

HOUSE BILL 851

C8

0lr0122
CF SB 26

By: **Chair, Economic Matters Committee (By Request – Departmental – Commerce)**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2020

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Partnership for Workforce Quality Program – Alterations**

3 FOR the purpose of expanding the purpose of the Partnership for Workforce Quality
4 Program and the eligible uses of grants under the Program to include training for
5 new employees; altering the minimum percentage of the money available to the
6 Program that must be reserved for certain employers and, for those employers,
7 altering the maximum number of employees based in the State; establishing a
8 maximum amount of the money available to the Program that may be provided to a
9 certain employer; and generally relating to the Partnership for Workforce Quality
10 Program.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article – Economic Development
13 Section 3–401(a), (c), and (d) and 3–402
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Article – Economic Development
18 Section 3–403, 3–405(a), and 3–412(c)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

23 **Article – Economic Development**

24 3–401.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

2 (c) “Fund” means the Partnership for Workforce Quality Fund.

3 (d) “Program” means the Partnership for Workforce Quality Program.

4 3–402.

5 There is a Partnership for Workforce Quality Program in the Department.

6 3–403.

7 The purpose of the Program is to provide training services to:

8 (1) improve the competitiveness and productivity of the State’s workforce
9 and business community;

10 (2) upgrade employee skills **OR TRAIN NEW EMPLOYEES** for new
11 technologies or production processes; and

12 (3) assist employers located in the State in promoting employment
13 stability.

14 3–405.

15 (a) (1) An employer receiving assistance under the Program shall be located in
16 the State.

17 (2) In order to receive assistance under the Program, an employer shall
18 request training assistance in job-specific skills to **TRAIN NEW EMPLOYEES OR TO**
19 upgrade or retain existing Maryland-based employees covered under Title 8 of the Labor
20 and Employment Article.

21 3–412.

22 (c) (1) At least **[60%] 80%** of the money available to the Program shall be
23 reserved for employers with **[150] 500** or fewer employees based in the State.

24 (2) Up to 20% of the money available to the Program, **NOT TO EXCEED**
25 **\$200,000**, may be provided to an employer with more than 500 employees based in the
26 State, if the employer:

27 (i) is primarily engaged in manufacturing or in a technology-based
28 business;

29 (ii) agrees to increase purchases of goods produced in the State and

1 services from suppliers based in the State; and

2 (iii) agrees to provide the workforce training to the number of
3 employees based in the State, as determined by the Program, of smaller employers located
4 in the State that supply goods or services to the employer receiving the money.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
6 1, 2020.