SENATE BILL 755

By: Senators Hester and Rosapepe
Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2022
Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Infrastructure Grants – Federal Infrastructure Investment and Coordination Unit – Established

FOR the purpose of establishing a Federal Infrastructure Investment and Coordination Unit in the Governor’s Grants Office for the purpose of tracking federal infrastructure grants and assisting State agencies in the award of the grants under certain federal legislation; and generally relating to the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Coordination Unit in the Governor’s Grants Office.

BY adding to

Article – State Finance and Procurement
Section 2–211
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume)

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

Article – State Finance and Procurement

2–211.

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

(2) “ACT” MEANS THE FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT OF 2021.

(3) “UNIT” MEANS THE FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND COORDINATION UNIT ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.
(B) There is a Federal Infrastructure Investment and Coordination Unit in the Governor’s Grants Office.

(C) (1) (i) The head of the Unit is the Chief Infrastructure Officer.

(ii) The Chief Infrastructure Officer shall receive the salary provided in the State budget.

(2) The State budget shall provide sufficient money for the Unit to employ a staff of at least two individuals and to retain and hire experts in the appropriate fields for additional support.

(D) The Unit shall:

(1) Track the allocation to the State of federal funds under the Act and assist State agencies in bidding for competitive grant funds under the Act;

(2) Track noncompetitive additional funds made available under the Act while ensuring alignment with State priorities;

(3) Project State and local matching requirements for funding under the Act;

(4) Coordinate, with respect to the allocation of federal funds under the Act, with federal agencies, the federal Senior Advisor to the President for Infrastructure Coordination, Maryland’s congressional delegation, and the General Assembly; and

(5) Develop an initial strategy and guiding criterion for the use of federal funds under the Act, subject to the approval of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee, including information on:

(i) How the funds under the Act will be allocated across the State;

(ii) How the funds can best be used to advance existing State priorities identified in recent legislation passed by the General Assembly related to the environment, economic development, historic preservation, and socioeconomic and racial justice goals; and
(III) specific projects that are earmarked to the State under the Act.

(e) The Chief Infrastructure Officer shall:

(1) establish an online dashboard functioning as a “one-stop shop” overview of the infrastructure grants under the Act and subsequent projects funded in part or entirely under the Act for review by interested parties described in subsection (d)(4) of this section; and

(2) on October 1 each year, report to the State Treasurer and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on:

(i) the Unit’s activity in the immediately preceding calendar year;

(ii) metrics to track and evaluate the overall effectiveness of the Unit;

(iii) the number and amount of infrastructure grants applied for and the success rate of grant awards under the Act; and

(iv) the total amount of infrastructure grant funds awarded.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, within 5 days after determining the schedule on which funds under the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 will be allocated to the State, the Chief Infrastructure Officer, established in § 2–211 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, shall notify the Department of Legislative Services.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2022. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years after the date on which funds under the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 are scheduled to be allocated to the State and, after that 2–year period, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.