

SENATE BILL 339

C8

(PRE-FILED)

11r0030
CF 11r0111

By: **The President (By Request – Departmental – Commerce)**

Requested: September 22, 2020

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Commerce – Sister-State Relationships – Maintenance and**
3 **Development**

4 FOR the purpose of transferring lead responsibility for maintenance and development of
5 the sister-state relationships from the Secretary of State to the Office of
6 International Trade in the Department of Commerce; and generally relating to the
7 maintenance and development of sister-state relationships in the State.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Economic Development
10 Section 3–304
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

13 BY repealing
14 Article – State Government
15 Section 7–109
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Economic Development**

21 3–304.

22 **(A)** With special emphasis on exports, the Office shall encourage businesses in the
23 State to increase international trade activities by:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (1) channeling trade leads and providing a list of prescreened foreign
2 intermediaries;

3 (2) providing informational and consultative services on the international
4 trade process, including:

5 (i) market research and selection;

6 (ii) marketing techniques and risks;

7 (iii) foreign trade laws; and

8 (iv) the availability of private or public financing;

9 (3) developing publications to facilitate the exchange of information on
10 products and services between businesses in the State and foreign businesses;

11 (4) initiating and organizing foreign trade missions to and from foreign
12 countries and participating in trade fairs, in cooperation with local governments and the
13 private sector;

14 (5) establishing an outreach program for small-sized and medium-sized
15 businesses that have export potential to provide counseling and to use experienced
16 private-sector exporters and other qualified persons; and

17 (6) assisting, as appropriate, with acquisition of export-related financing
18 through the Maryland Industrial Development Financing Authority and federal, local, or
19 private programs.

20 **(B) THE OFFICE SHALL ASSUME LEAD RESPONSIBILITY WITH RESPECT TO**
21 **THE MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIPS.**

22 **Article – State Government**

23 [7–109.

24 The Office of the Secretary of State shall assume lead responsibility with respect to
25 the maintenance and development of sister-state relationships.]

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
27 1, 2021.