

CHAPTER 730

(House Bill 1451)

AN ACT concerning

Military Personnel and Service–Disabled Veterans No–Interest Loan Program

FOR the purpose of altering the name of the Military Service–Related Loan Program in the Department of Business and Economic Development to be the Military Personnel and Service–Disabled Veterans No–Interest Loan Program; altering certain definitions and eligibility criteria under the Program; altering certain permitted uses of loans made under the Program; stating the intent of the General Assembly that priority be given to certain applications under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the Military Personnel and Service–Disabled Veterans No–Interest Loan Program.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Economic Development
Section 5–1001
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2008 Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Economic Development
Section 5–1002 and 5–1003 to be under the amended subtitle “Subtitle 10. Military Personnel and Service–Disabled Veterans No–Interest Loan Program”
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2008 Volume)

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

Article – Economic Development

Subtitle 10. Military [Service–Related] **PERSONNEL AND SERVICE–DISABLED VETERANS NO–INTEREST** Loan Program.

5–1001.

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

(b) "Service-disabled veteran" means a veteran with a disability that is service-connected, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(16).

(c) (1) "Small business employer" means an employer who employed an average of 50 or fewer employees on business days during the calendar year preceding the determination of eligibility for a loan under this subtitle.

(2) For purposes of paragraph (1) of this subsection, all persons treated as a single employer under § 414(b), (c), (m), or (o) of the Internal Revenue Code shall be treated as a single employer under this subtitle.

5-1002.

Subject to the availability of funds, the Department, in consultation with the Department of Veterans Affairs, shall establish a program to provide no-interest loans under this subtitle to:

(1) small business employers of military reservists and National Guard personnel who are called to active duty;

(2) businesses owned by military reservists and National Guard personnel who are called to active duty; [and]

(3) service-disabled veterans;

(4) **BUSINESSES OWNED BY SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS; AND**

(5) **BUSINESSES EMPLOYING A SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN.**

5-1003.

Loans shall be made under this subtitle for the purposes of:

(1) providing financial support to:

(i) a business owned by a military reservist or National Guard member who is called to active duty; or

(ii) a small business employer of a military reservist or National Guard member who is called to active duty;

(2) making the home, motor vehicle, or place of employment of a service-disabled veteran accessible to individuals with disabilities, including purchasing equipment necessary to enable a business to employ a service-disabled veteran; and

(3) defraying other necessary expenses, as determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs, incurred by [a service-disabled veteran or]:

(I) a business employing a service-disabled veteran as a result of the veteran's disability;

(II) **A SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN; OR**

(III) **A BUSINESS OWNED BY A SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that, where similar factors are present, priority be given to the applications of service-disabled veterans for financial assistance under this Act.

SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2009.

Approved by the Governor, May 19, 2009.