

SENATE BILL 302

C8

5lr2065
CF 5lr1879

By: **Senator Lam**

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2025

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Small Business Innovation Research and Technology Transfer**
3 **Incentive Program – Alterations**

4 FOR the purpose of repealing certain provisions of law specifying certain limitations on
5 awards or investments provided to certain small businesses under the Maryland
6 Small Business Innovation Research and Technology Transfer Incentive Program;
7 and generally relating to the Maryland Small Business Innovation Research and
8 Technology Transfer Incentive Program.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
10 Article – Economic Development
11 Section 10–474(a) and (b)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article – Economic Development
16 Section 10–476
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

21 **Article – Economic Development**

22 10–474.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) There is a Maryland Small Business Innovation Research and Technology
2 Transfer Incentive Program.

3 (b) The Corporation shall administer the Program.

4 10-476.

5 (a) An applicant shall submit an application for a Program award or investment
6 on the form that the Corporation requires.

7 (b) The Program shall review the application and all supporting materials to
8 evaluate whether the applicant qualifies for an award or investment from the Program.

9 (c) (1) Subject to the availability of money in the Fund and paragraph (2) of
10 this subsection, the Program may provide to an eligible small business an award or
11 investment to match in part a small business innovation research award or small business
12 technology transfer award.

13 (2) The Program shall prioritize providing awards and investments to
14 eligible small businesses that are engaged in research and development activities that
15 assist in the prevention of, preparedness for, or response to a public health crisis in the
16 State.

17 (d) [Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, a small business that
18 receives an award or investment for a Phase I small business innovation research award
19 or small business technology transfer award shall receive an award or investment in an
20 amount that is the lesser of:

21 (1) 25% of the Phase I small business innovation research award or small
22 business technology transfer award; or

23 (2) \$25,000.

24 (e) Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, a small business that
25 receives an award or investment for a Phase II small business innovation research award
26 or small business technology transfer award shall receive an award or investment in an
27 amount that is the lesser of:

28 (1) 25% of the Phase II small business innovation research award or small
29 business technology transfer award; or

30 (2) \$75,000.

31 (f) On the recommendation of the Executive Director, the Board may approve an
32 award or investment in a small business in excess of the limitations specified under
33 subsections (d) and (e) of this section if the Board determines that the award is necessary
34 to better serve the community and the purposes of the Program.

1 (g) During each fiscal year:

2 (1) the Corporation may not provide more than 20 awards or investments
3 in accordance with subsection (d) of this section or more than 10 awards or investments in
4 accordance with subsection (e) of this section; and

5 (2) a small business may not receive more than one award or investment.

6 (h) A small business may not receive:

7 (1) MORE THAN ONE AWARD OR INVESTMENT DURING EACH FISCAL
8 YEAR; AND

9 (2) more than three awards or investments under this part.

10 [(i)] (E) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, each quarter, the
11 Corporation shall provide awards and investments on a competitive basis to eligible small
12 businesses.

13 (2) In providing an award or investment under this section, the
14 Corporation:

15 (i) shall consider:

16 1. the impact of the award or investment on the small
17 business; and

18 2. how the small business will utilize the award or
19 investment toward commercialization of the research conducted by the small business; and

20 (ii) may consider any additional criteria specified by the Corporation
21 in regulation.

22 [(j)] (F) The Program shall coordinate with comparable State and county
23 programs to:

24 (1) conduct marketing and outreach, including conducting joint workshops,
25 online training opportunities, and outreach to economically disadvantaged small
26 businesses, minority-owned small businesses, women-owned small businesses, rural small
27 businesses, and first-time small business innovation research award or small business
28 technology transfer award applicants; and

29 (2) provide assistance to eligible businesses under this part.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
2 1, 2025.