



NEWS:

Measure Would Motivate Innovation, Create Jobs

MAY 12, 2017 - Legislation filed this week seeks to spur job creation and innovation in The First State.

Sponsored by State Rep. Michael Ramone, R-Pike Creek South, the Angel Investor Job Creation and Innovation Act would establish a refundable tax credit for qualified investors in innovative, Delaware-based small businesses.

"If we in the state are serious about fostering economic development in Delaware, and I believe we are, then the Angel Investor Job Creation and Innovation Act must take effect sooner rather than later," Rep. Ramone said. "The funding that would be available through this legislation is critical in helping scientific or technology small businesses get off the ground and begin operating. ... I introduced a similar bill last year and I am hopeful, that with the governor's support this year, we can enact this important bill."

Additional House sponsors of the bipartisan legislation include: State Reps. Bryon Short, D-Highland Woods; Melanie George Smith, D-Bear-Newark; and Dave Wilson, R-Cedar Creek Hundred.

Governor John Carney is backing the initiative. "We should do everything we can to support Delaware's innovators and entrepreneurs," he said. "This legislation would encourage investments in innovative, Delaware-based small businesses and connect our most talented entrepreneurs with the resources they need to be successful."

The legislation would establish guidelines for awarding a tax credit worth up to 25 percent of the investment in a qualified, Delaware-based small business. Businesses receiving the investment must pay decent wages, employ fewer than 25 employees, and primarily engage in innovation in one of several areas.

Qualified business activities include:

- Using proprietary technology to add value to a product, process, or service in a qualified high-technology field.



State Rep. Mike Ramone

- Researching or developing a proprietary product, process, or service in a qualified high-technology field.
- Researching, developing, or producing a proprietary product, process, or service in the fields of agriculture, manufacturing, wildlife preservation, environmental science, financial technology, or transportation.
- Researching, developing, or producing a new proprietary technology for use in agriculture, manufacturing, financial technology, or transportation.

The bill is pending action in the House Economic Development Committee