

HOUSE BILL 1128

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By: **Chair, Economic Matters Committee (By Request – Departmental – Labor)**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2024

Assigned to: Economic Matters

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 9, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Labor and Employment – Workforce Development – Talent Innovation Program**
3 **and Fund**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Talent Innovation Program in the Maryland
5 Department of Labor to increase access to high-quality job training; establishing the
6 Talent Innovation Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; requiring interest earnings of
7 the Fund to be credited to the Fund; and generally relating to the Talent Innovation
8 Program and Talent Innovation Fund.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Labor and Employment

11 Section 11–1601 through 11–1604 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 16. Talent
12 Innovation Program and Fund”

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

16 Article – State Finance and Procurement

17 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)

18 Annotated Code of Maryland

19 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

21 Article – State Finance and Procurement

22 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)189. and 190.

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 Annotated Code of Maryland
2 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

3 BY adding to
4 Article – State Finance and Procurement
5 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)191.
6 Annotated Code of Maryland
7 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

10 **Article – Labor and Employment**

11 **SUBTITLE 16. TALENT INNOVATION PROGRAM AND FUND.**

12 **11–1601.**

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

15 (B) “BOARD” MEANS THE GOVERNOR’S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
16 BOARD.

17 (C) “DIVISION” MEANS THE DIVISION OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND
18 ADULT LEARNING.

19 (D) “FUND” MEANS THE TALENT INNOVATION FUND.

20 (E) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE TALENT INNOVATION PROGRAM.

21 **11–1602.**

22 (A) (1) THERE IS A TALENT INNOVATION PROGRAM IN THE
23 DEPARTMENT.

24 (2) THE DIVISION AND THE BOARD SHALL JOINTLY ADMINISTER THE
25 PROGRAM.

26 (3) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO INCREASE ACCESS TO
27 HIGH-QUALITY JOB TRAINING BY USING INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE TALENT
28 FINANCING MECHANISMS TO HELP MEET SKILL NEEDS IN THE STATE’S PROMINENT
29 AND EMERGING INDUSTRY SECTORS, INCLUDING:

30 (I) CYBERSECURITY;

1 (II) HEALTH CARE;

2 (III) BIOTECHNOLOGY;

3 (IV) MANUFACTURING; AND

4 (V) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

5 (4) THE TALENT FINANCE MECHANISMS SUPPORTED BY THE
6 PROGRAM MAY INCLUDE:

7 (I) A “PAY-IT-FORWARD” REVOLVING-DOOR FUNDING MODEL;

8 (II) PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE PROGRAMS; OR

9 (III) FINANCING TO SUPPORT TRAINING MODELS, INCLUDING
10 REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP, WHICH SUPPORT TALENT DEVELOPMENT FOR
11 HIGH-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS.

12 (B) THE PROGRAM MAY CONDUCT PILOTS, CONVENE KEY STAKEHOLDERS,
13 AND CONDUCT RESEARCH TO DEVELOP AND SUPPORT NEW TALENT FINANCING
14 APPROACHES.

15 (C) THE PROGRAM SHALL ESTABLISH AN INITIAL PILOT PROGRAM THAT
16 FOCUSES ON THE CYBERSECURITY SECTOR BY SUPPORTING JOB TRAINING
17 THROUGH EXPANSION OF REGIONAL CYBER RANGES, WHICH IS A RECOGNIZED
18 METHOD FOR DEVELOPING TALENT AND MEETING THE SKILL NEEDS OF THE
19 CYBERSECURITY INDUSTRY.

20 11-1603.

21 (A) THERE IS A TALENT INNOVATION FUND IN THE DEPARTMENT.

22 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAM.

23 (C) THE SECRETARY SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

24 (D) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT
25 SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

26 (2) THE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY, AND THE
27 COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

1 **(E) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:**

2 **(1) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND;**

3 **(2) GRANTS AND DONATIONS TO THE FUND;**

4 **(3) PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST PAYMENTS MADE ON ANY**
5 **PAY-IT-FORWARD PROGRAM MADE FROM THE FUND;**

6 **(4) INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND; AND**

7 **(5) ANY MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR THE**
8 **BENEFIT OF THE FUND.**

9 **(F) THE DEPARTMENT MAY USE THE FUND TO:**

10 **(1) PROVIDE GRANTS:**

11 **(I) TO ENTITIES, INCLUDING EMPLOYERS, INSTITUTIONS OF**
12 **HIGHER EDUCATION, TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS, PUBLIC AGENCIES, AND**
13 **REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP SPONSORS, AND RESIDENTS OF THE STATE; AND**

14 **(II) FOR COSTS INCLUDING SUPPORT SERVICES, SUBSIDIZED**
15 **WAGES, GRANTEE'S ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS, AND TRAINING;**

16 **(2) PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS TO SECURE DONATIONS OR GRANTS**
17 **TO THE FUND;**

18 **(3) PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM AND OTHER TALENT**
19 **FINANCE MECHANISMS, SUCH AS A PAY-IT-FORWARD PROGRAM, APPROVED BY THE**
20 **DIVISION AND THE BOARD; AND**

21 **(4) PAY EXPENSES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE, ACTUARIAL, LEGAL, AND**
22 **TECHNICAL SERVICES FOR THE PROGRAM.**

23 **(G) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND**
24 **IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.**

25 **(2) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO**
26 **THE FUND.**

