

SENATE BILL 845

C8

2lr2282
CF 2lr2283

By: **Senators Edwards and Corderman**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2022

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Economic Development – Maryland Technology Development**
3 **Corporation – Rural Business Innovation Initiative Fund**

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

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Economic Development
11 Section 10–487 to be under the amended part “Part X. Miscellaneous Funds”
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

15 Article – State Finance and Procurement
16 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2021 Replacement Volume)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

20 Article – State Finance and Procurement
21 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)144. and 145.
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2021 Replacement Volume)

24 BY adding to

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2021 Replacement Volume)

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

4 **Article – Economic Development**

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

6 **10–487.**

7 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “FUND” MEANS THE RURAL BUSINESS INNOVATION
8 INITIATIVE FUND.

9 (B) THERE IS A RURAL BUSINESS INNOVATION INITIATIVE FUND IN THE
10 CORPORATION.

11 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO MAKE PRE–SEED INVESTMENTS IN
12 TECHNOLOGY–BASED BUSINESSES THAT MAINTAIN PRINCIPAL BUSINESS
13 OPERATIONS IN RURAL AREAS OR RURAL COMMUNITIES.

14 (D) THE CORPORATION SHALL MANAGE AND SUPERVISE THE FUND.

15 (E) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING REVOLVING FUND THAT IS
16 NOT SUBJECT TO REVERSION UNDER § 7–302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND
17 PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

18 (2) THE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND, AND THE
19 COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

20 (F) (1) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER,
21 THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION
22 OF \$500,000 TO THE FUND.

23 (2) MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE FUND SHALL BE USED TO
24 SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT, MONEY THAT THE FUND RECEIVES FROM OTHER
25 SOURCES.

26 (G) (1) THE TREASURER SHALL INVEST MONEY IN THE FUND IN THE
27 SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY.

28 (2) ANY INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED
29 TO THE FUND.

1 **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

2 6–226.

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

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

11 144. the Health Equity Resource Community Reserve Fund;

12 [and]

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

14 **146. THE RURAL BUSINESS INNOVATION INITIATIVE**
 15 **FUND.**

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

21 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
 22 1, 2022.