A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Economic Development – Maryland Technology Development Corporation – Rural Business Innovation Initiative Fund

FOR the purpose of establishing the Rural Business Innovation Initiative Fund in the Maryland Technology Development Corporation as a special, nonlapsing fund to provide assistance to start-up and small technology-based businesses in the rural areas of the State; and generally relating to the Maryland Technology Development Corporation and the Rural Business Innovation Initiative Fund.

BY adding to

Article – Economic Development
Section 10–487 to be under the amended part “Part X. Miscellaneous Funds” Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – State Finance and Procurement
Section 6–226(a)(2)(i) Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – State Finance and Procurement
Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)144. and 145. Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume)

BY adding to

Article – State Finance and Procurement
Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)146. Annotated Code of Maryland

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Economic Development

Part X. [Pre–Seed Builder Fund] MISCELLANEOUS FUNDS.

10–487.

(A) In this section, “Fund” means the Rural Business Innovation Initiative Fund.

(B) There is a Rural Business Innovation Initiative Fund in the Corporation.

(C) The purpose of the Fund is to make pre–seed investments in technology–based businesses that maintain principal business operations in rural areas or rural communities.

(D) The Corporation shall manage and supervise the Fund.

(E) (1) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing revolving fund that is not subject to reversion under § 7–302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

(2) The Treasurer shall hold the Fund, and the Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

(F) (1) For fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of $500,000 to the Fund.

(2) Money appropriated to the Fund shall be used to supplement, not supplant, money that the Fund receives from other sources.

(G) (1) The Treasurer shall invest money in the Fund in the same manner as other State money.

(2) Any investment earnings of the Fund shall be credited to the Fund.
Article – State Finance and Procurement

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

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

144. the Health Equity Resource Community Reserve Fund;

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

146. THE RURAL BUSINESS INNOVATION INITIATIVE FUND.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Rural Business Innovation Initiative Fund established under § 10–487 of the Economic Development Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, is the successor to the Rural Business Innovation Initiative Fund established under Title 14, Subtitle 4, Chapter 4 of the Code of Maryland Regulations.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2022.