

# HOUSE BILL 910

P4  
HB 718/15 – APP

6lr2267

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By: **Delegates C. Wilson, Atterbeary, C. Howard, Patterson, Vaughn, and M. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2016

Assigned to: Appropriations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Personnel – Innovative Idea Awards Program – Additional Cash Awards**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that a certain additional cash award provided to certain State  
4 employees under the Innovative Idea Awards Program for certain innovative ideas  
5 shall be equal to a certain percentage of the savings or gain to the State from the  
6 innovative idea; repealing a certain limitation on the amount of a certain cash award;  
7 prohibiting any member of the Governor Awards Panel from receiving certain  
8 compensation; and generally relating to awards made under the State Innovative  
9 Idea Awards Program.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article – State Personnel and Pensions  
12 Section 10–203  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2015 Replacement Volume)

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

17 **Article – State Personnel and Pensions**

18 10–203.

19 (a) In this section, “innovative idea” means an invention, innovative suggestion,  
20 or any other innovative idea.

21 (b) There is an Innovative Idea Awards Program for employees.

22 (c) (1) An innovative idea award may be awarded for an innovative idea that,  
23 if implemented, would:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (i) increase revenue to the State;
- 2 (ii) save money for the State;
- 3 (iii) improve the quality of services delivered to the public; or
- 4 (iv) otherwise significantly benefit the State.

5 (2) Except under exceptional circumstances, an award may not be made for  
6 an innovative idea that is under active study or continual review by a unit of State  
7 government.

8 (d) (1) The head of each principal unit shall establish a  
9 labor-management review committee, with half of the members being selected from the  
10 exclusive representatives, if any, to evaluate and recommend awards for innovative ideas  
11 by employees of that unit.

12 (2) (i) To the extent possible, within 60 days after an innovative idea is  
13 submitted to the labor-management review committee, the head of the unit shall decide  
14 whether to give an innovative idea award.

15 (ii) The innovative idea may be received directly from an employee  
16 through an application, or forwarded by the employee's supervisor.

17 (e) For an innovative idea, the head of a principal unit may give an employee of  
18 that unit a cash award of not more than:

19 (1) \$1,000 for an innovative idea with a reasonably ascertainable monetary  
20 savings or gain to the State; or

21 (2) \$300 for any other innovative idea.

22 (f) (1) There is a Governor's Award Panel.

23 (2) (I) The Governor's Award Panel consists of five members appointed  
24 by the Governor, at least three of whom shall be public members [who serve without  
25 compensation].

26 (II) **A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD PANEL MAY NOT**  
27 **RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD PANEL.**

28 (g) (1) The head of a principal unit, in consultation with the  
29 labor-management review committee, shall submit to the Governor's Award Panel each  
30 innovative idea for which an award is made under subsection (e) of this section, with a  
31 recommendation for any additional award by the Governor.

1           (2)    The Governor’s Award Panel shall:

2                   (i)     review each innovative idea submitted to it;

3                   (ii)    at least once a year, make a recommendation to the Governor  
4 about additional awards for the innovative ideas; and

5                   (iii)   recommend to the Governor either monetary or nonmonetary  
6 awards for the employees’ innovative ideas.

7           (h)   (1)    The Governor may make an additional cash award for an innovative  
8 idea.

9                   (2)    The cash award [may not exceed \$20,000] **FOR AN INNOVATIVE IDEA**  
10 **WITH A REASONABLY ASCERTAINABLE MONETARY SAVINGS OR GAIN TO THE STATE**  
11 **SHALL BE EQUAL TO 10% OF THE SAVINGS OR GAIN TO THE STATE.**

12                   (3)    The Governor may grant paid administrative leave, not exceeding 20  
13 workdays.

14           (i)    The State’s use of an innovative idea:

15                   (1)     does not entitle the employee submitting the innovative idea to an  
16 award under this section; and

17                   (2)     does not give rise to any claim by the employee or the heirs or assigns  
18 of the employee.

19           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
20 October 1, 2016.