

# HOUSE BILL 1279

C8, Q3, Q2

11r2239  
CF SB 778

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By: **Delegate Luedtke**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2021

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 5, 2021

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise Zone Program – Alterations**

3 FOR the purpose of expanding the purposes of the Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise  
4 Zone Program; establishing the Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise Zone Fund  
5 in the Department of Commerce to be used for certain purposes; providing for the  
6 investment of money in and expenditures from the Fund; prohibiting the Secretary  
7 of Commerce from approving a Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise (RISE) zone  
8 the geographic area of which exceeds a certain amount; providing for the termination  
9 of the Program; altering eligibility for tax incentives that a business entity that  
10 locates in a RISE zone may receive under certain circumstances; authorizing a  
11 certain qualified institution, a county, a municipal corporation, or a certain entity of  
12 a county or a municipal corporation to establish a certain program to provide rental  
13 assistance to a business entity that moves into or locates in a RISE zone; prohibiting  
14 a business entity from receiving rental assistance under a certain program for more  
15 than a certain number of years; authorizing a qualified institution, a county, a  
16 municipal corporation, or a certain entity of a county or a municipal corporation that  
17 establishes a rental assistance program in accordance with this Act to submit a  
18 certain request to receive a distribution of certain funds from the Fund; requiring  
19 the Department to make available a certain amount of funds to match certain rental  
20 assistance funds; requiring the Department to review certain requests and distribute  
21 certain funds under certain circumstances; requiring a certain applicant to deposit  
22 certain rental assistance funds into a certain fund within a certain period of time;  
23 providing for the reallocation of certain funds under certain circumstances; requiring  
24 a certain rental assistance program that receives a distribution of certain funds to

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 submit an annual report to the Department on certain matters and to be subject to  
2 a certain audit; authorizing the Department, based on the findings of a certain audit,  
3 to make a certain assessment to recapture certain funds; requiring the Department  
4 to submit an annual report to the Governor and certain committees of the General  
5 Assembly on certain matters; authorizing certain companies to claim an enhanced  
6 State income tax credit under certain circumstances; defining certain terms; making  
7 conforming changes; providing for the application of certain provisions of this Act;  
8 providing for the effective dates of this Act; and generally relating to the Regional  
9 Institution Strategic Enterprise Zone Program.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article – Economic Development  
12 Section 5–1401, 5–1402, 5–1404(b) and (f), 5–1406, and 5–1407  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
16 Article – Economic Development  
17 Section 5–1404(a)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

20 BY adding to  
21 Article – Economic Development  
22 Section 5–1407, 5–1408, and 5–1410  
23 Annotated Code of Maryland  
24 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

25 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
26 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
27 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)  
28 Annotated Code of Maryland  
29 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

30 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
31 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
32 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)122. and 123.  
33 Annotated Code of Maryland  
34 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

35 BY adding to  
36 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
37 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)124.  
38 Annotated Code of Maryland  
39 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

40 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

1 Article – Tax – General  
2 Section 10–725(b)(1) and 10–733(b)(1)  
3 Annotated Code of Maryland  
4 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
6 Article – Tax – General  
7 Section 10–725(d)(1) and 10–733(d)(1)  
8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
9 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
11 Article – Tax – Property  
12 Section 9–103.1(a)(1) and (b)  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
16 Article – Tax – Property  
17 Section 9–103.1(a)(4) and (6) and (d)(2)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

20 BY adding to  
21 Article – Tax – Property  
22 Section 9–103.1(a)(7)  
23 Annotated Code of Maryland  
24 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

27 **Article – Economic Development**

28 5–1401.

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

30 (b) “Area” means a geographic area in one or more political subdivisions in the  
31 State described by a closed perimeter boundary.

32 (c) **“FUND” MEANS THE REGIONAL INSTITUTION STRATEGIC ENTERPRISE**  
33 **ZONE FUND CREATED UNDER § 5–1408 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

34 [(c)] (d) “Nonprofit organization” means an organization that is exempt or  
35 eligible for exemption from taxation under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

1            [(d)] (E)        “Qualified institution” means an entity that is designated as a qualified  
2 institution under § 5–1403 of this subtitle and may include:

3            (1)        a regional higher education center as defined under § 10–101 of the  
4 Education Article;

5            (2)        an institution of higher education as defined under § 10–101 of the  
6 Education Article; or

7            (3)        a nonprofit organization that is affiliated with a federal agency.

8            [(e)] (F)        “RISE zone” means a geographic area in immediate proximity to a  
9 qualified institution that is targeted for increased economic and community development  
10 that meets the requirements of § 5–1404 of this subtitle and is designated as a Regional  
11 Institution Strategic Enterprise zone by the Secretary under § 5–1404 of this subtitle.

12 5–1402.

13            The [purpose] **PURPOSES** of the Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise Zone  
14 Program [is] **ARE** to access institutional assets that have a strong and demonstrated  
15 history of commitment to economic development and revitalization in the communities in  
16 which they are located **AND INCENTIVIZE THE LOCATION OF INNOVATIVE START-UP**  
17 **BUSINESSES BASED ON TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPED, LICENSED, OR POISED FOR**  
18 **COMMERCIALIZATION AT OR IN COLLABORATION WITH QUALIFIED MARYLAND**  
19 **INSTITUTIONS.**

20 5–1404.

21            (a)        On or after July 1, 2015, a qualified institution shall apply jointly with a  
22 county, a municipal corporation, or the economic development agency of a county or  
23 municipal corporation to the Secretary to designate an area as a Regional Institution  
24 Strategic Enterprise zone.

25            (b)        The application shall:

26            (1)        be in the form and contain the information that the Secretary requires  
27 by regulation;

28            (2)        state the boundaries of the area of the proposed RISE zone, **NOT**  
29 **EXCEEDING 500 ACRES;**

30            (3)        describe the nexus of the RISE zone with the qualified institution; and

31            (4)        contain a plan that identifies the target strategy and anticipated  
32 economic impacts of the RISE zone.

1 (f) (1) (i) Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the designation of  
2 an area as a RISE zone is effective for 5 years.

3 (ii) Upon a joint application of a qualified institution, a county and,  
4 if applicable, a municipal corporation, or the economic development agency of a county or  
5 municipal corporation, the Secretary may renew a RISE zone for an additional 5 years.

6 (2) The Secretary may not:

7 (I) approve more than three RISE zones in a single county or  
8 municipal corporation; OR

9 (II) APPROVE A RISE ZONE THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF WHICH  
10 EXCEEDS 500 ACRES.

11 5–1406.

12 (a) (1) To the extent provided for in this section, a business entity that locates  
13 in a RISE zone is entitled to:

14 (i) **FOR A BUSINESS ENTITY THAT LOCATES IN THE RISE ZONE**  
15 **BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2023**, the property tax credit under § 9–103.1 of the Tax – Property  
16 Article;

17 (ii) **FOR A TAXABLE YEAR BEGINNING BEFORE JANUARY 1,**  
18 **2023**, the income tax credit under § 10–702 of the Tax – General Article; and

19 (iii) priority consideration for financial assistance from programs in  
20 Subtitle 1 of this title.

21 (2) For purposes of the income tax credit authorized under paragraph (1)(ii)  
22 of this subsection, the business entity is treated as being located in an enterprise zone.

23 (b) **[A] SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS**  
24 **SECTION**, A business entity that moves into or locates in a RISE zone on or after the date  
25 that the zone is designated under this subtitle may qualify for the incentives under this  
26 section.

27 (c) A business entity may not qualify for the incentives under subsection (a) of  
28 this section unless the Department, in consultation with the county or municipal  
29 corporation in which a RISE zone is located, certifies the business entity and its location as  
30 consistent with the target strategy of the RISE zone.

31 (d) (1) Unless a business entity makes a significant capital investment or  
32 expansion of its labor force after a RISE zone is designated, the incentives under this

1 section are not available to a business entity that was in a RISE zone before the date that  
2 the zone is designated.

3 (2) The Department shall adopt regulations establishing factors to  
4 determine if a business entity makes a significant capital investment or expansion of its  
5 labor force under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

6 **5-1407.**

7 (A) (1) ~~(I)~~ A QUALIFIED INSTITUTION, A COUNTY AND, IF APPLICABLE,  
8 A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, OR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF A  
9 COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MAY ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO PROVIDE  
10 RENTAL ASSISTANCE TO A BUSINESS ENTITY THAT:

11 ~~(H)~~ 1. MOVES INTO OR LOCATES IN A RISE ZONE ON OR  
12 AFTER THE DATE THAT THE ZONE IS DESIGNATED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE; ~~AND~~

13 2. HAS NEXUS WITH A QUALIFIED INSTITUTION LOCATED  
14 IN THE RISE ZONE; AND

15 ~~(H)~~ 3. HAS BEEN IN ACTIVE BUSINESS NOT LONGER THAN 7  
16 YEARS.

17 (II) A BUSINESS ENTITY MAY NOT RECEIVE RENTAL ASSISTANCE  
18 UNDER A RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
19 SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH FOR MORE THAN 3 YEARS.

20 (2) (I) A QUALIFIED INSTITUTION, A COUNTY AND, IF APPLICABLE,  
21 A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, OR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF A  
22 COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION THAT ESTABLISHES A RENTAL ASSISTANCE  
23 PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY SUBMIT  
24 A REQUEST TO RECEIVE A DISTRIBUTION OF MATCHING FUNDS FROM THE FUND.

25 (II) THE APPLICATION SHALL INCLUDE:

26 1. A DESCRIPTION OF THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE  
27 PROGRAM;

28 2. THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING THAT THE APPLICANT HAS  
29 SECURED TO PROVIDE RENTAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE  
30 PROGRAM;

31 3. THE AMOUNT REQUESTED FOR DISTRIBUTION FROM  
32 THE FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION; AND

1                                   4.    ANY OTHER INFORMATION REQUESTED BY THE  
2 DEPARTMENT.

3                                   **(III) THE APPLICANT SHALL SUBMIT THE APPLICATION ON OR**  
4 **BEFORE THE DATE THAT THE DEPARTMENT SPECIFIES.**

5            **(B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REVIEW EACH REQUEST FOR**  
6 **DISTRIBUTION OF MATCHING FUNDS FROM THE FUND FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE**  
7 **PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION AND DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS.**

8                    **(2) SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS IN THE FUND AND**  
9 **PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IF THE DEPARTMENT APPROVES A REQUEST**  
10 **FOR DISTRIBUTION OF MATCHING FUNDS FROM THE FUND, THE DEPARTMENT**  
11 **SHALL DISTRIBUTE TO A FUND DEDICATED TO THE APPLICANT'S RENTAL**  
12 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THREE TIMES THE AMOUNT OF**  
13 **FUNDING SPECIFIED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(2)(II)2 OF THIS SECTION.**

14                   **(3) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, THE**  
15 **DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE NOT MORE THAN 25% OF CUMULATIVE**  
16 **PROGRAM FUNDS FROM THE FUND FOR RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN A**  
17 **SINGLE RISE ZONE.**

18                   **(C) (1) WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER APPROVAL BY THE DEPARTMENT OF A**  
19 **REQUEST FOR MATCHING FUNDS UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE**  
20 **APPLICANT SHALL DEPOSIT AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN THE AMOUNT**  
21 **SPECIFIED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(2)(II)2 OF THIS SECTION INTO A FUND**  
22 **DEDICATED TO THE APPLICANT'S RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

23                   **(2) IF AN APPLICANT FAILS TO HAVE DEPOSITED THE AMOUNT**  
24 **REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, ANY PORTION OF FUNDS**  
25 **ALLOCATED TO THE APPLICANT THAT HAS NOT BEEN DISTRIBUTED SHALL BE**  
26 **REALLOCATED TO ANOTHER APPLICANT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.**

27                   **(3) IF THE DEPARTMENT FAILS TO ALLOCATE THE FUNDS IN THE**  
28 **FUND UNDER THIS SUBTITLE AND RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN A SINGLE**  
29 **RISE ZONE HAVE PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED 25% OF CUMULATIVE PROGRAM FUNDS**  
30 **FROM THE FUND, THE DEPARTMENT MAY DISTRIBUTE ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO**  
31 **APPLICANTS FOR THAT RISE ZONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE.**

32                   **(D) (1) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 15 EACH YEAR, A RENTAL**  
33 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM THAT HAS RECEIVED A DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS FROM THE**  
34 **FUND SHALL SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT AN ANNUAL REPORT IN THE FORM AND**  
35 **CONTAINING THE INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE SECRETARY.**

1           **(2) THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**  
2 **SUBSECTION SHALL DETAIL THE USE OF FUNDS RECEIVED UNDER THIS SECTION**  
3 **FOR THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR AND PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON ANY**  
4 **FUNDS THAT WERE NOT DISBURSED DURING THAT FISCAL YEAR.**

5           **(3) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT DISTRIBUTE MATCHING FUNDS**  
6 **FROM THE FUND TO A RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UNDER THIS SECTION IF THE**  
7 **RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HAS FAILED TO SUBMIT THE REPORT REQUIRED**  
8 **UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

9           **(E) A RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM THAT RECEIVES A DISTRIBUTION OF**  
10 **MATCHING FUNDS FROM THE FUND SHALL BE SUBJECT TO AN AUDIT AT LEAST ONCE**  
11 **EVERY 3 YEARS BY AN INDEPENDENT CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT THAT THE**  
12 **APPLICANT AND THE DEPARTMENT SELECT.**

13           **(F) BASED ON THE FINDINGS OF AN AUDIT CONDUCTED UNDER**  
14 **SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT MAY MAKE AN ASSESSMENT**  
15 **AGAINST A QUALIFIED INSTITUTION, A COUNTY, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, OR AN**  
16 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY TO RECAPTURE ANY MISUSED OR**  
17 **UNDISTRIBUTED FUNDS.**

18 **5-1408.**

19           **(A) THERE IS A REGIONAL INSTITUTION STRATEGIC ENTERPRISE FUND IN**  
20 **THE DEPARTMENT.**

21           **(B) THE SECRETARY SHALL MANAGE AND SUPERVISE THE FUND.**

22           **(C) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT**  
23 **SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.**

24           **(2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY,**  
25 **AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.**

26           **(D) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:**

27           **(1) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND; AND**

28           **(2) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR**  
29 **THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.**

30           **(E) THE DEPARTMENT MAY USE THE FUND TO:**



1           **(1) FINANCE, IN COORDINATION WITH QUALIFIED INSTITUTIONS,**  
2 **COUNTIES, AND MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS, THE PROVISION OF RENTAL**  
3 **ASSISTANCE TO BUSINESS ENTITIES LOCATED IN RISE ZONES; AND**

4           **(2) PAY THE RELATED ADMINISTRATIVE, LEGAL, AND ACTUARIAL**  
5 **EXPENSES OF THE DEPARTMENT.**

6           **(F) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND**  
7 **IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.**

8           **(2) ANY INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED**  
9 **TO THE FUND.**

10          **(G) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN ACCORDANCE**  
11 **WITH THE STATE BUDGET.**

12 **[5-1407.] 5-1409.**

13          (a) The Department and the Comptroller jointly shall assess each year the  
14 effectiveness of the tax incentives provided to business entities in RISE zones, including:

15           (1) the number and amounts of tax incentives granted each year; and

16           (2) the success of the tax incentives in attracting and retaining business  
17 entities in RISE zones.

18          (b) On or before December 15 of each year, the Department and the Comptroller  
19 shall submit to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government  
20 Article, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the House Committee on Ways and  
21 Means, and the Tax Credit Evaluation Committee a report outlining the findings of the  
22 Department and the Comptroller and any other information of value in determining the  
23 effectiveness of the tax incentives authorized under this subtitle.

24          **(C) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 15 EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL**  
25 **SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE**  
26 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE AND**  
27 **THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS A REPORT DETAILING WITH**  
28 **RESPECT TO EACH RISE ZONE IN WHICH A RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HAS**  
29 **BEEN ESTABLISHED:**

30           **(1) THE ENTITY ADMINISTERING THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM;**

31           **(2) THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS RECEIVED DURING THE PREVIOUS FISCAL**  
32 **YEAR;**

1           **(3) THE CUMULATIVE AMOUNT OF FUNDS RECEIVED; AND**

2           **(4) THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS REMAINING UNSPENT AT THE END OF THE**  
 3 **PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR.**

4 **5-1410.**

5           **THIS SUBTITLE AND THE TAX CREDITS AND BENEFITS AUTHORIZED UNDER IT**  
 6 **SHALL TERMINATE ON JANUARY 1, 2028.**

7                                   **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

8 **6-226.**

9           (a) (2) (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless  
 10 inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the  
 11 terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the  
 12 State Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to  
 13 receive interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General  
 14 Fund of the State.

15                                 (ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply  
 16 to the following funds:

17   122. the Racing and Community Development Financing Fund;  
 18 **[and]**

19   123. the Racing and Community Development Facilities Fund;  
 20 **AND**

21   **124. THE REGIONAL INSTITUTION STRATEGIC**  
 22 **ENTERPRISE FUND.**

23           **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That the Laws of Maryland read  
 24 as follows:

25                                   **Article – Tax – General**

26 **10-725.**

27           (b) (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection and subsections (d)  
 28 and (e) of this section, for the taxable year in which an investment in a qualified Maryland  
 29 biotechnology company is made, a qualified investor may claim a credit against the State  
 30 income tax in an amount equal to the amount of tax credit stated in the final credit  
 31 certificate approved by the Secretary for the investment as provided under this section.

1 (d) (1) The tax credit allowed in an initial tax credit certificate issued under  
2 this section is:

3 (i) except as provided in item (ii) of this paragraph, 50% of the  
4 investment in a qualified Maryland biotechnology company, not to exceed \$250,000; or

5 (ii) [if a qualified Maryland biotechnology company is located in  
6 Allegany, Dorchester, Garrett, or Somerset counties,] 75% of the investment in the  
7 qualified Maryland biotechnology company, not to exceed \$500,000, **IF A QUALIFIED**  
8 **MARYLAND BIOTECHNOLOGY COMPANY:**

9 **1. IS LOCATED IN ALLEGANY COUNTY, DORCHESTER**  
10 **COUNTY, GARRETT COUNTY, OR SOMERSET COUNTY; OR**

11 **2. IS LOCATED IN A REGIONAL INSTITUTION STRATEGIC**  
12 **ENTERPRISE ZONE THAT IS DESIGNATED UNDER TITLE 5, SUBTITLE 14 OF THE**  
13 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARTICLE, IS BASED ON TECHNOLOGY THAT WAS**  
14 **DEVELOPED AT A QUALIFIED INSTITUTION WITHIN THAT ZONE, AND HAS BEEN IN**  
15 **ACTIVE BUSINESS NOT LONGER THAN 7 YEARS.**

16 10-733.

17 (b) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection and subsections (d) and (f) of  
18 this section, for the taxable year in which an investment in a qualified Maryland  
19 cybersecurity company is made, a qualified investor may claim a credit against the State  
20 income tax in an amount equal to the amount of tax credit stated in the final credit  
21 certificate approved by the Secretary for the investment as provided under this section.

22 (d) (1) The tax credit allowed in an initial tax credit certificate issued under  
23 this section is:

24 (i) except as provided in item (ii) of this paragraph, 33% of the  
25 investment in a qualified Maryland cybersecurity company, not to exceed \$250,000; or

26 (ii) [if a qualified Maryland cybersecurity company is located in  
27 Allegany County, Dorchester County, Garrett County, or Somerset County,] 50% of the  
28 investment in the qualified Maryland cybersecurity company, not to exceed \$500,000, **IF A**  
29 **QUALIFIED MARYLAND CYBERSECURITY COMPANY:**

30 **1. IS LOCATED IN ALLEGANY COUNTY, DORCHESTER**  
31 **COUNTY, GARRETT COUNTY, OR SOMERSET COUNTY; OR**

32 **2. IS LOCATED IN A REGIONAL INSTITUTION STRATEGIC**  
33 **ENTERPRISE ZONE THAT IS DESIGNATED UNDER TITLE 5, SUBTITLE 14 OF THE**  
34 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARTICLE, IS BASED ON TECHNOLOGY THAT WAS**

1 **DEVELOPED AT A QUALIFIED INSTITUTION WITHIN THAT ZONE, AND HAS BEEN IN**  
 2 **ACTIVE BUSINESS NOT LONGER THAN 7 YEARS.**

3 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
 4 as follows:

5 **Article – Tax – Property**

6 9–103.1.

7 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

8 (4) (i) “Business entity” means a person who operates or conducts a  
 9 trade or business.

10 (ii) “Business entity” includes a person who owns, operates,  
 11 develops, constructs, or rehabilitates real property if the real property:

12 1. is intended for use primarily as single or multifamily  
 13 residential property located in a [Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise zone that is  
 14 designated under Title 5, Subtitle 14 of the Economic Development Article] **RISE ZONE**;  
 15 and

16 2. is partially devoted to a nonresidential use.

17 (6) “Qualified property” means real property that is:

18 (i) **LOCATED IN A RISE ZONE;**

19 **(II) not used for residential purposes; AND**

20 **[(ii) (III) used in a trade or business by a business entity THAT**  
 21 **LOCATES IN THE RISE ZONE BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2023]; and**

22 (iii) located in a Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise zone that  
 23 is designated under Title 5, Subtitle 14 of the Economic Development Article].

24 **(7) “RISE ZONE” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5–1401 OF THE**  
 25 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARTICLE.**

26 (b) The governing body of a county or of a municipal corporation shall grant a tax  
 27 credit under this section against the property tax imposed on the eligible assessment of  
 28 qualified property.

1 (d) (2) If the designation of a [Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise]  
2 **RISE** zone expires, the tax credit under this section continues to be available to a qualified  
3 property.

4 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take  
5 effect July 1, 2021, and shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning after December  
6 31, 2020.

7 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 3 of this Act shall be  
8 applicable to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2021.

9 SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in Section  
10 4 of this Act, this Act shall take effect June 1, 2021.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.