

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 795

(Delegate Lee, *et al.*)

Economic Matters

Finance

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Task Force to Study Nanobiotechnology

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This bill establishes a Task Force to Study Nanobiotechnology. The task force is required to report its findings and recommendations on the benefits of the technology and the State's role in promoting it by January 1, 2011. The Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) and the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) are required to staff the task force. A member of the task force is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under State travel regulations.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2010, and terminates May 31, 2011.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law/Background:** Chapter 446 of 2008 established the Coordinating Emerging Nanobiotechnology Research (CENTR) Program and Fund. The Act requires TEDCO to provide operating and capital grants for nanobiotechnology research projects. Specifically, the purpose of the CENTR program is to support advanced nanobiotechnology research at higher education institutions and promote Maryland as a key location for private-sector firms in the industry. The CENTR fund consists of State

appropriations and funds from any other source for the benefit of the CENTR program. In June 2009, TEDCO, in consultation with DBED, awarded \$2.9 million in research funding through what is now called the 2009 Maryland Nanobiotechnology Research and Industry Competition Grants. Each award was capped at \$250,000. Chapter 160 of 2009 required TEDCO to foster public-private partnerships as feasible to carry out the purpose of the CENTR program.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 24, 2010  
rr/rhh Revised - House Third Reader - March 27, 2010

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