

HOUSE BILL 718

P4
HB 1336/12 – APP

5lr2081

By: **Delegates C. Wilson, Atterbeary, Bromwell, Brooks, Carozza, Chang, Hayes, Knotts, Krimm, Lafferty, McConkey, McMillan, W. Miller, Moon, Morales, Oaks, Pena–Melnyk, and Walker**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2015

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Personnel – Innovative Idea Awards Program – Additional Cash Awards**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that a certain additional cash award provided to certain State
4 employees under the Innovative Idea Awards Program for certain innovative ideas
5 shall be equal to a certain percentage of the savings or gain to the State from the
6 innovative idea; repealing a certain limitation on the amount of a certain cash award;
7 prohibiting any member of the Governor Awards Panel from receiving certain
8 compensation; and generally relating to awards made under the State Innovative
9 Idea Awards Program.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – State Personnel and Pensions
12 Section 10–203
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – State Personnel and Pensions**

18 10–203.

19 (a) In this section, “innovative idea” means an invention, innovative suggestion,
20 or any other innovative idea.

21 (b) There is an Innovative Idea Awards Program for employees.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (c) (1) An innovative idea award may be awarded for an innovative idea that,
2 if implemented, would:

- 3 (i) increase revenue to the State;
- 4 (ii) save money for the State;
- 5 (iii) improve the quality of services delivered to the public; or
- 6 (iv) otherwise significantly benefit the State.

7 (2) Except under exceptional circumstances, an award may not be made for
8 an innovative idea that is under active study or continual review by a unit of State
9 government.

10 (d) (1) The head of each principal unit shall establish a
11 labor–management review committee, with half of the members being selected from the
12 exclusive representatives, if any, to evaluate and recommend awards for innovative ideas
13 by employees of that unit.

14 (2) (i) To the extent possible, within 60 days after an innovative idea is
15 submitted to the labor–management review committee, the head of the unit shall decide
16 whether to give an innovative idea award.

17 (ii) The innovative idea may be received directly from an employee
18 through an application, or forwarded by the employee’s supervisor.

19 (e) For an innovative idea, the head of a principal unit may give an employee of
20 that unit a cash award of not more than:

21 (1) \$1,000 for an innovative idea with a reasonably ascertainable monetary
22 savings or gain to the State; or

23 (2) \$300 for any other innovative idea.

24 (f) (1) There is a Governor’s Award Panel.

25 (2) (I) The Governor’s Award Panel consists of five members appointed
26 by the Governor, at least three of whom shall be public members [who serve without
27 compensation].

28 (II) **A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNOR’S AWARD PANEL MAY NOT**
29 **RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNOR’S AWARD PANEL.**

30 (g) (1) The head of a principal unit, in consultation with the
31 labor–management review committee, shall submit to the Governor’s Award Panel each

1 innovative idea for which an award is made under subsection (e) of this section, with a
2 recommendation for any additional award by the Governor.

3 (2) The Governor's Award Panel shall:

4 (i) review each innovative idea submitted to it;

5 (ii) at least once a year, make a recommendation to the Governor
6 about additional awards for the innovative ideas; and

7 (iii) recommend to the Governor either monetary or nonmonetary
8 awards for the employees' innovative ideas.

9 (h) (1) The Governor may make an additional cash award for an innovative
10 idea.

11 (2) The cash award [may not exceed \$20,000] **FOR AN INNOVATIVE IDEA**
12 **WITH A REASONABLY ASCERTAINABLE MONETARY SAVINGS OR GAIN TO THE STATE**
13 **SHALL BE EQUAL TO 10% OF THE SAVINGS OR GAIN TO THE STATE.**

14 (3) The Governor may grant paid administrative leave, not exceeding 20
15 workdays.

16 (i) The State's use of an innovative idea:

17 (1) does not entitle the employee submitting the innovative idea to an
18 award under this section; and

19 (2) does not give rise to any claim by the employee or the heirs or assigns
20 of the employee.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
22 October 1, 2015.