

# HOUSE BILL 706

C8

3lr1333

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By: **Delegate A. Jones**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2023

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 1, 2023

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Economic Community Development – Sustainable Communities – Business**  
3 **Facade Improvement Program**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Business Facade Improvement Program in the  
5 Department of ~~Commerce~~ Housing and Community Development to assist certain  
6 qualified businesses located in sustainable communities with improving the outside  
7 appearance of the qualified businesses' buildings or facilities; and generally relating  
8 to the Business Facade Improvement Program.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
10 Article – ~~Economic Development~~ Housing and Community Development  
11 Section ~~1–101(a), (b), and (c)~~ 1–101(a), (c), (d), and (i)  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 ~~(2018)~~ (2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

14 BY adding to  
15 Article – ~~Economic Development~~ Housing and Community Development  
16 Section ~~5–2301 through 5–2303~~ 6–1101 through 6–1103 to be under the new subtitle  
17 “Subtitle ~~23~~ 11. Business Facade Improvement Program”  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 ~~(2018)~~ (2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

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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.



~~Article – Economic Development~~

~~1-101.~~

~~(a) In this division the following words have the meanings indicated.~~

~~(b) “County” means a county of the State or Baltimore City.~~

~~(c) “Department” means the Department of Commerce.~~

Article – Housing and Community Development

1-101.

(a) In this Division I of this article the following words have the meanings indicated.

(c) “County” means a county of the State or Baltimore City.

(d) “Department” means the Department of Housing and Community Development.

(i) “Political subdivision” means a county or municipal corporation of the State.

~~SUBTITLE 23.~~ 11. BUSINESS FACADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

~~5-2301.~~ 6-1101.

**(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.**

**(B) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE BUSINESS FACADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.**

**(C) “QUALIFIED BUSINESS” MEANS A BUSINESS THAT:**

**(1) IS LOCATED IN A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY; AND**

**(2) PLANS TO IMPROVE THE OUTSIDE APPEARANCE OF THE BUSINESS’S BUILDING OR FACILITY.**

**(D) “SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY” MEANS AN AREA DESIGNATED AS A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY UNDER § 6-205 OF ~~THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ARTICLE~~ THIS TITLE.**

~~5-2302.~~ 6-1102.

1 (A) THERE IS A BUSINESS FACADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM IN THE  
2 DEPARTMENT.

3 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO ASSIST QUALIFIED BUSINESSES  
4 WITH IMPROVING THE OUTSIDE APPEARANCE OF THE BUSINESSES' BUILDINGS AND  
5 FACILITIES.

6 (C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DISTRIBUTE FUNDS FROM THE  
7 PROGRAM TO ~~COUNTIES~~ POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS THAT:

8 (I) HAVE AT LEAST ONE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY; AND

9 (II) APPLY FOR THE FUNDS.

10 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP:

11 (I) AN APPLICATION PROCESS FOR ~~COUNTIES~~ POLITICAL  
12 SUBDIVISIONS SEEKING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM; AND

13 (II) CRITERIA FOR:

14 1. RATING ~~COUNTIES~~ POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS THAT  
15 APPLY FOR FUNDS; AND

16 2. AWARDING FUNDS TO ~~COUNTIES~~ POLITICAL  
17 SUBDIVISIONS.

18 (D) (1) EACH ~~COUNTY~~ POLITICAL SUBDIVISION THAT RECEIVES FUNDS  
19 UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION SHALL DISTRIBUTE GRANTS TO  
20 QUALIFIED BUSINESSES THAT APPLY FOR A GRANT.

21 (2) EACH ~~COUNTY~~ POLITICAL SUBDIVISION SHALL DEVELOP:

22 (I) A GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS FOR QUALIFIED  
23 BUSINESSES SEEKING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM; AND

24 (II) CRITERIA FOR:

25 1. RATING QUALIFIED BUSINESSES THAT APPLY FOR  
26 GRANTS; AND

27 2. AWARDING GRANTS TO QUALIFIED BUSINESSES.

1 (E) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE  
2 GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF  
3 \$5,000,000 TO THE PROGRAM.

4 ~~5-2303~~ 6-1103.

5 THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SUBTITLE.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
7 1, 2023.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.