

# HOUSE BILL 838

C8  
HB 1144/21 – W&M

2lr2315  
CF SB 474

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By: **Delegates Buckel, Beitzel, McKay, Thiam, and Wivell**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2022

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 26, 2022

Returned to second reading: March 27, 2022

House action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: March 27, 2022

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Economic Development – Western Maryland Economic Future Investment**  
3 **Board and Senator George C. Edwards Fund – Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Western Maryland Economic Future Investment  
5 Board; establishing the ~~Western Maryland Economic Future Investment~~ Senator  
6 George C. Edwards Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; establishing the  
7 qualifications necessary to receive certain funding; requiring the Board to develop  
8 criteria to review, evaluate, and rate certain proposals for funding, to distribute  
9 certain funding, and to monitor and track the progress of certain projects that have  
10 received funding; and generally relating to the establishment of the Western  
11 Maryland Economic Future Investment Board and Senator George C. Edwards  
12 Fund.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
14 Article – Economic Development  
15 Section 13–701 and 13–702(a)  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

18 BY adding to  
19 Article – Economic Development

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**EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Section 13–736 through 13–741 to be under the new part “Part IV. Western  
2 Maryland Economic Future Investment Program”  
3 Annotated Code of Maryland  
4 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

5 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
6 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
7 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)  
8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
9 (2021 Replacement Volume)

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
12 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)144. and 145.  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2021 Replacement Volume)

15 BY adding to  
16 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
17 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)146.  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2021 Replacement Volume)

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

### 22 Article – Economic Development

23 13–701.

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

25 (b) “Commissioners” means the Board of County Commissioners of Allegany  
26 County, Garrett County, or Washington County, respectively.

27 (c) “Council” means the Tri–County Council for Western Maryland.

28 (d) “Executive Director” means the Executive Director of the Council.

29 (e) “Member county” means each county in the region that pays annual dues that  
30 the Council sets.

31 (f) “Plan” means a regional plan that the Council prepares for the region.

32 (g) “Region” means Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties.

33 13–702.

1 (a) There is a Tri-County Council for Western Maryland.

2 **13-734. RESERVED.**

3 **13-735. RESERVED.**

4 **PART IV. WESTERN MARYLAND ECONOMIC FUTURE INVESTMENT PROGRAM.**

5 **13-736.**

6 (A) IN THIS PART THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
7 INDICATED.

8 (B) "BOARD" MEANS THE WESTERN MARYLAND ECONOMIC FUTURE  
9 INVESTMENT BOARD ESTABLISHED UNDER § 13-737 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

10 (C) "FUND" MEANS THE ~~WESTERN MARYLAND ECONOMIC FUTURE~~  
11 ~~INVESTMENT~~ SENATOR GEORGE C. EDWARDS FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER § 13-738  
12 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

13 **13-737.**

14 (A) THERE IS A WESTERN MARYLAND ECONOMIC FUTURE INVESTMENT  
15 BOARD.

16 (B) THE BOARD CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

17 (1) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,  
18 APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE;

19 (2) ONE COMMISSIONER FROM EACH MEMBER COUNTY, APPOINTED  
20 BY EACH MEMBER COUNTY'S RESPECTIVE COMMISSIONERS;

21 (3) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
22 ORGANIZATION IN EACH MEMBER COUNTY, APPOINTED BY EACH MEMBER COUNTY'S  
23 RESPECTIVE COMMISSIONERS;

24 (4) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FROM  
25 EACH MEMBER COUNTY, APPOINTED BY EACH MEMBER COUNTY'S RESPECTIVE  
26 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; AND

27 (5) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE MARYLAND MUNICIPAL  
28 LEAGUE, APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE LEAGUE.

1 (C) THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE SHALL  
2 CHAIR THE BOARD.

3 (D) THE COUNCIL SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE BOARD.

4 (E) A MEMBER OF THE BOARD:

5 (1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD;  
6 BUT

7 (2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE  
8 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

9 13-738.

10 (A) THERE IS A ~~WESTERN MARYLAND ECONOMIC FUTURE INVESTMENT~~  
11 SENATOR GEORGE C. EDWARDS FUND.

12 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE GRANT OR LOAN FUNDING  
13 TO CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS  
14 THAT IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THE REGION.

15 (C) THE COUNCIL SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

16 (D) (1) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

17 (I) APPROPRIATIONS AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET;

18 (II) INTEREST OR OTHER INCOME EARNED ON THE INVESTMENT  
19 OF MONEY IN THE FUND; AND

20 (III) ANY OTHER MONEY ACCEPTED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE  
21 FUND.

22 (2) ~~FOR IN EACH OF~~ FISCAL YEARS 2024 THROUGH ~~2028~~ 2026, THE  
23 GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL OPERATING OR CAPITAL BUDGET BILL  
24 AN APPROPRIATION OF AT LEAST ~~\$20,000,000~~ \$10,000,000 TO THE FUND.

25 (E) MONEY IN THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY TO:

26 (1) AWARD GRANTS AND PROVIDE LOANS TO CAPITAL  
27 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS TO  
28 IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THE REGION; AND

29 (2) PAY THE COSTS NECESSARY TO ADMINISTER THE FUND.

1           **(F) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT**  
2 **SUBJECT TO REVERSION UNDER § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND**  
3 **PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.**

4           **(2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY,**  
5 **AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.**

6           **(3) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY IN THE FUND**  
7 **IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.**

8           **(4) ANY INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED**  
9 **TO THE FUND.**

10 **13-739.**

11           **(A) A MEMBER COUNTY OR LOCAL ENTITY WITHIN A MEMBER COUNTY MAY**  
12 **SUBMIT A PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING UNDER THIS PART.**

13           **(B) TO QUALIFY FOR ~~THE FUNDING IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION,~~ A**  
14 **PROJECT SHALL BE:**

15           **(1) A CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT THAT:**

16                   **(I) IS LINKED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION, AS**  
17 **APPROVED BY THE BOARD; AND**

18                   **(II) RECEIVES 20% MATCHING FUNDS FROM THE MEMBER**  
19 **COUNTY WHERE THE PROJECT IS LOCATED, ANOTHER LOCAL ENTITY, A PRIVATE**  
20 **BUSINESS, OR A COMBINATION THEREOF;**

21           **(2) A BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT THAT:**

22                   **(I) ENCOURAGES AND PROMOTES DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD**  
23 **REVITALIZATION, SMALL BUSINESS TOURISM, OR OTHER AREAS AS APPROVED BY**  
24 **THE BOARD; AND**

25                   **(II) RECEIVES 10% MATCHING FUNDS FROM THE MEMBER**  
26 **COUNTY WHERE THE PROJECT IS LOCATED, ANOTHER LOCAL ENTITY, A PRIVATE**  
27 **BUSINESS, OR A COMBINATION THEREOF; OR**

28           **(3) ANY OTHER PROJECT THAT THE BOARD DETERMINES IS**  
29 **APPROPRIATE TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION.**

1           **(C) (1) (I) THE BOARD SHALL DEVELOP CRITERIA TO REVIEW,**  
2 **EVALUATE, AND RATE PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR FUNDING UNDER THIS PART.**

3                           **(II) THE CRITERIA IN SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH**  
4 **SHALL ENSURE THAT THE PROJECT:**

5                                   1.     **CREATES OR RETAINS JOBS;**

6                                   2.     **CREATES OR RETAINS BUSINESSES;**

7                                   3.     **INCREASES WAGES; OR**

8                                   4.     **CREATES NEW STATE OR LOCAL TAX REVENUE.**

9                   **(2) THE BOARD SHALL DISTRIBUTE GRANTS AND LOANS TO**  
10 **PROJECTS BASED ON THE CRITERIA DEVELOPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH**  
11 **(1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

12           **(D) (1) THE BOARD SHALL MONITOR AND TRACK THE PROGRESS OF**  
13 **EACH PROJECT THAT RECEIVES FUNDING UNDER THIS PART.**

14                   **(2) IF THE BOARD DETERMINES THAT SUFFICIENT PROGRESS IS NOT**  
15 **BEING MADE TOWARD ACHIEVING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION, THE**  
16 **BOARD MAY RECLAIM THE AWARDED FUNDS.**

17           **(E) THE FUNDING PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE USED TO**  
18 **SUPPLEMENT AND NOT SUPPLANT, ANY FUNDS THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE**  
19 **PROVIDED TO THE BOARD OR THE MEMBER COUNTIES.**

20 **13-740.**

21           **(A) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31 EACH YEAR, THE BOARD SHALL REPORT**  
22 **TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE**  
23 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF**  
24 **THIS PART.**

25           **(B) THE REPORT REQUIRED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL**  
26 **INCLUDE, DISAGGREGATED BY MEMBER COUNTY:**

27                   **(1) THE NUMBER OF NEW PROJECTS FUNDED DURING THE PREVIOUS**  
28 **YEAR;**

29                   **(2) THE NUMBER OF PROJECTS THAT WERE COMPLETED DURING THE**  
30 **PREVIOUS YEAR;**

1 (3) THE NUMBER OF ONGOING PROJECTS THAT WERE NOT  
2 COMPLETED DURING THE PREVIOUS YEAR;

3 (4) THE AMOUNT AND TYPE OF FUNDING RECEIVED BY EACH  
4 PROJECT;

5 (5) THE CURRENT STATUS OF EACH ONGOING PROJECT; AND

6 (6) ANY OTHER RELEVANT ECONOMIC METRICS DETERMINED BY THE  
7 BOARD.

8 13-741.

9 THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS PART.

10 Article – State Finance and Procurement

11 6-226.

12 (a) (2) (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless  
13 inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the  
14 terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the  
15 State Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to  
16 receive interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General  
17 Fund of the State.

18 (ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply  
19 to the following funds:

20 144. the Health Equity Resource Community Reserve Fund;

21 [and]

22 145. the Access to Counsel in Evictions Special Fund; AND

23 146. THE ~~WESTERN MARYLAND ECONOMIC FUTURE~~  
24 ~~INVESTMENT~~ SENATOR GEORGE C. EDWARDS FUND.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
26 ~~October June 1, 2022. It shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and, at the end of~~  
27 ~~September 30, 2027, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly,~~  
28 ~~shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.~~