

Chapter 231

(House Bill 521)

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Small Business Innovation Research Technical Assistance Program – Establishment

FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Small Business Innovation Research Technical Assistance Program in the Maryland Technology Development Corporation; establishing the purpose of the Program; requiring small businesses to meet certain qualifications for participation in the Program; authorizing the Corporation to adopt certain regulations; ~~requiring~~ authorizing the Corporation, in accordance with certain provisions of law, to procure a certain entity to provide services under the Program; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the Maryland Small Business Innovation Research Technical Assistance Program.

BY adding to

Article – Economic Development

Section 10–4A–01 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 4A. Maryland Small Business Innovation Research Technical Assistance Program”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

Article – Economic Development

SUBTITLE 4A. MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

10–4A–01.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) “CORPORATION” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 10–401 OF THIS TITLE.

(3) “PHASE 0” MEANS THE INITIAL APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE FEDERAL SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM OR THE FEDERAL SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER GRANT PROGRAM.

(4) “PHASE I” MEANS A SMALL BUSINESS HAS RECEIVED UP TO \$150,000 IN FEDERAL SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH FUNDING FOR APPROXIMATELY 6 MONTHS OR FEDERAL SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FUNDING FOR 1 YEAR, WITH THE MEANING STATED IN 15 U.S.C. § 638.

(5) “PHASE II” MEANS A SMALL BUSINESS HAS RECEIVED UP TO \$1,000,000 IN FUNDING FOR UP TO 2 YEARS TO EXPAND PHASE I RESULTS, WITH THE MEANING STATED IN 15 U.S.C. § 638.

(6) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(B) THERE IS A MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN THE CORPORATION.

(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SMALL BUSINESSES IN THE STATE BY:

(1) ENCOURAGING SMALL BUSINESSES, INCLUDING ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED SMALL BUSINESSES, TO APPLY FOR GRANTS UNDER THE FEDERAL SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM AND THE FEDERAL SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER GRANT PROGRAM; AND

(2) PROVIDING GRANT APPLICANTS WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING TRAINING ASSISTANCE AND ASSESSMENTS THROUGH PHASES 0, I, AND II OF DEVELOPMENT.

(D) TO QUALIFY FOR PARTICIPATION, A SMALL BUSINESS SHALL:

(1) HAVE ITS PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OPERATIONS LOCATED IN THE STATE, HAVE OVER HALF OF ITS WORKFORCE WORKING IN THE STATE, AND INTEND TO MAINTAIN ITS PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OPERATIONS IN THE STATE; AND

(2) ~~HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC IMPACT IN THE STATE THROUGH THE STATE’S TECHNOLOGY ECOSYSTEM; AND~~

(3) HAVE NOT MORE THAN ~~250~~ 50 EMPLOYEES.

(E) THE CORPORATION MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY AND ALLOCATION OF ASSISTANCE.

(F) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF DIVISION II OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE, THE CORPORATION ~~SHALL~~ MAY

PROCURE A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION LOCATED IN THE STATE TO PROVIDE SERVICES UNDER THE PROGRAM.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2020.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 8, 2020.