

# HOUSE BILL 521

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0lr1183  
CF 0lr3563

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By: **Delegates Qi, Boyce, Buckel, Cardin, Fraser–Hidalgo, Hettleman, R. Lewis, Lierman, McComas, Smith, Solomon, and Valderrama**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2020

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Small Business Innovation Research Technical Assistance Program –**  
3 **Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Small Business Innovation Research  
5 Technical Assistance Program in the Maryland Technology Development  
6 Corporation; establishing the purpose of the Program; requiring small businesses to  
7 meet certain qualifications for participation in the Program; authorizing the  
8 Corporation to adopt certain regulations; requiring the Corporation, in accordance  
9 with certain provisions of law, to procure a certain entity to provide services under  
10 the Program; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the Maryland Small  
11 Business Innovation Research Technical Assistance Program.

12 BY adding to

13 Article – Economic Development

14 Section 10–4A–01 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 4A. Maryland Small  
15 Business Innovation Research Technical Assistance Program”

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Economic Development**

21 **SUBTITLE 4A. MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH TECHNICAL**  
22 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

23 **10–4A–01.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
2 INDICATED.

3                   (2) “CORPORATION” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 10-401 OF THIS  
4 TITLE.

5                   (3) “PHASE 0” MEANS THE INITIAL APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE  
6 FEDERAL SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM OR THE  
7 FEDERAL SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER GRANT PROGRAM.

8                   (4) “PHASE I” MEANS A SMALL BUSINESS HAS RECEIVED UP TO  
9 \$150,000 IN FEDERAL SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH FUNDING FOR  
10 APPROXIMATELY 6 MONTHS OR FEDERAL SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY  
11 TRANSFER FUNDING FOR 1 YEAR, WITH THE MEANING STATED IN 15 U.S.C. § 638.

12                   (5) “PHASE II” MEANS A SMALL BUSINESS HAS RECEIVED UP TO  
13 \$1,000,000 IN FUNDING FOR UP TO 2 YEARS TO EXPAND PHASE I RESULTS, WITH  
14 THE MEANING STATED IN 15 U.S.C. § 638.

15                   (6) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS  
16 INNOVATION RESEARCH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

17           (B) THERE IS A MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH  
18 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN THE CORPORATION.

19           (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL  
20 ASSISTANCE TO SMALL BUSINESSES IN THE STATE BY:

21                   (1) ENCOURAGING SMALL BUSINESSES, INCLUDING ECONOMICALLY  
22 DISADVANTAGED SMALL BUSINESSES, TO APPLY FOR GRANTS UNDER THE FEDERAL  
23 SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM AND THE FEDERAL  
24 SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER GRANT PROGRAM; AND

25                   (2) PROVIDING GRANT APPLICANTS WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE,  
26 INCLUDING TRAINING ASSISTANCE AND ASSESSMENTS THROUGH PHASES 0, I, AND  
27 II OF DEVELOPMENT.

28           (D) TO QUALIFY FOR PARTICIPATION, A SMALL BUSINESS SHALL:

29                   (1) HAVE ITS PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OPERATIONS LOCATED IN THE  
30 STATE, HAVE OVER HALF OF ITS WORKFORCE WORKING IN THE STATE, AND INTEND  
31 TO MAINTAIN ITS PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OPERATIONS IN THE STATE;

1           **(2) HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC IMPACT IN THE STATE**  
2 **THROUGH THE STATE'S TECHNOLOGY ECOSYSTEM; AND**

3           **(3) HAVE NOT MORE THAN 250 EMPLOYEES.**

4           **(E) THE CORPORATION MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING**  
5 **ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY AND ALLOCATION OF ASSISTANCE.**

6           **(F) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF DIVISION II OF THE**  
7 **STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE, THE CORPORATION SHALL**  
8 **PROCURE A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION LOCATED IN THE STATE TO PROVIDE**  
9 **SERVICES UNDER THE PROGRAM.**

10           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
11 October 1, 2020.