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By: **Delegates Zirkin, Barve, Carlson, Morhaim, Finifter, Boschert, Phillips,  
Oaks, and Giannetti**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2000

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Technology Center Advisory Commission - Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Technology Center Advisory Commission and the  
4 Technology Center Development Fund under the Department of Business and  
5 Economic Development; providing for the membership of the Commission;  
6 requiring the Commission to develop a program and make certain grants to  
7 implement and maintain a statewide network of technology centers; requiring  
8 the Commission to administer the Fund, solicit grant proposals, and develop  
9 criteria for approving or denying grant proposals; authorizing a county to  
10 submit certain proposals for certain funding; requiring a county's proposal for  
11 Fund grants to include certain information; requiring a technology center to  
12 meet certain standards; requiring the Governor to provide certain moneys for  
13 the Fund; requiring the Commission to adopt regulations under certain  
14 circumstances to implement this Act; defining certain terms; and generally  
15 relating to the establishment of the Technology Center Advisory Commission.

16 BY adding to

17 Article 83A - Department of Business and Economic Development  
18 Section 6-901 through 6-908, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 9.  
19 Technology Center Advisory Commission"  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (1998 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
23 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

24 **Article 83A - Department of Business and Economic Development**

25 **SUBTITLE 9. TECHNOLOGY CENTER ADVISORY COMMISSION.**

26 6-901.

27 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
28 INDICATED.

1 (B) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE TECHNOLOGY CENTER ADVISORY  
2 COMMISSION.

3 (C) "FUND" MEANS THE TECHNOLOGY CENTER DEVELOPMENT FUND.  
4 6-902.

5 (A) THERE IS A TECHNOLOGY CENTER ADVISORY COMMISSION IN THE  
6 DEPARTMENT.

7 (B) (1) THERE IS A TECHNOLOGY CENTER DEVELOPMENT FUND UNDER THE  
8 COMMISSION.

9 (2) MONEYS FOR THE FUND SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET OF  
10 THE DEPARTMENT.

11 6-903.

12 THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIST OF 9 MEMBERS, AS FOLLOWS:

13 (1) 3 MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY, OR THE SECRETARY'S  
14 DESIGNEE, INCLUDING 1 MEMBER WITH AN ARCHITECTURAL BACKGROUND;

15 (2) 3 MEMBERS WHO ARE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HIGH  
16 TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;

17 (3) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
18 APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR; AND

19 (4) 2 MEMBERS WHO ARE REPRESENTATIVES OF PRIVATE SECTOR  
20 TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

21 6-904.

22 (A) A COUNTY MAY SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO THE COMMISSION REQUESTING A  
23 GRANT FROM THE FUND FOR DEVELOPING, IMPLEMENTING, OR MAINTAINING ONE  
24 OR MORE TECHNOLOGY CENTERS.

25 (B) A COUNTY'S PROPOSAL SHALL INCLUDE:

26 (1) THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH A GRANT IS TO BE USED;

27 (2) THE SITE OF THE TECHNOLOGY CENTER;

28 (3) THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF THE PROPOSAL, INCLUDING THE COSTS  
29 TO BE FUNDED BY STATE, LOCAL, OR PRIVATE SOURCES OR GRANTS FROM THE  
30 FUND;

31 (4) THE PROGRAMS, CLASSES, AND TYPES OF EVENTS TO BE HELD AT  
32 THE TECHNOLOGY CENTER;

1 (5) THE INTENDED BENEFICIARIES OF THE PROGRAMS, CLASSES, AND  
2 EVENTS OFFERED BY THE TECHNOLOGY CENTER; AND

3 (6) ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT THE COMMISSION REQUIRES.

4 (C) THE COMMISSION SHALL EVALUATE, AND APPROVE OR DENY, EACH  
5 GRANT PROPOSAL BASED ON THE CRITERIA DEVELOPED UNDER § 6-905(5) OF THIS  
6 SUBTITLE.

7 6-905.

8 THE COMMISSION SHALL:

9 (1) DEVELOP A PROGRAM TO IMPLEMENT AND MAINTAIN A STATEWIDE  
10 NETWORK OF TECHNOLOGY CENTERS;

11 (2) ADMINISTER THE FUND;

12 (3) SOLICIT GRANT PROPOSALS FROM COUNTIES;

13 (4) DEVELOP CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING, AND APPROVING OR  
14 DENYING, A COUNTY'S GRANT PROPOSAL;

15 (5) MAKE GRANTS FROM THE FUND TO COUNTIES TO IMPLEMENT  
16 APPROVED PROPOSALS; AND

17 (6) APPOINT AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO OVERSEE THE OPERATION OF  
18 THE COMMISSION.

19 6-906.

20 A TECHNOLOGY CENTER SHALL:

21 (1) FOCUS ON EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND EXHIBITS; AND

22 (2) INCLUDE INTERNET ACCESS AND TRAINING, VIRTUAL REALITY  
23 TECHNOLOGY, A DISTANCE LEARNING CENTER, AND OTHER TECHNOLOGICAL AND  
24 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND EXHIBITS.

25 6-907.

26 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002 AND EVERY FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR  
27 SHALL INCLUDE IN THE STATE BUDGET FUNDING TO PROVIDE A STATE  
28 CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NETWORK OF TECHNOLOGY  
29 CENTERS IN THE STATE.

30 6-908.

31 WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT, THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT  
32 REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2 October 1, 2000.