

HOUSE BILL 356

C8

3lr0113

By: **Chair, Economic Matters Committee (By Request – Departmental – Veterans Affairs)**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2013

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Military Personnel and Veteran–Owned Small Business No–Interest Loan**
3 **Program**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the name of the Military Personnel and Service–Disabled
5 Veterans No–Interest Loan Program to be the Military Personnel and
6 Veteran–Owned Small Business No–Interest Loan Program; expanding the
7 no–interest loan program to include all veteran–owned businesses; and
8 generally relating to the Military Personnel and Veteran–Owned Small
9 Business No–Interest Loan Program.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

11 Article – Economic Development

12 Section 5–1001 through 5–1003 to be under the amended subtitle “Subtitle 10.

13 Military Personnel and Veteran–Owned Small Business No–Interest
14 Loan Program”

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2008 Volume and 2012 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Economic Development**

20 Subtitle 10. Military Personnel and [Service–Disabled Veterans] **VETERAN–OWNED**
21 **SMALL BUSINESS** No–Interest Loan Program.

22 5–1001.

23 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) “Service–disabled veteran” means a veteran with a disability that is
2 service–connected, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(16).

3 (c) (1) “Small business employer” means an employer who employed an
4 average of 50 or fewer employees on business days during the calendar year preceding
5 the determination of eligibility for a loan under this subtitle.

6 (2) For purposes of paragraph (1) of this subsection, all persons
7 treated as a single employer under § 414(b), (c), (m), or (o) of the Internal Revenue
8 Code shall be treated as a single employer under this subtitle.

9 (D) **“VETERAN–OWNED SMALL BUSINESS” MEANS A SMALL BUSINESS**
10 **THAT IS AT LEAST 51% OWNED BY A VETERAN AS DEFINED IN 38 U.S.C. § 101(2).**

11 5–1002.

12 Subject to the availability of funds, the Department, in consultation with the
13 Department of Veterans Affairs, shall establish a program to provide no–interest loans
14 under this subtitle to:

15 (1) small business employers of military reservists and National
16 Guard personnel who are called to active duty;

17 (2) businesses owned by military reservists and National Guard
18 personnel who are called to active duty;

19 (3) [service–disabled veterans;

20 (4) businesses owned by service–disabled veterans]
21 **VETERAN–OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES;** and

22 **[(5)] (4)** businesses employing a service–disabled veteran.

23 5–1003.

24 Loans shall be made under this subtitle for the purposes of:

25 (1) providing financial support to:

26 (i) a business owned by a military reservist or National Guard
27 member who is called to active duty; or

28 (ii) a small business employer of a military reservist or National
29 Guard member who is called to active duty;

1 (2) making the home, motor vehicle, or place of employment of a
2 ~~service-disabled~~ veteran accessible to individuals with disabilities, including
3 purchasing equipment necessary to enable a business to employ a service-disabled
4 veteran **OR TO ENABLE A SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN TO OPERATE A**
5 **BUSINESS**; and

6 (3) defraying other necessary expenses, as determined by the
7 Department of Veterans Affairs, incurred by:

8 (i) a business employing a service-disabled veteran [as a result
9 of the veteran's disability]; **OR**

10 (ii) [a service-disabled veteran; or

11 (iii) a business owned by a service-disabled veteran] **A**
12 **VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS.**

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 2013.