

Chapter 743

(House Bill 1404)

AN ACT concerning

**Economic Development – Baltimore Symphony Orchestra – Funding and
Workgroup
(The John C. Merrill Act)**

FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to appropriate a certain amount of money to the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in certain fiscal years; establishing the Workgroup on the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Workgroup; prohibiting a member of the Workgroup from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Workgroup to examine and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Workgroup to report its findings and recommendations in a consolidated financial report to certain committees in the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

BY adding to

Article – Economic Development
Section 4–513
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume)

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

Article – Economic Development

4–513.

FOR EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2020 AND 2021, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE STATE BUDGET AN ANNUAL APPROPRIATION TO THE BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OF \$1,600,000.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

- (a) There is a Workgroup on the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.
- (b) The Workgroup consists of the following members:

- (1) one member appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates;

(2) two members of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors, appointed by the Chair of the Board of Directors;

(3) ~~two~~ three members of the Baltimore Symphony Players Committee, appointed by the Chair of the Baltimore Symphony Players Committee;

(4) two members of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Administration, appointed by the President and CEO of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra;

(c) The member appointed under subsection (b)(1) of this section shall serve as the chair of the Workgroup.

(d) The Maryland Department of Commerce shall provide staff for the Workgroup.

(e) A member of the Workgroup:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Workgroup; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Workgroup shall:

(1) examine structural efficiencies of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, including health care costs and facility usage; and

(2) make recommendations regarding:

(i) cost containment strategies; and

(ii) audience development, including:

1. methods to diversify access to the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra; and

2. methods to increase statewide public participation in the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

(g) On or before October 1, 2019, the Workgroup shall report its recommendations in a consolidated financial report, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House of Delegates Appropriations Committee of the General Assembly.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2019. Section 1 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2021, Section 1 of this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect. Section 2 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2020, Section 2 of this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 25, 2019.