

SENATE BILL 457

C8

4lr2502
CF HB 410

By: **Senator A. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2024

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 22, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Technology Development Corporation – Equitech Growth Fund –**
3 **Alterations**

4 FOR the purpose of specifying certain uses of the Equitech Growth Fund in the Maryland
5 Technology Development Corporation; and generally relating to the Equitech
6 Growth Fund.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Economic Development
9 Section 10–488
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Economic Development**

15 10–488.

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

17 (2) “Commission” means the Equitech Growth Commission.

18 (3) “Fund” means the Equitech Growth Fund.

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 (b) (1) There is an Equitech Growth Fund in the Corporation.

2 (2) The purpose of the Fund is to support the economic competitiveness and
3 inclusive growth of emerging and advanced industries in the State through the creation of
4 supporting infrastructure assets, resources, and diverse workforce that builds the
5 strengths of the State's economy.

6 (3) The Corporation shall administer the Fund.

7 (4) (i) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to §
8 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

9 (ii) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the
10 Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

11 (5) The Fund consists of:

12 (i) money appropriated in the State budget to the Fund;

13 (ii) interest earnings of the Fund; and

14 (iii) any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit
15 of the Fund.

16 (6) The Fund shall leverage investment from the private sector, funding
17 from federal sources, and other sources of funding.

18 **(7) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY:**

19 **(I) TO MAKE AWARDS FROM THE FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH**
20 **SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION; AND**

21 **(II) TO PAY THE COSTS OF ADMINISTERING THE FUND.**

22 (c) (1) The Corporation shall award grants, investments, loans, or other
23 financial assistance from the Fund to public, nonprofit, or private entities in the State,
24 including institutions of higher education and public-private partnerships.

25 (2) Awards from the Fund shall target:

26 (i) workforce development; and

27 (ii) infrastructure that will attract and retain businesses in the
28 State.

1 (3) Awards shall be consistent with the 10–year goals in the strategic plan
 2 developed by the Commission.

3 (d) [(1)] For each of fiscal years 2025 through 2033, the Governor shall include
 4 in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$5,000,000 [for awards under this section] **TO**
 5 **THE FUND.**

6 [(2) Money appropriated under this section that is not used by the end of
 7 the fiscal year shall be deposited in the Fund.]

8 (e) The Corporation shall adopt regulations to establish:

9 (1) a competitive application process;

10 (2) review criteria and procedures for making awards, including private
 11 leverage requirements for awards;

12 (3) processes and metrics for monitoring each project and the success,
 13 economic impact, and impact of the award on the State’s diversity, equity, and inclusion in
 14 the State’s innovation economy; and

15 (4) processes for ensuring that the programmatic funds and leveraged
 16 funds are invested within the State.

17 (f) On or before July 1 each year, beginning in 2024, the Corporation shall report
 18 to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the
 19 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House on awards made from the Fund.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
 21 ~~October~~ July 1, 2024.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.