

Chapter 105

(House Bill 356)

AN ACT concerning

Military Personnel and Veteran–Owned Small Business No–Interest Loan Program

FOR the purpose of altering the name of the Military Personnel and Service–Disabled Veterans No–Interest Loan Program to be the Military Personnel and Veteran–Owned Small Business No–Interest Loan Program; expanding the no–interest loan program to include all veteran–owned businesses; and generally relating to the Military Personnel and Veteran–Owned Small Business No–Interest Loan Program.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Economic Development

Section 5–1001 through 5–1003 to be under the amended subtitle “Subtitle 10.

Military Personnel and Veteran–Owned Small Business No–Interest Loan Program”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2008 Volume and 2012 Supplement)

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 Personnel and [Service–Disabled Veterans] **VETERAN–OWNED SMALL BUSINESS** 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.

(D) “VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS” MEANS A SMALL BUSINESS THAT IS AT LEAST 51% OWNED BY A VETERAN AS DEFINED IN 38 U.S.C. § 101(2).

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;

(3) [service-disabled veterans;

(4) businesses owned by service-disabled veterans] **VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES;** and

[(5)] (4) 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 **OR TO ENABLE A SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN TO OPERATE A BUSINESS;** and

(3) defraying other necessary expenses, as determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs, incurred by:

(i) a business employing a service-disabled veteran [as a result of the veteran's disability]; **OR**

(ii) [a service-disabled veteran; or

(iii) a business owned by a service-disabled veteran] **A VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2013.

Approved by the Governor, April 9, 2013.