELOPMENT; TO PRESCRIBE THE POWERS,		
12		S, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESEARCH PARK	•	
13		RITIES; TO AMEND THE INTERLOCAL COOPERATI	ION	
14		SPECIFY RESEARCH PARKS; TO EXTEND THE		
15		T INCENTIVE FOR A DONATION TO A UNIVERSI	ΙΤΥ	
16	TO INC	CLUDE RESEARCH PARK AUTHORITIES; AND FOR		
17	OTHER	PURPOSES.		
18				
19		Subtitle		
20	AN	ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE CREATION AND		
21	OPE	ERATION OF RESEARCH PARK AUTHORITIES		
22	FOR	R THE PURPOSES OF ECONOMIC		
23	DEV	VELOPMENT.		
24				
25				
26	BE IT ENACTED BY THE	GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANS	AS:	
27				
28		kansas Code Title 14 is amended to add a	n additional	
29	chapter to read as f	ollows:		
30				
31	CHAPTER	144. RESEARCH PARK AUTHORITY ACT.		
32	CIID CIIA Dur	ED 1 INTERT AND DESTRICTIONS		
33 34	SUBCHAPT	ER 1. INTENT AND DEFINITIONS.		
35	14-144-101. T	itle		
36	•	ay be cited as the "Research Park Author	ity Act".	
20	inis chapter m	ay be cited as the Research rack Author	ILY ACL .	

1	
2	14-144-102. Legislative intent.
3	(a)(1) It is the intent of the General Assembly to maximize the
4	benefits to be derived from Arkansas' institutions of higher education.
5	Therefore it is necessary to provide an environment conducive to the creation
6	and retention of businesses that develop through Arkansas' colleges and
7	universities.
8	(2) In many instances, these businesses are founded by
9	entrepreneurs engaged in research, and it is imperative that research
10	facilities be made available in the State of Arkansas to encourage, house,
11	and support these developing entrepreneurs and businesses.
12	(3) This chapter is intended to provide a mechanism by which
13	appropriate research facilities may be developed, funded, and operated for
14	the purpose of supporting and retaining Arkansas entrepreneurs and businesses
15	dependent upon research for their further development.
16	(b) It is further intended that the research parks created under this
17	chapter shall serve as a catalyst for community growth and transformation and
18	as a centers for community planning and improvement.
19	
20	14-144-103. Definitions.
21	As used in this chapter:
22	(1) "Accredited institution of higher education" means a four-
23	year public college or university that offers bachelor's degrees and is
24	recognized by the Department of Higher Education for credit;
25	(2) "Authority" means a regional mobility authority created under
26	this chapter with the powers and duties designated in this chapter;
27	(3) "Construct" means to acquire or build, in whole or in part,
28	in the manner and by the method, including contracting for the acquisition or
29	building, and if the latter, by negotiation or bids upon the terms and
30	pursuant to the advertising, as the research park authority shall determine
31	to be in the public interest and necessary under the circumstances existing
32	at the time to accomplish the purposes of and authorities under this chapter;
33	(4) "County" means any county in this state;
34	(5)(A) "Development" means the translation of research findings
35	or other knowledge into a plan or design for a new product or process or for
36	a significant improvement to an existing product or process whether intended

1	for sale or use.
2	(B) "Development" includes the conceptual formulation,
3	design and testing of all forms of software content, product alternatives,
4	construction of prototypes, and operation of pilot plants;
5	(6) "Equip" means to install or place on or in any building or
6	structure, equipment of any and every kind, whether or not affixed,
7	including, without limitation:
8	(A) Air conditioning equipment;
9	(B) Building service equipment;
10	(C) Fixtures;
11	(D) Furnishings;
12	(E) Furniture;
13	(F) Heating equipment;
14	(G) Machinery; and
15	(H) Personal property of every kind;
16	(7) "Facilities" means any real property, personal property, or
17	mixed property of any kind that can be used, or that will be useful, to
18	accomplish the purposes of this chapter, including, without limitation:
19	(A) Equipment;
20	(B) Fixtures;
21	(C) Furnishings;
22	(D) Furniture;
23	(E) Instrumentalities;
24	(F) Machinery;
25	(G) Materials;
26	(H) Rights-of-way;
27	(I) Roads and streets;
28	(J) Utilities; and
29	(K) Other real, personal, or mixed property;
30	(8) "Governing body" means the council, board of directors, or
31	city commission of any municipality or the quorum court of any county, or the
32	board of trustees of an accredited institution of higher education;
33	(9) "Lease" means to lease for rental, for periods, and upon
34	terms and conditions the authority shall determine, including, without
35	<pre>limitation:</pre>
36	(A) The granting of renewal or extension options upon

1	terms and conditions the authority shall determine; and
2	(B) The granting of purchase options at prices and upon
3	terms the authority shall determine;
4	(10) "Municipality" means a city of the first class, a city of
5	the second class, or an incorporated town;
6	(11) "Person" means any natural person, partnership,
7	corporation, association, limited liability company, organization, business
8	trust, foundation, trust, and public or private person;
9	(12) "Research" means planned research or critical investigation
10	aimed at the discovery of new knowledge to create a new product or service or
11	a new process or technique or to bring about a significant improvement in an
12	existing product or process;
13	(13) "Research park" means an area of a municipality or county
14	with defined boundaries that is the site of one (1) or more buildings housing
15	persons who are engaged in research and development projects under this
16	chapter;
17	(14) "Sell" means to sell for a price, in a manner, and upon
18	terms the Authority shall determine, including, without limitation:
19	(A) Private or public sale.
20	(B)(i) If the sale is public, the authority shall
21	advertise the sale, and shall determine whether the sale shall be for cash or
22	credit payable in lump sum or in installments over a period the authority
23	shall determine.
24	(ii) If the sale is for credit, the authority shall
25	determine whether the credit shall be with or without interest and at what
26	rate; and
27	(15) "State" means the State of Arkansas.
28	
29	14-144-104. Construction.
30	(a) This chapter shall be liberally construed to accomplish its intent
31	and purposes and shall be the sole authority required for the accomplishment
32	of its purpose.
33	(b) To this end:
34	(1) It shall not be necessary to comply with the general
35	provisions of other laws dealing with public facilities and their
36	acquisition, construction, leasing, encumbering, or disposition, except to

1	the extent provided for in $$14-206-101$, et. seq., $$14-207-101$, et seq., and
2	§ 18-15-501, et seq.; and
3	(2) Section 15-5-303 shall not apply.
4	
5	SUBCHAPTER 2. RESEARCH PARK AUTHORITY - POWERS.
6	
7	14-144-201. Research park authority - Creation.
8	(a)(1) A research park authority:
9	(A) Shall have as sponsor at least one (1) accredited
10	institution of higher education; and
11	(B) May have one (1) more:
12	(i) Municipality;
13	(ii) County; or
14	(iii) State agency.
15	(2) One (1) or more sponsors who meet the requirements of
16	subdivision (a)(l) of this section may create a research park authority under
17	this chapter for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, maintaining, and
18	operating a research park.
19	(b) A county or municipality shall not participate in a research park
20	authority unless the governing body of the county or municipality:
21	(1) Provides by ordinance to participate in the research park
22	authority; and
23	(2) Enters into an agreement with at least one (1) accredited
24	institution of higher education to create and maintain the research park
25	authority.
26	(c) An accredited institution of higher education shall not
27	participate in a research park authority unless the governing body of the
28	accredited institution of higher education:
29	(1) Adopts a resolution to participate in the research park
30	authority; and
31	(2) Enters into an agreement with at least one (1) county or
32	municipality to create and maintain the research park authority.
33	(d) A research park shall be located either within:
34	(1) The geographical boundaries of a county or municipality that
35	is a sponsor of the research park authority; or
36	(2) The main campus of the sponsoring accredited institution of

1	higher education that is a sponsor of the research park authority.
2	(e)(1) A sponsor of a research park authority shall enter into an
3	agreement establishing the terms and conditions for the operation of the
4	authority under this chapter and any other laws of the State of Arkansas that
5	may be applicable.
6	(2) To the extent that it is consistent with this chapter, the
7	agreement shall specify the information provided for in the Interlocal
8	Cooperation Act, § 25-20-101 et seq.
9	(3) The agreement may also provide for each authority to furnish
10	the participating sponsor or sponsors copies of its annual budget for
11	examination and approval.
12	(4) The agreement shall be filed with the Secretary of State.
13	
14	14-144-202. Public corporation.
15	(a) Upon creation of a research park authority:
16	(1) The authority and its members shall:
17	(A) Constitute a public corporation; and
18	(B) Have perpetual succession; and
19	(2) The authority and its members may:
20	(A) Contract and be contracted with;
21	(B) Sue and be sued; and
22	(C) Have and use a common seal.
23	(b) The exercise of the powers and performance of the duties under
24	this chapter by each authority are declared to be public and governmental
25	functions that are exercised for a public purpose and for matters of public
26	necessity and that confer upon each authority governmental immunity from suit
27	in tort.
28	
29	14-144-203. Research Park Authority Board.
30	(a) Subject to any limitations created in the agreement required under
31	14-144-201(c), the management and control of each research park authority and
32	its property, operations, business, and affairs shall be lodged in a research
33	park authority board of not fewer than five (5) nor more than seven (7)
34	natural persons who shall be appointed for terms of five (5) years each.
35	(b)(1) The number of members of the board to which each of the
36	participating governmental bodies is entitled shall be set forth in the

1	agreement required under § 14-144-201(c).
2	(2) However, each of the participating governmental bodies shall
3	be entitled to appoint at least one (1) member.
4	(3) Appointments of members shall be made:
5	(A) For a municipality, by the mayor;
6	(B) For a county, by the county judge;
7	(C) For an accredited institution of higher education, by
8	the president or chancellor of the accredited institution of higher
9	education; and
10	(D) For a state agency, by the Governor.
11	(c)(1) The members shall serve staggered terms.
12	(2) Upon taking office, the members shall draw lots so that:
13	(A) One (1) member shall have a one-year term;
14	(B) One (1) member shall have a two-year term;
15	(C) One (1) member shall have a three-year term;
16	(D) One (1) member shall have a four-year term; and
17	(E) One (1) member shall have a five-year term.
18	(3) A sixth or seventh member shall serve a five-year term.
19	(4) After the expiration of their respective terms, persons
20	reappointed to the board or their successors shall serve five-year terms.
21	(5) A person shall not serve as a member for more than a total
22	of ten (10) consecutive years.
23	(d)(1) A member appointed by a mayor or county judge shall be a bona
24	fide resident and qualified elector of the municipality or county of the
25	appointing mayor or county judge.
26	(2) A member of the board appointed by the president or
27	chancellor of the accredited institution of higher education shall be bona
28	fide resident and qualified elector of the institution's Metropolitan
29	Statistical Area, or the County in which the main campus of the institution
30	is located, if the main campus is not the institution's Metropolitan
31	Statistical Area.
32	(3) A member appointed by the Governor shall be a bona fide
33	resident and a qualified elector of the State of Arkansas.
34	(e) If a member dies, resigns, is removed, or for any other reason
35	ceases to be a member of the board, the officer who appointed the member
36	shall appoint another eligible person to fill the unexpired portion of the

1	term of the member.
2	(f) A member once qualified shall not be removed during his or her
3	term except for cause by the mayor, county judge, president or chancellor of
4	the accredited institution of higher education or Governor who appointed the
5	member or upon such other conditions as shall may be set forth in the
6	agreement required under § 14-144-201(c).
7	(g)(1) A member shall not receive any compensation whether in the form
8	of salary, per diem allowance, or in another form for or in connection with his
9	or her services as a member.
10	(2) However, each member shall be entitled to reimbursement by the
11	board for any necessary expenditures in connection with the performance of his
12	or her general duties as a member.
13	
14	14-144-204. Powers of research park authority board.
15	(a) Each research park authority board is given the following powers:
16	(1) To make and adopt all necessary bylaws for its organization
17	and operation;
18	(2) To elect officers and to employ personnel necessary for its
19	operation;
20	(3) To delegate any authority given to it by law to any of its
21	officers, committees, agents, or employees;
22	(4) To enter into contracts necessary or incidental to its powers
23	and duties under this chapter;
24	(5) To apply for, receive, and spend grants for any purpose of
25	this chapter;
26	(6) To acquire lands and hold title to the lands acquired in its
27	own name;
28	(7) To acquire, own, use, and dispose of property in the
29	exercise of its powers and the performance of its duties under this
30	<pre>chapter;</pre>
31	(8) To borrow money and execute and deliver negotiable
32	notes in the exercise of its powers and the performance of its duties
33	under this chapter;
34	(9) To issue bonds;
35	(10) To acquire, equip, construct, maintain, and operate a
36	research park and appurtenant facilities or properties;

1	(11) To acquire, equip, construct, maintain, and operate
2	research and related types of facilities, including education, training,
3	office and support facilities, located at or near a research park for the
4	purpose of securing and developing new businesses with a research
5	orientation;
6	(12) To request and receive from time to time from counties
7	or cities within the boundaries of the research park authority, funds
8	to finance and support the authority, including county or city turnback
9	funds as set forth in §§ 27-70-206 and 27-70-207 for the purpose of
10	matching federal transportation funds;
11	(13) To receive property or funds by gift or donation for
12	the finance and support of the authority;
13	(14)(A) Upon the petition of persons representing two-thirds
14	(2/3) in value of the owners of real property in the area, as shown by the
15	last county assessment, to constitute the authority, or a committee of the
16	authority, as an improvement district and to create and operate an
17	improvement district composed of a specified area encompassed within the
18	jurisdictions of the participating governing bodies.
19	(B)(i) The improvement district shall be for the purpose
20	of financing the construction, reconstruction, or repair of the research park
21	and its facilities.
22	(ii) To the extent consistent with this chapter, the
23	creation and operation of an improvement district shall be in accordance with
24	the procedures established by the laws of the State of Arkansas for the
25	creation and operation of municipal improvement districts;
26	(15) To plan, establish, develop, construct, enlarge, improve,
27	maintain, equip, operate, and regulate a research park and auxiliary services
28	and facilities and to establish minimum building codes and regulations and to
29	protect and police the research park and other facilities of the authority,
30	in cooperation with the law enforcement agencies and officers having
31	jurisdiction in the area where the facilities of the authority are located;
32	(16) To levy and collect a tax or fee to be levied upon and
33	collected from the tenants or occupants of the research park or from the
34	property owners within the improvement district or redevelopment district;
35	(17) To receive real and personal property from the United
36	States for research park facilities and related purposes by donation,

	purchase, rease, or otherwise and subject to any conditions the onited states
2	may require and to which the authority may agree;
3	(18) To promote, advertise and publicize the authority and its
4	facilities and to represent and promote the interests of the authority; and
5	(19) To do all things necessary or appropriate to carry out the
6	powers and duties expressly granted or imposed under this chapter.
7	(b) A research park authority may engage in the following activities:
8	(1) Research;
9	(2) Development of products or services, including without
10	<pre>limitation:</pre>
11	(A) Advanced materials and manufacturing systems;
12	(B) Advanced electronics or computer products, or both;
13	(C) Agriculture, aquaculture, and forestry technologies;
14	(D) Bio-based products;
15	(E) Biotechnology, bioengineering, and life sciences;
16	(F) Engineering technology;
17	(G) Food and environmental sciences;
18	(H) Information and related technology;
19	(I) Medical devices;
20	(J) Nanotechnology;
21	(K) Pharmaceutical products;
22	(L) Products for energy conservation;
23	(M) Products for testing or remediation of environmental
24	hazards;
25	(N) Software, including creative and artistic content, and
26	data communications; and
27	(0) Transportation logistics;
28	(3) Production of materials and products ancillary to items
29	listed under subdivisions (b)(1) and (2) of this section; and
30	(4) Acting as support or resource services and suppliers in
31	connection with items listed under subdivisions (b)(1)-(3) of this section.
32	(c) Any additional activities undertaken by a research park authority
33	shall be related to the commercialization of research and the furtherance of
34	products and services derived from research and development activities.
35	(d) The enumeration of powers under this section does not limit or
36	circumscribe the broad objectives and nurposes of this chapter and the broad

1	objectives of developing a research park and necessary and desirable related
2	facilities or properties.
3	
4	14-144-205. Eminent domain.
5	(a) A research park authority shall have the right to acquire any
6	property necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter by exercising
7	the power of eminent domain.
8	(b) The research park authority, its agents, and its employees may
9	seek a court order to enter upon real property and make surveys,
10	examinations, photographs, tests, and samplings or to engage in other
11	activities for the purpose of appraising the property or determining whether
12	the real property is suitable for the authority's purpose.
13	
14	14-144-206. Condemnation petition — Notice.
15	(a) A research park authority may exercise its power of eminent domain
16	by filing an appropriate petition in condemnation in the circuit court of the
17	county in which the property sought to be taken is situated to have the
18	compensation determined, giving the owner of the property to be taken at
19	least ten (10) days' notice in writing of the time and place where the
20	petition will be heard.
21	(b)(1) If the property sought to be condemned is located in more than
22	one (1) county, the petition may be filed in any circuit court having
23	jurisdiction in any county in which any part of the property may be located.
24	(2) The proceedings had in the circuit court shall apply to all
25	of the property described in the petition.
26	(c)(1)(A) If the owner of the property sought to be taken is a
27	nonresident of the state, notice shall be by registered or certified mail,
28	return receipt requested, addressed to the last known address of the owner,
29	and by publication in any newspaper in the county that is authorized by law
30	to publish legal notices.
31	(B) This notice shall be published for the same length of
32	time as may be required in other civil causes.
33	(2) If there is no such newspaper published in the county, then
34	publication shall be made in a newspaper designated by the circuit clerk, and
35	one (1) written or printed notice of the petition shall be posted on the door
36	of the county courthouse.

1	(d)(1) The condemnation petition shall describe the lands and property
2	sought.
3	(2) When the immediate possession of lands and property is
4	sought to be obtained, the research park authority may file a declaration of
5	taking under this chapter at any time before judgment or together with the
6	condemnation petition.
7	
8	14-144-207. Declaration of taking.
9	(a)(1) The petitioner may file a declaration of taking at any time
10	before a judgment is signed by the chair of the research park authority
11	board, or with the condemnation petition, in any proceeding instituted by and
12	in the name of the research park authority that involves the acquisition of
13	real property, an interest in the real property, or the easement.
14	(2) The declaration shall declare that the authority is taking
15	the real property, an interest in the real property, or the easement for the
16	use of the authority.
17	(b) The declaration of taking shall contain or have annexed to it the
18	following:
19	(1) A statement that the authority is taking the real property,
20	an interest in real property, or an easement;
21	(2) A statement of the purpose for which the authority is taking
22	the real property, an interest in the real property, or the easement;
23	(3) A description of the real property, an interest in the real
24	property, or the easement that the authority is taking, sufficient for the
25	identification of the real property, an interest in the real property, or the
26	easement;
27	(4) A plat showing the real property, the interest in the real
28	property, or the easement that the authority is taking; and
29	(5) A statement of the amount of money estimated by the
30	acquiring authority to be just compensation for the taking of the real
31	property, an interest in the real property, or the easement.
32	
33	14-144-208. Condemnation proceedings and judgment.
34	(a) The circuit court shall impanel a jury of twelve (12) persons, as
35	in other civil cases, to ascertain the amount of compensation that the
36	research park authority shall pay for the real property, an interest in the

1	rear property, or an easement that the authority is taking.
2	(b) The matter shall proceed and be determined as in other civil
3	cases.
4	(c) In all cases of infants or incompetent persons, when no legal
5	representative or guardian appears in the infant's or incompetent person's
6	behalf at the hearing, the court shall appoint a guardian ad litem who shall
7	represent interests of the infant or incompetent person for all purposes.
8	(d) Compensation shall be ascertained and awarded in the proceeding
9	and established by judgment in the proceeding.
10	
11	14-144-209. Acquisition of property.
12	(a) Whenever it is deemed necessary by a research park authority, in
13	connection with the exercise of its powers conferred in this chapter, to take
14	or acquire any lands, structures, buildings or other rights, either in fee or
15	as easements, for the purposes set forth in this chapter, the authority may
16	purchase them directly or through its agents from the owners thereof, or
17	failing to agree with the owners, the authority may exercise the power of
18	eminent domain in accordance with the procedures set forth in this chapter,
19	and these purposes are declared to be public uses for which private property
20	may be taken with just compensation.
21	(b) Should an authority elect to exercise the right of eminent domain,
22	condemnation proceedings shall be maintained by and in the name of the
23	authority, and it may proceed in the manner provided in this chapter and the
24	general laws of the State of Arkansas not in conflict with this chapter that
25	are applicable to the procedure by any county, municipality, accredited
26	institution of higher education, or other authority organized under the laws
27	of the State of Arkansas.
28	
29	SUBCHAPTER 3. FINANCE.
30	
31	14-144-301. Issuance of revenue bonds — Authorization.
32	(a) An research park authority may use any available revenues for the
33	accomplishment of the purposes and the implementation of the powers
34	authorized by this chapter, including the proceeds of revenue bonds issued
35	from time to time under this chapter, either alone or together with other
36	available funds and revenues.

1	(b) The amount of each issue of bonds may be sufficient to pay:
2	(1) The costs of accomplishing the purposes for which the bonds
3	are being issued;
4	(2) The cost of issuing the bonds;
5	(3) The amount necessary for a reserve, if it is determined to
6	be desirable in favorably marketing the bonds;
7	(4) The amount, if any, necessary to provide for debt service on
8	the bonds until revenues for the payment of the bonds are available; and
9	(5) Any other costs and expenditures of whatever nature
10	incidental to the accomplishment of the specified purposes.
11	
12	14-144-302. Issuance of revenue bonds — Resolution of research park
13	authority - Nature of bonds.
14	(a) The issuance of revenue bonds shall be by resolution of the
15	research park authority.
16	(b) The bonds of each issue may:
17	(1) Be coupon bonds payable to bearer or may be registrable as
18	to principal only or as to both principal and interest;
19	(2) Be in such form and denominations as may be appropriate and
20	necessary;
21	(3) Be made payable at such places within or without the state
22	as may be appropriate and necessary;
23	(4) Be issued in one (1) or more series;
24	(5) Have such date or dates as may be appropriate and necessary;
25	(6) Mature at such time or times as may be appropriate and
26	necessary, not exceeding forty (40) years from their respective dates;
27	(7) Bear interest at such rate or rates;
28	(8) Be payable in such medium of payment as may be appropriate
29	and necessary;
30	(9) Be subject to such terms of redemption as may be appropriate
31	and necessary; and
32	(10) Contain such terms, covenants, and conditions as the
33	resolution authorizing their issuance may provide, including without
34	<u>limitation</u> , those pertaining to:
35	(A) The custody and application of the proceeds of the
36	bonds;

1	(B) The collection and disposition of revenues;
2	(C) The maintenance and investment of various funds and
3	reserves;
4	(D) The imposition and maintenance of taxes, fees, rates,
5	and charges for the use of the research park and other facilities of the
6	authority;
7	(E) The nature and extent of the security;
8	(F) The rights, duties, and obligations of the authority
9	and the trustee for the holders and registered owners of the bonds; and
10	(G) The rights of the holders and registered owners of the
11	bonds.
12	(c)(1)(A) There may be successive bond issues for the purpose of
13	financing the same project.
14	(B) There may also be successive bond issues for financing
15	the cost of reconstructing, replacing, constructing additions to, extending,
16	improving, and equipping projects already in existence, whether or not
17	originally financed by bonds issued under this chapter, with each successive
18	issue to be authorized as provided in this chapter.
19	(2) The priority between and among issues and successive issues
20	as to security and the pledge of revenues and lien on and security interest
21	in the land, buildings, and facilities involved may be controlled by the
22	resolutions authorizing the issuance of bonds under this chapter.
23	(d) Subject to this section, the bonds shall have all the qualities of
24	negotiable instruments under the laws of the State of Arkansas.
25	
26	14-144-303. Issuance of revenue bonds — Indenture.
27	(a) The resolution authorizing the bonds may provide for the execution
28	by the research park authority of an indenture that defines the rights of the
29	holders and registered owners of the bonds and provides for the appointment
30	of a trustee for the holders and registered owners of the bonds.
31	(b) The indenture may control the priority between successive issues
32	and may contain any other terms, covenants, and conditions that are deemed
33	desirable, including without limitation those pertaining to:
34	(1) The custody and application of the proceeds of the bonds;
35	(2) The collection and disposition of revenues;
36	(3) The maintenance of various funds and reserves;

1	(4) The imposition and maintenance of taxes, fees, rates, and
2	charges for the use of the research park and other facilities of the
3	authority;
4	(5) The nature and extent of the security;
5	(6) The rights, duties, and obligations of the authority and the
6	trustee; and
7	(7) The rights of the holders and registered owners of the
8	bonds.
9	
10	14-144-304. Issuance of revenue bonds — Price and manner sold.
11	The bonds may be sold for a price, including sale at a discount, and in
12	a manner the research park authority may determine by resolution.
13	
14	14-144-305. Issuance of revenue bonds — Execution.
15	(a)(1) The bonds shall be executed by the manual or facsimile
16	signatures of the chair and secretary of the board of the research park
17	authority.
18	(2) In case any of the officers whose signatures appear on the
19	bonds or coupons cease to be officers before the delivery of the bonds or
20	coupons, their signatures shall nevertheless be valid and sufficient for all
21	purposes.
22	(b) The coupons attached to the bonds may be executed by the facsimile
23	signature of the chair of the authority.
24	
25	14-144-306. Issuance of revenue bonds — Obligation of research park
26	authority.
27	(a) The revenue bonds issued under this chapter shall be obligations
28	only of the research park authority and shall not be general obligations of
29	any county or municipality, accredited institution of higher education, or
30	the State of Arkansas.
31	(b)(1) The revenue bonds shall not constitute an indebtedness of any
32	county or municipality, accredited institution of higher education, or the
33	State of Arkansas within the meaning of any constitutional or statutory
34	limitation.
35	(2) It shall be plainly stated on the face of each bond that the
36	bond has been issued under the provisions of this chapter and that the bond

	does not constitute an indeptedness of any county of municipality, accredited
2	institution of higher education, or the State of Arkansas within any
3	constitutional or statutory limitation.
4	(c) The principal of and interest on the bonds may be secured, to the
5	extent set forth in the resolution or indenture securing the bonds, by a
6	pledge of and payable from all or any part of revenues derived from the use
7	of facilities of the authority, including, without limitation:
8	(1) Revenues derived from rates and charges imposed and
9	maintained for the use of facilities of the authority;
10	(2) Revenues derived from taxes or fees levied under this
11	chapter; and
12	(3) Lease rentals under leases or payments under security
13	agreements or other instruments entered into under this chapter.
14	
15	14-144-307. Issuance of revenue bonds — Refunding bonds.
16	(a)(1) Revenue bonds may be issued under this chapter to refund any
17	obligations issued under this chapter.
18	(2) The refunding bonds may be combined with bonds issued into a
19	single issue.
20	(b)(1) When bonds are issued under this section for refunding
21	purposes, the bonds may either be sold or delivered in exchange for the
22	outstanding obligations.
23	(2) If the bonds are sold, the proceeds may be either applied to
24	the payment of the obligations refunded or deposited in escrow for the
25	retirement of the bonds.
26	(c)(1) All refunding bonds issued under this chapter shall, in all
27	respects, be authorized, issued, and secured in the manner provided for other
28	bonds issued under this chapter and shall have all the attributes of those
29	bonds.
30	(2) The resolution under which the refunding bonds are issued
31	may provide that any of the refunding bonds shall have the same priority of
32	lien on the revenues pledged for their payment as was enjoyed by the
33	obligations refunded by the bonds.
34	
35	14-144-308. Issuance of revenue bonds — Mortgage lien.
36	(a) The resolution or indenture securing the honds may impose a

- 1 <u>foreclosable mortgage lien upon or security interest in the facilities of the</u>
- 2 research park authority, or any portion of the facilities, and the extent of
- 3 the mortgage lien or security interest may be controlled by the resolution or
- 4 <u>indenture</u>, including without limitation, provisions pertaining to the release
- 5 of all or part of the facilities subject to the mortgage lien or security
- 6 <u>interest in the event of successive issues of bonds.</u>
- 7 (b) Subject to the terms, conditions and restrictions contained in the
- 8 <u>resolution or indenture</u>, any holder of any of the bonds, or of any coupon
- 9 attached to a bond, or a trustee on behalf of the holders either at law or in
- 10 equity may enforce the mortgage lien or security interest and by proper suit
- 11 <u>may compel the performance of the duties of the officials of the authority</u>
- 12 set forth in this chapter and set forth in the resolution or indenture.

13 14

- 14-144-309. Issuance of revenue bonds Default.
- 15 (a)(1) In the event of a default in the payment of the principal of or
- 16 interest on any bonds issued under this chapter, a court having jurisdiction
- 17 may appoint a receiver to take charge of any facilities upon or in which
- 18 there is a mortgage lien or security interest securing the bonds in default.
- 19 <u>(2) The receiver may operate and maintain the facilities in</u>
- 20 receivership and to charge and collect taxes, fees, rates, and rents
- 21 <u>sufficient to provide for the payment of any costs of receivership and</u>
- 22 operating expenses of the facilities in receivership and to apply the
- 23 revenues derived from the facilities in receivership in conformity with this
- 24 chapter and the resolution or indenture securing the bonds in default.
- 25 (3) When the default has been cured, the receivership shall be
- 26 ended and the facilities returned to the research park authority.
- 27 (b) The relief provided for in this section is in addition and
- 28 supplemental to the remedies that may be provided for in the resolution or
- 29 indenture securing the bonds and shall be so granted and administered as to
- 30 accord full recognition to the priority rights of bondholders as to the
- 31 pledge of revenues from, mortgage lien on, and security interest in
- 32 facilities as specified in and fixed by the resolution or indenture securing
- 33 successive issues of bonds.

- 35 14-144-310. Agreements to obtain funds.
- In connection with obtaining funds for its purposes, a research park

1	authority may enter into an agreement with any person, including the federal						
2	government or any agency or subdivision of the federal government, containing						
3	such provisions, covenants, terms, and conditions as the authority deems						
4	advisable.						
5							
6	14-144-311. Exemption from taxation.						
7	(a) The property of each research park authority is exempt from all						
8	local and municipal taxes.						
9	(b) Bonds, notes, debentures, and other evidences of indebtedness of						
10	the authority are declared to be issued for a public purpose and to be public						
11	instrumentalities and, together with interest thereon, are exempt from all						
12	state, county, and municipal taxes, including without limitation income tax,						
13	inheritance tax, and estate taxes.						
14	(c) The establishment, development, and growth of research parks in						
15	the State of Arkansas serves a public purpose and use through:						
16	(1) The creation of high-paying jobs;						
17	(2) The ability to retain some of our most highly educated						
18	Arkansans;						
19	(3) The growth of Arkansas-based businesses whose focus on the						
20	research and development of products and services will serve to diversify						
21	Arkansas's economy; and						
22	(4) A strategic alliance between business and higher education						
23	that has the potential to substantially improve Arkansas's economy.						
24							
25	14-144-312. Use of surplus funds.						
26	(a) If a research park authority realizes a surplus, whether from						
27	operating the research park facilities and other facilities or leasing it or						
28	them for operation, over and above the amount required for the maintenance,						
29	improvement, and operation of the research park facility and other facilities						
30	and for meeting all required payments on its obligations, the authority shall						
31	set aside the reserve for future operations, improvements, and contingencies						
32	as the authority deems proper and shall then apply the residue of the						
33	surplus, if any, to the payment of any recognized and established obligations						
34	not then due.						
35	(b) After all the recognized and established obligations have been						

paid off and discharged in full, the authority shall set aside at the end of

19

1 each fiscal year the reserve for future operations, improvements, and 2 contingencies as prescribed in subsection (a) of this section and then pay 3 the residue of the surplus, if any, to the sponsoring county, municipality, 4 accredited institution of higher education and, if applicable, state agency, 5 in direct proportion to each sponsor's financial contributions to the 6 authority, if the distribution of the residue of the surplus does not violate 7 United States law or the terms of any deed, grant agreement, or other 8 agreement with the United States. 9 10 14-144-313. Public and private contributions. 11 (a) Contributions may be made to a research park authority from time 12 to time by any county, municipality, or accredited institution of higher 13 education, by the State of Arkansas or any agency of the state, or by any 14 person. 15 (b)(1) In order to afford maximum opportunities for contributions, the 16 agreement provided for under § 14-144-201 may be treated as a cooperative 17 agreement under the provisions of the Interlocal Cooperation Act, § 25-20-101 et seq., and at the election of the sponsors of the authority may contain 18 19 language enabling the agreement to be treated as a formal compact under § 14-20 165-201 et seq. 21 (2) If the conditions set forth in subdivision (b)(1) of this 22 section are met, the authority shall hold title to property in its powers and 23 capacity as a public corporation rather than as a commission-trustee as 24 provided in §§ 14-165-201 et seq., or may be treated as a less formal 25 arrangement for the cooperative use of industrial development bond funds, all 26 to the end that the counties and municipalities may contribute to the 27 authority funds derived from general obligation bonds under Arkansas 28 Constitution, and the Arkansas Constitution, from revenue bonds under § 14-29 164-201 et seq., and from other available sources, and may contribute funds 30 derived from a combination of these sources. 31 32 14-144-314. Accounts and reports. 33 (a)(1) All funds received by a research park authority shall be 34 deposited in such banks as the research park authority may direct and shall 35 be withdrawn from those banks in a manner the authority may direct.

(2)(A) Each authority shall keep strict account of all of its

1	receipts and expenditures and shall each quarter make a report to those					
2	participating entities that have made contributions.					
3	(B)(i) The report shall contain an itemized account of the					
4	authority's receipts and disbursements during the preceding quarter.					
5	(ii) The report shall be made within sixty (60) days					
6	after the end of the quarter.					
7	(b)(1)(A) Within sixty (60) days after the end of each fiscal year,					
8	each research park authority shall cause an annual audit to be made by an					
9	independent certified public accountant and shall file a copy of the					
10	resulting audit report with each of the governing bodies participating in the					
11	authority.					
12	(B) The audit shall contain an itemized statement of the					
13	authority's receipts and disbursements for the preceding year.					
14	(2) The books, records, and accounts of each authority shall be					
15	subject to audit and examination by any proper public official or body in the					
16	manner provided by law.					
17						
18	14-144-315. County, municipal, and state participation.					
19	A county, municipality, accredited institution of higher education, and					
20	state agency that is a sponsor of a research park authority may:					
21	(1) Appoint members of a research park authority;					
22	(2) Contribute to the cost of acquiring, constructing,					
23	equipping, maintaining, and operating the research park facilities and					
24	appurtenant facilities; and					
25	(3) Transfer and convey to the authority property of any kind					
26	acquired by the county, municipality, accredited institution of higher					
27	education, and state agency or the State of Arkansas for research and					
28	economic development.					
29						
30	14-144-316. Lease of facilities.					
31	(a) Each research park authority may lease its research park					
32	facilities and all or any part of its appurtenances and facilities to any					
33	available lessee at a rental and upon such terms and conditions as the					
34	authority deems proper.					
35	(b) Leases shall be for some purpose associated with research or					
36	economic development activities that serve to build the local, regional, and					

1	state economies.
2	
3	14-144-317. Sale of assets.
4	If the board of a research park authority so determines, the authority
5	may sell all or any part of its properties and assets and distribute the
6	proceeds among the sponsoring counties, municipalities, accredited
7	institutions of higher education, and state agencies, in the proportion each
8	sponsor contributed to the authority's funds or otherwise in the manner set
9	forth in the agreement or resolution establishing the authority, if no sale
10	of properties or assets and no distribution of proceeds of a sale is done in
11	a manner that violates United States law or the terms of any deed, grant
12	agreement, or other agreement with the United States.
13	
14	14-144-318. Authorized investors.
15	Any county or municipality or any board, commission, or other authority
16	established by ordinance of any county or municipality, or the boards of
17	trustees, respectively, of the firemen's relief and pension fund and the
18	policemen's pension and relief fund of any such municipality, or the board of
19	trustees of any retirement system created by the General Assembly may invest
20	any of its funds not immediately needed for its purposes, in bonds issued
21	under this chapter, and bonds issued under this chapter shall be eligible to
22	secure the deposit of public funds.
23	
24	SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 26-51-1101 is amended to read as follows:
25	26-51-1101. Definitions.
26	As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise requires:
27	(1) "Accredited institution of higher education" means a four-
28	year public college or university that offers bachelor's degrees and is
29	recognized by the Department of Higher Education for credit;
30	(1)(2) "Machinery and equipment" means tangible personal
31	property used in connection with a qualified education program or a qualified
32	research program $\frac{\text{which}}{\text{that}}$ has been approved for a tax credit under rules
33	and regulations prescribed by the Department of Finance and Administration;
34	(2) (3) "New" means the machinery and equipment is state-of-the-
35	art machinery and equipment which has:
36	(A) Never been used except for normal testing by the

1 manufacturer to insure ensure that the machinery or equipment is of a proper 2 quality and in good working order; or (B) Been used by the retailer or wholesaler solely for the 3 4 purpose of demonstrating the product to customers for sale; 5 (3)(4) "State-of-the-art-machinery and equipment" means 6 machinery and equipment which is of the same type, design, and capability as 7 like machinery and equipment which is currently sold or manufactured by the 8 donee for sale to customers; (4)(5) "Cost" means: 9 (A) In the case of a donation or sale below cost by a 10 11 wholesale or retail business, the amount actually paid by the wholesaler or 12 retailer to the supplier for the machinery or equipment; or 13 (B) In the case of a donation or sale below cost by a 14 manufacturer of machinery or equipment, the enhanced value of the materials 15 used to produce the machinery or equipment, which shall be deemed to be the 16 lowest price at which the manufacturer sells the machinery or equipment; 17 (5)(6) "Qualified educational institution" means: 18 (A) Any public university, college, junior college, or 19 vocational technical training school supported by the State of Arkansas; 20 (B) Any private university, college, junior college, or 21 vocational technical training school located in Arkansas and qualified for 22 tax-exempt status under the Arkansas Income Tax Act, as amended § 26-51-101 23 et seq.; or 24 (C) Any public elementary or secondary school; 25 (6)(7) "Qualified research expenditures" means the sum of any 26 amounts which are paid or incurred by a taxpayer during the taxable year in 27 funding a qualified research program which that has been approved for tax 28 credit treatment under rules and regulations promulgated by the Department of 29 Finance and Administration; 30 (7)(8) "Qualified research program" means a program of applied or basic research undertaken by a qualified educational institution pursuant 31 32 to rules and regulations jointly prescribed by the Arkansas Science and 33 Technology Authority and the Department of Higher Education under § 15-3-110; 34 (8)(9) "Qualified education program" means a program conducted 35 by a qualified educational institution under rules and regulations prescribed 36 by the Department of Higher Education for programs in colleges, universities,

1	or junior colleges, by the vocational and lechnical pivision of the						
2	Department of Education Department of Workforce Education for programs in						
3	vocational technical training schools and by the General Education Division						
4	of the Department of Education for programs in elementary or secondary						
5	schools, all of which programs are for the purpose of promoting the use of						
6	new machinery and equipment for classroom, laboratory, and other educational						
7	instruction+; and						
8	(10) "Research park authority" means a public entity created						
9	under the Research Park Authority Act, § 14-144-101 et seq.to provide						
10	facilities and support for businesses engaged in research and development in						
11	pursuit of economic development opportunities.						
12							
13	SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 26-51-1102, concerning tax credits for						
14	donations to educational institutions, is amended to add an additional						
15	subsection to read as follows:						
16	(c)(l) There is granted a credit against a taxpayer's Arkansas						
17	corporate income tax or Arkansas individual income tax equal to thirty-three						
18	percent (33%) of a donation made to an accredited institution of higher						
19	education to support a research park authority.						
20	(2) In order to claim this credit authorized by subdivision						
21	(c)(l) of this section, a donation made in support of a research park						
22	authority shall:						
23	(A) Be consistent with the research and development plan						
24	approved by the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Science and Technology						
25	Authority, as evidenced by a letter of support from the President of the						
26	Arkansas Science and Technology Authority; and						
27	(B) Support either directly or indirectly research subject						
28	to being funded by one (1) or more federal agencies, as enumerated in § 15-3-						
29	<u>205(1).</u>						
30							
31	SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 26-74-203(3), regarding definitions for						
32	sales and use tax for capital improvements, is amended to read as follows:						
33	(3) "Capital improvements of a public nature" means:						
34	(A) Streets;						
35	(B) Roads;						
36	(C) Public parks;						

I		(D)	Port facilities;
2		(E)	Tourism facilities;
3		(F)	Airport facilities;
4		(G)	Sewerage facilities;
5		(H)	Waterworks facilities;
6		(I)	Fire protection facilities;
7		(J)	Convention center facilities;
8		(K)	Courthouses;
9		(L)	Police facilities;
10		(M)	Public transit facilities;
11		(N)	Auditoriums;
12		(0)	Prisons;
13		(P)	Libraries;
14		(Q)	Hospital and nursing home facilities;
15		(R)	Solid waste facilities;
16		(S)	Sanitation facilities;
17		(T)	Bridges;
18		(U)	Electric facilities;
19		(V)	Hydroelectric facilities;
20		(W)	Facilities for the securing and developing of
21	industry;		
22		(X)	Natural gas facilities;
23		(Y)	Parking facilities;
24		(Z)	Public housing facilities;
25		(AA)	Pollution control facilities;
26		(BB)	Public education facilities;
27		(CC)	Drainage facilities;
28		(DD)	Pedestrian facilities;
29		(EE)	Lakes;
30		(FF)	Dams;
31		(GG)	Waterways; and
32		(HH)	Regional mobility authority surface transportation
33	systems; and		
34		(II)	Research parks;
35			
36	SECTION 5.	Arka	nsas Code § 26-74-303(3), regarding definitions for

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1
     sales tax for capital improvements, is amended to read as follows:
 2
                      "Capital improvements of a public nature" means:
 3
                       (A) Streets;
 4
                       (B) Roads;
 5
                       (C) Public parks;
 6
                       (D) Port facilities;
 7
                       (E) Tourism facilities;
 8
                       (F) Airport facilities;
 9
                       (G) Sewerage facilities;
                       (H) Waterworks facilities;
10
11
                       (I) Fire protection facilities;
12
                       (J) Convention center facilities;
13
                       (K) Courthouses;
14
                       (L) Police facilities;
15
                       (M) Public transit facilities;
16
                       (N) Auditoriums;
17
                       (0) Prisons;
18
                       (P) Libraries;
19
                       (Q) Hospital and nursing home facilities;
20
                       (R) Solid waste facilities;
21
                       (S) Sanitation facilities;
22
                       (T) Bridges;
23
                       (U) Electric facilities;
24
                       (V) Hydroelectric facilities;
25
                       (W) Facilities for the securing and developing of
26
     industry;
27
                       (X) Natural gas facilities;
28
                       (Y) Parking facilities;
29
                       (Z) Public housing facilities;
30
                       (AA) Pollution control facilities;
31
                       (BB) Public education facilities;
32
                       (CC)
                             Drainage facilities;
33
                       (DD)
                             Pedestrian facilities;
34
                       (EE)
                            Lakes;
35
                       (FF)
                             Dams;
36
                       (GG)
                             Waterways; and
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1		(HH)	Regional mobility authority surface transportation
2	systems; and		
3		(II)	Research parks;
4			
5	SECTION 6.	Arka	nsas Code § 26-75-203(3), regarding definitions for
6	sales tax for ca	pital :	improvements, is amended to read as follows:
7	(3)	"Capi	tal improvements of a public nature" means:
8		(A)	Street facilities;
9		(B)	Road facilities;
10		(C)	Public parks and other recreational facilities;
11		(D)	Port facilities;
12		(E)	Tourism facilities;
13		(F)	Airport facilities;
14		(G)	Sewerage facilities;
15		(H)	Waterworks facilities;
16		(I)	Fire protection facilities;
17		(J)	Convention center facilities;
18		(K)	City halls and other municipal buildings;
19		(L)	Courthouses;
20		(M)	Police facilities;
21		(N)	Public transit facilities;
22		(0)	Auditoriums;
23		(P)	Prisons;
24		(Q)	Libraries;
25		(R)	Hospital and nursing home facilities;
26		(S)	Solid waste facilities;
27		(T)	Sanitation facilities;
28		(U)	Bridges;
29		(V)	Electric facilities;
30		(W)	Hydroelectric facilities;
31		(X)	Facilities for the securing and developing of
32	industry;		
33		(Y)	Natural gas facilities;
34		(Z)	Parking facilities;
35		(AA)	Public housing facilities;
36		(BB)	Pollution control facilities;

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1
                       (CC) Public education facilities;
 2
                       (DD)
                             Drainage facilities;
                             Pedestrian facilities;
 3
                       (EE)
 4
                       (FF)
                             Lakes;
 5
                       (GG)
                             Dams;
 6
                             Waterways; and
                       (HH)
 7
                       (II)
                             Regional mobility authority surface transportation
8
     systems; and
9
                       (JJ) Research parks;
10
11
           SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 26-75-303(3), regarding definitions for
12
     sales tax for capital improvements, is amended to read as follows:
13
                      "Capital improvements of a public nature" means:
14
                       (A) Streets;
15
                       (B) Roads;
16
                       (C) Public parks;
17
                       (D) Port facilities;
18
                       (E) Tourism facilities;
19
                       (F) Airport facilities;
20
                       (G) Sewerage facilities;
21
                       (H) Waterworks facilities;
22
                       (I) Fire protection facilities;
23
                       (J) Convention center facilities;
24
                       (K) City halls;
25
                       (L) Courthouses;
26
                       (M) Police facilities;
27
                       (N) Public transit facilities;
2.8
                       (0) Auditoriums;
29
                       (P) Prisons;
30
                       (Q) Libraries;
31
                       (R) Hospital and nursing home facilities;
32
                       (S) Solid waste facilities;
33
                       (T) Sanitation facilities;
34
                       (U) Bridges;
35
                       (V) Electric facilities;
36
                       (W) Hydroelectric facilities;
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1		(A)	racilities for the securing and developing of
2	industry;		
3		(Y)	Natural gas facilities;
4		(Z)	Parking facilities;
5		(AA)	Public housing facilities;
6		(BB)	Pollution control facilities;
7		(CC)	Public education facilities;
8		(DD)	Drainage facilities;
9		(EE)	Pedestrian facilities;
10		(FF)	Lakes;
11		(GG)	Dams;
12		(HH)	Waterways; and
13		(II)	Regional mobility authority surface transportation
14	systems; and		
15		(JJ)	Research parks;
16			
17	SECTION 8.	EMERG	ENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
18	General Assembly o	of the	State of Arkansas that the development of products
19	and services deriv	ed fr	om research activities involving Arkansas institutions
20	of higher education	on and	businesses and entrepreneurs involved in these
21	research activitie	es for	m the basis for much needed economic development that
22	capitalizes on kno	owledg	e acquired through research; that the resulting
23	intellectual prope	erty t	hat is the foundation for business development
24	presents opportuni	ities	for the State of Arkansas to compete effectively in
25	the changing globa	al eco	nomy; that the opportunities available for the growth
26	of knowledge-based	l busi	nesses are dependent upon the State of Arkansas
27	creating an enviro	nment	that allows these new businesses to grow and succeed
28	in Arkansas; and t	hat t	his act is immediately necessary to develop and retain
29	these knowledge-ba	ased b	usinesses in the State of Arkansas. Therefore, an
30	emergency is decla	ered t	o exist and this act being necessary for the
31	preservation of th	ie pub	lic peace, health, and safety shall become effective
32	on:		
33	<u>(1) 7</u>	he da	te of its approval by the Governor;
34	<u>(2) 1</u>	f the	bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
35	the expiration of	the p	eriod of time during which the Governor may veto the
36	bill: or		

1		<u>(3)</u>	If the	he b	<u>ill</u>	is ve	etoed	l by	the	Gove	rnor	and	the	veto	is
2	overridden,	the	date	the	last	hous	se ov	erri	ldes	the	veto	<u>•</u>			
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