

Chapter 235

(Senate Bill 459)

AN ACT concerning

**Economic Development – ~~Maryland Small Business Innovation Research Technical Assistance Program – Alterations~~ Comprehensive Technical Assistance Program – Establishment**

FOR the purpose of ~~altering the purpose of the Maryland Small Business Innovation Research Technical Assistance Program to include providing technical assistance to assist small businesses with attracting and accessing private capital; and generally relating to the Maryland Small Business Innovation Research Technical Assistance Program~~ establishing the Comprehensive Technical Assistance Program in the Maryland Technology Development Corporation; providing for the purpose of the Program; requiring the Program to include certain types of technical assistance; requiring the Corporation to include certain information on the Program in a certain annual report; requiring the Corporation to adopt certain regulations; and generally relating to the establishment of the Comprehensive Technical Assistance Program in the Maryland Technology Development Corporation.

BY ~~repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~ adding to  
Article – Economic Development  
Section ~~10-4B-01~~ 10-416  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

**Article – Economic Development**

~~10-4B-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) ASSISTING SMALL BUSINESSES WITH ATTRACTING AND ACCESSING PRIVATE CAPITAL; AND~~

~~[(2)] (3) 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 not more than 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 may procure a nonprofit organization located in the State to provide services under the Program.~~

## 10-416.

(A) THERE IS A COMPREHENSIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN THE CORPORATION.

**(B) (1) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ANY BUSINESS THAT QUALIFIES FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE OR ANY OTHER PROGRAM IN THE PORTFOLIO OF THE CORPORATION.**

**(2) THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED UNDER THE PROGRAM SHALL:**

**(I) INCORPORATE EXISTING SERVICES OF THE CORPORATION;**

**(II) INCLUDE FLEXIBLE AND CUSTOMIZED APPLIED TRAINING SERVICES;**

**(III) INCLUDE THE USE OF A NETWORK OF EXPERIENCED ADVISORS TO SERVE AS MENTORS AND LOANED EXECUTIVES; AND**

**(IV) INCLUDE SUPPORT WITH ATTRACTING AND ACCESSING PRIVATE CAPITAL.**

**(C) THE CORPORATION SHALL INCLUDE, AS PART OF ITS ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNDER § 10-415 OF THIS SUBTITLE, A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM.**

**(D) THE CORPORATION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2021.

Approved by the Governor, May 18, 2021.