

# HOUSE BILL 898

C8, Q3, Q1  
HB 498/25 – W&M & APP

6lr0324  
CF SB 388

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By: **The Speaker (By Request – Administration) and Delegates Allen, Amprey, Behler, Bhandari, Boafu, Boyce, Coley, Edelson, Fennell, Griffith, Guyton, Harrison, Hill, Holmes, Hornberger, Ivey, D. Jones, Kaufman, Lewis, Moreno, Odom, Pasteur, Patterson, Phillips, Pruski, Qi, Roberts, Rogers, Ross, Ruff, Simmons, Solomon, Spiegel, Taveras, Taylor, Tomlinson, Turner, Watson, White Holland, Wims, Wu, and Ziegler**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Economic Development – Delivering Economic Competitiveness and Advancing**  
3 **Development Efforts (DECADE) Act**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the designation, administration, and purposes of and eligibility  
5 for certain economic development programs; redesignating the Economic  
6 Development Opportunities Program Account to be the Strategic Closing Fund  
7 within the Department of Commerce; altering the purposes for and methods by  
8 which the Strategic Closing Fund may be utilized; altering the distribution of certain  
9 video lottery terminal proceeds; altering the termination date of the Build Our  
10 Future Grant Pilot Program, Job Creation Tax Credit, Research and Development  
11 Tax Credit, and Employer Security Clearance Costs Tax Credit; altering eligibility  
12 for and the calculation of certain tax credits; allowing a qualified investor that is a  
13 pass-through entity that pays a certain income tax on behalf of its members to  
14 receive and allocate in any manner a credit or refund of a credit under the  
15 Biotechnology Investment Incentive Tax Credit; authorizing a qualified film  
16 production entity to amend its application for the film production activity tax credit  
17 under certain circumstances; repealing a certain limit on the aggregate amount of  
18 tax credit certificates that the Secretary may issue for a single film production  
19 activity; and generally relating to economic development and economic development  
20 initiatives.

21 BY transferring  
22 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
23 Section 7–314  
24 Annotated Code of Maryland  
25 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 to be  
2 Article – Economic Development  
3 Section 5–108  
4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
5 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 6 BY renumbering  
7 Article – Economic Development  
8 Section 5–1401 through 5–1410 and the subtitle “Subtitle 14. Regional Institution  
9 Strategic Enterprise Zone Program”; and 5–2301 through 5–2307 and the  
10 subtitle “Subtitle 23. Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program”  
11 to be Section 10–137 through 10–146 and the part “Part II. Regional Institution  
12 Strategic Enterprise Zone Program”; and 10–149 through 10–155 and the part  
13 “Part III. Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program”, respectively  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
17 Article – Economic Development  
18 Section 1–101(a), (c), and (e), 2.5–109(b), 5–301(a), (g), and (l) through (n), 5–310,  
19 5–311, 5–320, 5–323, 5–505, 5–509, 10–101(a) and (d), and 12–201(a)  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 22 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
23 Article – Economic Development  
24 Section 2.5–109(a)(1), 5–102, 5–319, 5–324, and 5–325; 5–501 and 5–502 to be under  
25 the amended subtitle “Subtitle 5. Maryland Small Business Development  
26 Financing Authority and Fund”; 5–511 to be under the amended part “Part II.  
27 Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority and Fund”;  
28 5–517, 5–518, 5–524 through 5–528, and 5–530 to be under the amended part  
29 “Part III. Small Business Development Contract Financing Program”; 5–533,  
30 5–534, 5–539 through 5–543, 5–545, and 5–546 to be under the amended part  
31 “Part IV. Small Business Development Guaranty Program”; and 5–549  
32 through 5–551, 5–553, 5–555 through 5–558, 5–561, 5–562, 5–566 through  
33 5–575, 6–309, 10–470(b)(1), and 12–201(p)  
34 Annotated Code of Maryland  
35 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 36 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
37 Article – Economic Development  
38 Section 5–108  
39 Annotated Code of Maryland  
40 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)  
41 (As enacted by Section 1 of this Act)
- 42 BY adding to

- 1 Article – Economic Development  
2 Section 5–515; the new part designation “Part I. Maryland Economic Development  
3 Corporation” to immediately precede Section 10–101; and 10–156  
4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
5 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 6 BY repealing  
7 Article – Economic Development  
8 Section 5–519 through 5–523, 5–529, 5–535 through 5–538, 5–544, 5–552, 5–554,  
9 5–559, and 5–563 through 5–565  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Economic Development  
14 Section 10–137 and 10–139 through 10–146; and 10–149 through 10–155 to be under  
15 the amended part “Part III. Build Our Future Grant Program”  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)  
18 (As enacted by Section 2 of this Act)
- 19 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
20 Article – Economic Development  
21 Section 10–138  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland  
23 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)  
24 (As enacted by Section 2 of this Act)
- 25 BY adding to  
26 Article – Corporations and Associations  
27 Section 1–203(b)(14)  
28 Annotated Code of Maryland  
29 (2025 Replacement Volume)
- 30 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
31 Article – Corporations and Associations  
32 Section 1–203(b)(14)  
33 Annotated Code of Maryland  
34 (2025 Replacement Volume)
- 35 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
36 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
37 Section 7–309  
38 Annotated Code of Maryland  
39 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 40 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

- 1 Article – State Government  
2 Section 9–1A–27(a)(6)  
3 Annotated Code of Maryland  
4 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 5 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
6 Article – State Government  
7 Section 9–1A–27(c)(1)(v)1.  
8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
9 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
11 Article – Tax – General  
12 Section 10–702(a)(1), 10–721(a) and (b), 10–725(a) and (b)(2), 10–730(a)(1), (4), and  
13 (7) and (b), and 10–732(a)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
17 Article – Tax – General  
18 Section 10–702(a)(4)(ii), 10–725(b)(3) and (d), 10–730(c) and (f), and 10–732(b)  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 21 BY adding to  
22 Article – Tax – General  
23 Section 10–721(i) and 10–725(b)(5) and (k)  
24 Annotated Code of Maryland  
25 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 26 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
27 Article – Tax – Property  
28 Section 9–103(a)(1) and (6) and (b)(1) and 9–103.1(a)(1) and (6), (b), and (c)(5)  
29 Annotated Code of Maryland  
30 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 31 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
32 Article – Tax – Property  
33 Section 9–103(d)(2) and (5) and (e)(1) and 9–103.1(a)(7), (c)(3), (4), and (6), (d), (e),  
34 and (f)  
35 Annotated Code of Maryland  
36 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 37 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
38 Chapter 430 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2023  
39 Section 3

1 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
2 Chapter 431 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2023  
3 Section 3

4 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
5 Chapter 515 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2000, as amended by Chapter 98  
6 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2005, Chapter 20 of the Acts of the  
7 General Assembly of 2010, Chapter 85 of the Acts of the General Assembly of  
8 2019, and Chapter 114 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2021  
9 Section 2 and 4

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Chapter 516 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2000, as amended by Chapter 98  
12 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2005, Chapter 20 of the Acts of the  
13 General Assembly of 2010, Chapter 85 of the Acts of the General Assembly of  
14 2019, and Chapter 114 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2021  
15 Section 2 and 4

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
17 That Section(s) 7–314 of Article – State Finance and Procurement of the Annotated Code  
18 of Maryland be transferred to be Section(s) 5–108 of Article – Economic Development of the  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 5–1401 through  
21 5–1410 and the subtitle “Subtitle 14. Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise Zone  
22 Program”; and 5–2301 through 5–2307 and the subtitle “Subtitle 23. Build Our Future  
23 Grant Pilot Program” of Article – Economic Development of the Annotated Code of  
24 Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 10–137 through 10–146 and the part “Part II.  
25 Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise Zone Program”; and 10–149 through 10–155 and  
26 the part “Part III. Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program”, respectively.

27 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
28 as follows:

29 **Article – Economic Development**

30 1–101.

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

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

33 (e) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

34 2.5–109.

35 (a) In this section, “economic development program” means:

1 (1) the [Economic Development Opportunities Program Account]  
2 **STRATEGIC CLOSING FUND** established under [§ 7–314 of the State Finance and  
3 Procurement Article] **§ 5–108 OF THIS ARTICLE**;

4 (b) The Department shall compile data in accordance with this section on the  
5 economic development programs administered by the Department.

6 5–102.

7 The Department shall administer the State’s economic development and financial  
8 assistance programs and funds including:

9 (1) the BRAC Revitalization and Incentive Zone Program, under Subtitle  
10 13 of this title;

11 (2) [the Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program, under Subtitle 23 of this  
12 title;

13 (3)] the Enterprise Fund, under Subtitle 6 of this title;

14 [(4)] (3) the Enterprise Zones Program, under Subtitle 7 of this title;

15 [(5)] (4) the Make Office Vacancies Extinct Program, under Subtitle 15 of  
16 this title;

17 [(6)] (5) the Maryland Economic Adjustment Fund, under Subtitle 2 of  
18 this title;

19 [(7)] (6) the Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority and  
20 Fund, under Subtitle 3 of this title;

21 [(8)] (7) the Maryland Industrial Development Financing Authority,  
22 under Subtitle 4 of this title;

23 [(9)] (8) the Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority,  
24 under Subtitle 5 of this title;

25 [(10)] (9) the Appalachian Regional Development Program, under Title 13,  
26 Subtitle 1 of this article;

27 [(11)] (10) jointly with the Department of Housing and Community  
28 Development, the Community Development Block Grant for Economic Development; **AND**

29 [(12) the Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise Zone Program under  
30 Subtitle 14 of this title; and

1 (13)] (11) any other programs or funds designated by statute, the  
2 Governor, or the Secretary.

3 5–108.

4 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

5 (2) [“Account” means the Economic Development Opportunities Program  
6 Account.

7 (3) “Executive agency” means an executive department or agency in the  
8 Executive Branch of State government, including all offices of the Executive Department  
9 or agency directly responsible to the Governor.

10 (4)] “Extraordinary economic development opportunity” means the:

11 (i) attraction of a new private sector enterprise to the State or  
12 retention or expansion of an existing private sector enterprise in the State that:

13 1. maintains a strong financial condition and minimal credit  
14 risk profile;

15 2. is capable of accessing alternative sources of financing  
16 through financial institutions or capital markets;

17 3. is consistent with the strategic plan of the State for  
18 economic development; AND

19 4. creates or retains substantial employment[, particularly  
20 in areas of high unemployment; and

21 5. invests in capital at a level equal to five times the value of  
22 the incentive offered];

23 (ii) retention or expansion of an existing public institution, private  
24 institution, or federal research and development institute that:

25 1. is consistent with the strategic plan of the State for  
26 economic development; and

27 2. creates or retains substantial employment[, particularly  
28 in areas of high unemployment]; or

29 (iii) establishment or attraction of a public institution, a private  
30 institution, or a federal research and development institute new to the State that:

1                   1.     is consistent with the strategic plan of the State for  
2 economic development; and

3                   2.     creates or retains substantial employment[, particularly  
4 in areas of high unemployment].

5                   **(3)     “FUND” MEANS THE STRATEGIC CLOSING FUND.**

6                   **[(5)] (4)**     (i)     “Performance requirement” means a contractual  
7 agreement between an executive agency and [an Account] **A FUND** recipient that requires  
8 the [Account] **FUND** recipient to meet minimum economic development outcomes in  
9 exchange for a grant or a loan under this section.

10                   (ii)    “Performance requirement” includes claw-back, penalty,  
11 rescission, and recalibration clauses that utilize job creation, capital investment, and other  
12 measures of economic development.

13                   **[(6)] (5)**     “Private sector enterprise” means any commercial, industrial,  
14 educational, or research organization which is not a part of or controlled by a federal, State,  
15 or local government agency.

16                   (b)     Subject to the provisions of this section, the [Economic Development  
17 Opportunities Program Account] **STRATEGIC CLOSING FUND** is established **WITHIN THE**  
18 **DEPARTMENT** to maximize extraordinary economic development opportunities.

19                   (c)     [Subject to subsection (r) of this section, the] **THE** Governor may provide an  
20 appropriation in the budget bill to the [Account] **FUND** for a specific or general purpose or  
21 purposes.

22                   (d)     After notice to and approval by the Legislative Policy Committee, the  
23 Governor may transfer funds by budget amendment [from the Economic Development  
24 Opportunities Program Account to the expenditure account of the appropriate executive  
25 agency] **TO THE FUND**.

26                   (e)     (1)     The [Account] **FUND** is a continuing, nonlapsing fund which is not  
27 subject to § 7–302 of [this subtitle] **THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE**.

28                   (2)     The Treasurer shall separately hold, and the Comptroller shall account  
29 for, the [Account] **FUND**.

30                   (3)     The [Account] **FUND** shall be invested and reinvested in the same  
31 manner as other State funds.

32                   (4)     [Except as provided in paragraph (5) of this subsection, any] **ANY**

1 investment earnings shall be [subject to § 7–311(d) of this subtitle] **CREDITED TO THE**  
2 **GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE.**

3 [(5) Any investment earnings on money transferred from the Account to a  
4 second continuing, nonlapsing fund may be retained to the credit of the second fund.]

5 (f) (1) Money appropriated or credited to the [Account] **FUND** does not revert  
6 to the [Revenue Stabilization Account] **GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE.**

7 (2) [Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, repayments]  
8 **REPAYMENTS** of principal or interest on any loan from the [Account] **FUND** shall be  
9 retained to the credit of the [Account] **FUND.**

10 [(3) Repayments of principal or interest on any loan made from money  
11 transferred from the Account to a second continuing, nonlapsing fund may be retained to  
12 the credit of the second fund.]

13 (g) (1) The Department [of Commerce] shall include the following information  
14 in the report that is required under § 2.5–109 of [the Economic Development Article] **THIS**  
15 **ARTICLE:**

16 (i) the financial status of the program and a summary of its  
17 operations for the preceding fiscal year;

18 (ii) for the previous 3 fiscal years, the status of [Account] **FUND**  
19 disbursements for economic development projects reviewed by the Legislative Policy  
20 Committee under this section;

21 (iii) for the previous 3 fiscal years, the status of job creation, capital  
22 investment, and other measures of economic development for each economic development  
23 project reviewed by the Legislative Policy Committee under this section; **AND**

24 (iv) [a list of guidelines for the kinds of performance requirements  
25 that may be negotiated with the loan or grant applicant; and

26 (v)] an explanation if the job creation, capital investment, and other  
27 measures of economic development described in items (i) through (iii) of this paragraph are  
28 lower than negotiated according to subsection (h)(1) of this section.

29 (2) [Upon] **ON** receipt of the information that is required to be reported  
30 under this subsection, the Legislative Policy Committee shall have [60] **21** days to review  
31 and comment on the information provided by the Department [of Commerce] under  
32 paragraph (1) of this subsection, during which time the Department [of Commerce] shall  
33 provide any additional information regarding the [Account] **FUND** as requested by the  
34 Legislative Policy Committee.

1 (h) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection and in subsection  
2 (i) of this section, any funds transferred from the [Economic Development Opportunities  
3 Program Account] **FUND** shall be used only for extraordinary economic development  
4 opportunities that:

5 (i) meet the criteria provided in this section;

6 (ii) include performance requirements; and

7 (iii) in addition to the performance requirements under item (ii) of  
8 this paragraph, include a performance requirement that utilizes a claw-back provision.

9 (2) The [Account] **DEPARTMENT** may **UTILIZE THE FUND TO** pay [an  
10 executive agency] for administrative, legal, or actuarial expenses incurred by the [agency  
11 in connection with transactions funded by transfers of money to the agency from the  
12 Account] **DEPARTMENT**.

13 (i) **(1)** The Legislative Policy Committee may approve an economic  
14 development opportunity that is not an extraordinary economic development opportunity  
15 if the executive agency requesting the transfer of funds offers a detailed justification for the  
16 exception.

17 **(2)** The Legislative Policy Committee shall give particular consideration to  
18 an exception that would provide a significant economic development opportunity for an area  
19 of the State that has a relatively high unemployment rate or relatively low per capita  
20 income.

21 (j) (1) The Department [of Commerce] may modify the guidelines for the  
22 kinds of performance requirements that may be negotiated with the loan or grant as  
23 needed, upon approval of the Legislative Policy Committee.

24 (2) [An executive agency] **THE DEPARTMENT** may depart from these  
25 guidelines as needed, upon approval of the Legislative Policy Committee.

26 (k) [Subject to the provisions of this subtitle, funds transferred] **MONEY** from the  
27 [Economic Development Opportunities Program Account, to an executive agency,] **FUND**  
28 may be loaned, granted, or invested for:

29 (1) assisting in the retention or expansion of existing private sector  
30 enterprises, public or private institutions, or federal research and development institutes;

31 (2) assisting in the establishment or attraction of private sector  
32 enterprises, public or private institutions, or federal research and development institutes  
33 new to this State; or

1 (3) providing assistance where existing State or local programs lack  
2 sufficient resources or are constrained by timing or program design from being utilized.

3 (l) [Upon submission to the Legislative Policy Committee of a proposed budget  
4 amendment to transfer money from the Account, the Governor] **BEFORE FUNDS FROM**  
5 **THE FUND MAY BE LOANED, GRANTED, OR INVESTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH**  
6 **SUBSECTION (K) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT** shall provide, subject to §  
7 2–1257 of the State Government Article, to the Legislative Policy Committee:

8 (1) a detailed description of:

9 (i) the proposed use of the funds;

10 (ii) the manner in which the proposed use meets the criteria as set  
11 forth in this section;

12 (iii) the degree to which the proposed use of funds will advance  
13 statewide or local economic development strategies and objectives; and

14 (iv) the degree to which available sources of federal, State, local, and  
15 private financial support have been sought and will be utilized;

16 (2) the terms, conditions, and performance requirements of any grant or  
17 loan for which the funds are to be used;

18 (3) a comprehensive economic analysis of the proposed use of the funds  
19 which estimates:

20 (i) the economic impact to the State and the local jurisdictions  
21 affected;

22 (ii) a minimum level of net economic benefits to the public sector;

23 (iii) the number of jobs expected to be created as a result of the  
24 proposed economic development project and the percentage of those jobs that are expected  
25 to be held by Maryland residents;

26 (iv) the wage rates and benefit packages for the jobs expected to be  
27 created as a result of the proposed economic development project; and

28 (v) any other appropriate financial or economic benefits;

29 (4) any other analysis or information that is requested by the Legislative  
30 Policy Committee; and

31 (5) the date on which the executive agency expects to disburse the funds to  
32 the proposed recipient.

1 (m) [If an executive agency fails to disburse transferred funds to a recipient within  
2 1 year after the expected disbursement date presented to the Legislative Policy Committee  
3 under subsection (l) of this section, the funds will revert back to the Account and the  
4 Governor shall:

5 (1) resubmit the proposed budget amendment to transfer money from the  
6 Account to the Legislative Policy Committee; and

7 (2) provide the Legislative Policy Committee with the information required  
8 under subsection (l) of this section.

9 (n) Funds appropriated to the [Economic Development Opportunities Program  
10 Account] **FUND** may not be loaned, granted, or invested for:

11 (1) substituting for funds from other State or local programs for which a  
12 project may be eligible and sufficient resources exist;

13 (2) projects which are not likely to attract or retain employment  
14 opportunities;

15 (3) funding projects located outside the State;

16 (4) construction or land acquisition by the Maryland Stadium Authority; or

17 (5) funding for any sports activity or facility.

18 [(o) (1) This subsection does not apply to an economic development opportunity  
19 located in an area designated as a qualified opportunity zone under § 1400Z-1 of the  
20 Internal Revenue Code in Allegany County, Garrett County, Somerset County, or Wicomico  
21 County.

22 (2) In the case of an economic development opportunity located outside a  
23 priority funding area as established under Title 5, Subtitle 7B of this article, the  
24 Department shall first comply with the provisions of that subtitle before making a request  
25 for approval by the Legislative Policy Committee under this section.]

26 [(p) (N) [An executive agency] **THE DEPARTMENT** may approve changes to a  
27 transaction approved by the Legislative Policy Committee as long as the changes do not  
28 materially and adversely affect the overall position of the [executive agency]  
29 **DEPARTMENT** in the transaction or the economic development benefits to be derived by  
30 the State in the transaction.

31 [(q) (O) (1) (i) In this subsection the following words have the meanings  
32 indicated.

1 (ii) “Financial assistance” means a grant, loan, or investment  
2 provided under this subsection that exceeds \$100,000.

3 (iii) “Political subdivision” includes an agency or other  
4 instrumentality of the political subdivision.

5 (2) This subsection does not apply to financial assistance used solely for the  
6 purpose of acquiring real property or structures on real property.

7 (3) With respect to financial assistance under this section to a political  
8 subdivision:

9 (i) if the political subdivision has a program for promoting  
10 procurement opportunities among minority businesses that is acceptable to the  
11 Department [of Commerce], the political subdivision shall apply the requirements of that  
12 program to the procurement of goods or services made with the proceeds from the financial  
13 assistance; but

14 (ii) if the political subdivision does not have a program that is  
15 acceptable to the Department [of Commerce] under item (i) of this paragraph, the political  
16 subdivision is subject to paragraph (4) of this subsection.

17 (4) (i) In this paragraph, “minority business enterprise” has the  
18 meaning stated in § 14–301 of [this article] **THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT**  
19 **ARTICLE**.

20 (ii) With respect to financial assistance under this section to an  
21 entity other than a political subdivision, the entity shall agree to include in the agreement  
22 providing the financial assistance a provision acceptable to the Department [of Commerce]  
23 that would encourage the procurement from minority business enterprises of goods or  
24 services purchased with the proceeds from the financial assistance.

25 (iii) In negotiating the provision required under subparagraph (ii) of  
26 this paragraph, the Department [of Commerce] shall take into account relevant factors,  
27 including:

28 1. the intended use of the proceeds from the financial  
29 assistance; and

30 2. the feasibility of obtaining the required goods or services  
31 from minority business enterprises.

32 (5) The Department [of Commerce] may require that a recipient of  
33 financial assistance under this section submit to the Department [of Commerce] a list, or  
34 an updated list, of the minority business enterprises from which goods or services were  
35 procured and the nature and dollar amount of the goods or services.

1           [(r) For fiscal years 2019 through 2021, the Governor shall include in the annual  
2 budget bill an appropriation of \$5,000,000 to the Account to be used by the Department of  
3 Commerce to provide conditional loans or grants to companies that meet the following  
4 criteria:

5           (1) construction of company headquarters in the State with capital  
6 expenditures of at least \$500,000,000; and

7           (2) retention of company headquarters in the State with at least 3,250  
8 eligible employees, consistent with a letter of intent entered into with the Department of  
9 Commerce in October 2016.]

10 5–301.

11           (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

12           (g) “Authority” means the Maryland Economic Development Assistance  
13 Authority.

14           (l) “Corporation” means the Maryland Economic Development Corporation.

15           (m) “Financial assistance” means a grant, loan, or investment provided under this  
16 subtitle.

17           (n) “Fund” means the Maryland Economic Development Assistance Fund.

18 5–310.

19           There is a Maryland Economic Development Assistance Fund in the Department.

20 5–311.

21           The purposes of the Fund are to:

22           (1) expand employment opportunities in the State by providing financial  
23 assistance to businesses that are engaged in eligible industry sectors, including financial  
24 assistance for:

25                   (i) aquaculture projects;

26                   (ii) arts and entertainment enterprises;

27                   (iii) arts and entertainment projects; and

28                   (iv) creation and expansion of child care facilities;

1 (2) provide financial assistance for the redevelopment of qualified  
2 brownfields sites;

3 (3) provide financial assistance to local governments and the Corporation  
4 for economic development projects; and

5 (4) provide grants to local economic development funds.

6 5-319.

7 (a) (1) Financial assistance from the Fund not exceeding **[\$2,500,000]**  
8 **\$5,000,000** may be approved by the Secretary.

9 (2) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, financial  
10 assistance from the Fund exceeding **[\$2,500,000]** **\$5,000,000** requires approval by the  
11 Authority.

12 (3) For a Tier I county project, the Secretary may approve financial  
13 assistance exceeding **[\$2,500,000]** **\$5,000,000**.

14 (b) Except as provided in subsection (a)(3) of this section, with respect to requests  
15 for financial assistance exceeding **[\$2,500,000]** **\$5,000,000**:

16 (1) the Department shall evaluate the requests; and

17 (2) the Authority shall:

18 (i) evaluate the requests that have first been evaluated by the  
19 Department;

20 (ii) determine whether to approve the requests; and

21 (iii) set the terms and conditions of the financial assistance.

22 (c) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, financial  
23 assistance provided to a local government or the Corporation for a project shall be approved  
24 by a **LETTER FROM OR** formal resolution of:

25 (i) the governing body of the jurisdiction in which the project is  
26 located; or

27 (ii) if the recipient of the financial assistance is the Corporation, its  
28 board of directors.

29 (2) If the recipient of financial assistance is the Corporation for a Tier I  
30 county project, the financial assistance shall be approved by **LETTERS FROM OR** formal

1 resolutions of both the board of directors of the Corporation and the governing body of the  
2 jurisdiction in which the project is located.

3 (3) A project that is funded by a grant from the Fund to a local government  
4 or the Corporation, and carried out by the local government or the Corporation, shall be  
5 consistent with the strategy or plan for economic development of the county or municipal  
6 corporation in which the project is located.

7 (4) If the Department provides financial assistance to a local government  
8 for a project, an interest in that project is later transferred to a third party, and the transfer  
9 of the interest is financed by the local government:

10 (i) the local government may assign the financing documents to the  
11 Department as a repayment of or return on the Department's financial assistance to the  
12 local government, and

13 (ii) the assignment may not be considered a new financing under this  
14 subtitle.

15 (d) For a local economic development opportunity, the local government of the  
16 jurisdiction in which the project is located shall provide[:

17 (1)] a **LETTER FROM OR** formal resolution of the governing body of the  
18 jurisdiction in which the project is located that endorses the financial assistance to be  
19 provided from the Fund[; and

20 (2) as determined by the Department or Authority to evidence the support  
21 of the local government for the project:

22 (i) a guarantee, secured by the full faith and credit of the county or  
23 municipal corporation in which the project is located, of all or part of the financial  
24 assistance to be provided by the Fund;

25 (ii) the financing of part of the costs of the project equal to at least  
26 10% of the financial assistance to be provided from the Fund; or

27 (iii) both].

28 5-320.

29 (a) To be eligible for financial assistance from the Fund, an applicant shall be:

30 (1) a local economic development fund that meets the criteria set forth in  
31 Part V of this subtitle; or

32 (2) an individual, private business, nonprofit entity, or local government,  
33 or the Corporation that intends to use the requested financial assistance for a project that:

1 (i) except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, is in an  
2 eligible industry sector under § 5–321 of this subtitle; and

3 (ii) has a strong potential for expanding or retaining employment  
4 opportunities in the State.

5 (b) A project need not be in an eligible industry sector if the applicant:

6 (1) is located in a Tier I county; or

7 (2) (i) is a local government or the Corporation; and

8 (ii) does not intend to use the financial assistance to carry out a  
9 project that benefits a particular private sector entity.

10 (c) In form and content acceptable to the Department, an applicant for financial  
11 assistance from the Fund shall submit to the Department an application that contains:

12 (1) the information that the Department or Authority considers necessary  
13 to evaluate the request for financial assistance; and

14 (2) for a Tier I county project:

15 (i) a marketing plan designed to market the project to prospective  
16 businesses;

17 (ii) a statement of planned marketing expenditures as a percent of  
18 the total financial assistance amount requested; and

19 (iii) a plan for the project that is consistent with the county's local  
20 strategic economic development plan as to the location and type of project.

21 5–323.

22 Financial assistance from the Fund may not exceed the lesser of:

23 (1) \$10,000,000; or

24 (2) 20% of the Fund balance.

25 5–324.

26 (a) Each subsection of this section is subject to § 5–323 of this subtitle.

27 (b) If the Department or Authority determines a project to be a significant  
28 strategic economic development opportunity, the Department or Authority may provide a

1 loan from the Fund for the project to an individual, private business, nonprofit entity, or  
2 the Corporation in an amount not exceeding \$10,000,000.

3 (c) If the Department or Authority determines a project to be a local economic  
4 development opportunity, the Department or Authority may provide financial assistance  
5 from the Fund for the project to an individual, private business, nonprofit entity, or the  
6 Corporation in an amount not exceeding:

7 (1) ~~[\$5,000,000]~~ **\$7,500,000** for a loan or investment; and

8 (2) ~~[\$2,000,000]~~ **\$5,000,000** for a grant.

9 (d) (1) Financial assistance provided to a local government or the Corporation  
10 to finance a project may be:

11 (i) in the form of a grant, loan, or investment; and

12 (ii) except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, in an  
13 amount not exceeding ~~[\$3,000,000]~~ **\$5,000,000**.

14 (2) Financial assistance for a Tier I county project may be in an amount  
15 determined by the Department.

16 (3) A grant to a local economic development fund is subject to the  
17 requirements of Part V of this subtitle.

18 (e) Financial assistance for a specialized economic development opportunity may  
19 be:

20 (1) provided to an individual, private business, nonprofit entity, or local  
21 government, or the Corporation;

22 (2) in the form of a grant, loan, or investment; and

23 (3) in an amount determined by the Department or Authority.

24 5-325.

25 (a) Subject to the restrictions of this subtitle, the Department or Authority may  
26 impose the terms and conditions on financial assistance from the Fund as either considers  
27 appropriate.

28 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), (3), or (4) of this subsection,  
29 financial assistance from the Fund may not exceed 70% of the total costs of the project being  
30 financed.

31 (2) Financial assistance from the Fund may constitute 100% of the total

1 costs of the project being financed if:

2 (i) the recipient is the Corporation; or

3 (ii) the financial assistance is for:

4 1. an arts and entertainment enterprise;

5 2. an arts and entertainment project; or

6 3. a Tier I county project.

7 (3) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph,  
8 financial assistance from the Fund:

9 1. may be used to finance up to 50% of the costs of  
10 construction, purchase, or renovation of real property, fixtures, or equipment related to a  
11 child care facility; but

12 2. may not be used for working capital, supplies, or inventory  
13 related to a child care facility.

14 (ii) Financial assistance from the Fund may be used to finance up to  
15 20% of the costs described in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph incurred by a business that  
16 has received or will receive a day care loan insured by the Maryland Industrial  
17 Development Financing Authority.

18 (4) Financial assistance for preparation of a strategy or plan for economic  
19 development of a county or municipal corporation may not exceed:

20 (i) 50% of the costs of preparation; or

21 (ii) \$50,000 in a 3-year period.

22 [(c) (1) A loan from the Fund shall bear an interest rate below the market rate  
23 of interest, as determined by the Department, if the loan is for:

24 (i) a significant strategic economic development opportunity; or

25 (ii) a specialized economic development opportunity.

26 (2) A loan from the Fund for a Tier I county project shall bear an interest  
27 rate determined by the Department or the Authority.

28 (3) A loan from the Fund shall bear an interest rate not exceeding  
29 one-eighth of 1% plus the net interest cost of the most recent State general obligation bond  
30 issue preceding the approval of the loan if the loan is:

1 (i) for a local economic development opportunity; or

2 (ii) to a local government.

3 (4) A loan from the Fund may not bear an interest rate of less than 3%  
4 unless:

5 (i) the project funded by the loan is located in an area of high  
6 unemployment; or

7 (ii) the Department determines that the borrower is carrying out a  
8 compelling economic development initiative.

9 (d) (1) The Department may waive interest during the first 2 years of the term  
10 of a loan from the Fund.

11 (2) If a borrower defaults on a loan from the Fund, the Department may  
12 impose an interest rate that exceeds the limits set forth in subsection (c)(1) or (3) of this  
13 section.

14 (e) The term of a loan from the Fund may not exceed:

15 (1) for working capital, 3 years;

16 (2) for financing equipment, furnishings, or fixtures, the lesser of 15 years  
17 or the useful life of the asset, as determined by the Department;

18 (3) for financing the construction or acquisition of buildings and real  
19 property, 25 years; and

20 (4) for financing the redevelopment of a qualified brownfields site or a Tier  
21 I county project, a term approved by the Department or Authority.]

22 **(C) THE DEPARTMENT OR THE AUTHORITY SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER A**  
23 **LOAN FROM THE FUND SHALL BEAR INTEREST AND, IF SO, THE INTEREST RATE.**

24 Subtitle 5. Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority **AND FUND.**

25 5-501.

26 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

27 (b) "Authority" means the Maryland Small Business Development Financing  
28 Authority.

29 (c) "Financial institution" means:

1 (1) a financial institution, as defined in § 1-101 of the Financial  
2 Institutions Article; and

3 (2) any other lender that the Authority approves.

4 **(D) "FUND" MEANS THE MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**  
5 **FINANCING FUND.**

6 **[(d)] (E)** (1) "Loan document" means an instrument or agreement that  
7 evidences, secures, or guarantees a loan.

8 (2) "Loan document" includes a note, financing statement, mortgage,  
9 pledge, assignment, loan and security agreement, or guaranty.

10 **[(e)] (F)** (1) "Working capital" means money used to meet the cash needs of  
11 an operating business entity.

12 (2) "Working capital" does not include money used for a capital purchase.

13 5-502.

14 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

15 (1) the inability of socially or economically disadvantaged individuals to  
16 obtain working capital is a major limitation on their opportunity to win and perform  
17 government and other contracts;

18 (2) because socially or economically disadvantaged individuals frequently  
19 have been awarded government or other contracts but have lacked the working capital to  
20 post a bond, buy supplies needed to begin the work, or pay employees, these individuals  
21 have been unable to accept the contracts;

22 (3) some individuals are unable to obtain government and other contracts  
23 for reasons other than the cost to the owner or the ability to perform the contract work  
24 competently;

25 (4) socially or economically disadvantaged individuals frequently lack  
26 adequate capital to sustain and expand their businesses and to hire and train employees;

27 (5) because high risk, problem, or uncollectible loans are not in the interest  
28 of financial institutions, financial institutions generally are reluctant to lend money to  
29 socially or economically disadvantaged individuals with insufficient records of  
30 performance;

31 (6) the inability of businesses owned by socially or economically  
32 disadvantaged individuals to obtain long-term financing is a major limitation on their

1 opportunity to survive and expand; and

2 (7) the public welfare is served by promoting the viability and expansion of  
3 businesses owned by economically or socially disadvantaged individuals, retaining or  
4 increasing the employment of these individuals, and expanding the taxable base of the  
5 economy of the State.

6 (b) The purposes of the [Authority] FUND are:

7 (1) to assist socially or economically disadvantaged individuals to obtain  
8 adequate working capital to begin, continue, and complete projects[, the majority of funding  
9 for which is provided by government entities or utilities];

10 (2) to encourage socially or economically disadvantaged individuals to seek  
11 government and other contracts;

12 (3) to encourage financial institutions to make loans to these individuals;  
13 and

14 (4) to assist small businesses that are unable to obtain adequate business  
15 financing on reasonable terms through normal financing channels because the businesses  
16 do not meet the established credit criteria of financial institutions.

17 Part II. Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority AND FUND.  
18 5-505.

19 There is a Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority in the  
20 Department.

21 5-509.

22 (a) (1) The Executive Director is the chief administrative officer of the  
23 Authority.

24 (2) With the approval of the Secretary, the Authority may:

25 (i) appoint the Executive Director; or

26 (ii) contract with a private entity to perform the duties of the  
27 Executive Director.

28 (b) The Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the Authority, with the  
29 concurrence of the Secretary.

30 (c) In addition to any other duties set forth in this subtitle, the Executive Director  
31 shall:

1 (1) supervise the administrative affairs and technical activities of the  
2 Authority in accordance with its regulations and policies;

3 (2) attend all meetings of the Authority;

4 (3) keep minutes of all proceedings of the Authority;

5 (4) approve all accounts for salaries, per diem payments, and allowable  
6 expenses of the Authority, its employees, and its consultants;

7 (5) approve all expenses incidental to the operation of the Authority; and

8 (6) perform any other duty that the Authority or the Secretary requires to  
9 carry out this subtitle.

10 5-511.

11 [(a) In this section, "Authority staff" means any of the individuals who are  
12 employed by the Department to operate the programs of the Authority immediately prior  
13 to the execution by the Department of a contract under this section with the private  
14 corporation organized by any of those individuals.

15 (b) (1) The Department may contract for and engage the services of [some or  
16 all of the Authority staff] **A PRIVATE MARYLAND CORPORATION** to administer **SOME OR**  
17 **ALL OF** the programs of the Authority[, for a period of 3 years, if the Authority staff has  
18 organized itself as a private Maryland corporation].

19 [(2) The Department may:

20 (i) extend the termination date of the contract in effect as of  
21 September 30, 2008, to June 30, 2012, and modify that extended contract as needed; and

22 (ii) renew the extended contract for up to two additional 5-year  
23 terms, and modify that renewed and extended contract as needed.

24 (3) An extension or renewal contract shall include standards to evaluate  
25 the performance of the private contractor in rendering services under the contract.

26 (c) In its name the corporation may use "Maryland Small Business Development  
27 Financing Agency", "MSBDFFA, Inc.", or any close approximation of those terms.]

28 **5-515.**

29 **(A) THERE IS A MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FINANCING**  
30 **FUND IN THE DEPARTMENT.**

1           **(B) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO**  
2 **REVERSION UNDER § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.**

3           **(C) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL:**

4                   **(1) INVEST THE MONEY IN THE FUND IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER**  
5 **STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED;**

6                   **(2) CREDIT ANY INVESTMENT EARNINGS TO THE FUND; AND**

7                   **(3) REPORT EACH YEAR TO THE DEPARTMENT ON:**

8                           **(I) THE STATUS OF THE MONEY INVESTED UNDER THIS**  
9 **SUBTITLE;**

10                           **(II) THE MARKET VALUE OF THE ASSETS IN THE FUND AS OF THE**  
11 **DATE OF THE REPORT; AND**

12                           **(III) THE INTEREST RECEIVED FROM INVESTMENTS DURING THE**  
13 **PERIOD COVERED BY THE REPORT.**

14           **(D) (1) THE FUND IS THE SUCCESSOR OF THE SMALL BUSINESS**  
15 **DEVELOPMENT CONTRACT FINANCING FUND, THE SMALL BUSINESS**  
16 **DEVELOPMENT GUARANTY FUND, THE EQUITY PARTICIPATION INVESTMENT**  
17 **INCENTIVE PROGRAM FUND, AND THE SMALL BUSINESS SURETY BOND FUND**  
18 **ESTABLISHED UNDER THE MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**  
19 **FINANCING AUTHORITY.**

20                   **(2) ALL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TRANSACTIONS AND OBLIGATIONS**  
21 **APPROVED BY THE MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FINANCING**  
22 **AUTHORITY SHALL CONTINUE AS OBLIGATIONS OF THE FUND AND ARE**  
23 **AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.**

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

25                   **(1) PREMIUMS FOR GUARANTEEING LOANS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE;**

26                   **(2) PREMIUMS FOR GUARANTEEING EQUITY INVESTMENTS UNDER**  
27 **THIS SUBTITLE;**

28                   **(3) REPAYMENTS OF PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON DIRECT LOANS**  
29 **AND EQUITY PARTICIPATION FINANCING MADE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE;**

1           (4)    PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE, DISPOSITION, LEASE, OR RENTAL OF  
2 COLLATERAL FOR DIRECT LOANS, LOAN GUARANTIES, OR EQUITY PARTICIPATION  
3 FINANCING MADE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE;

4           (5)    LOANS AND GRANTS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OR A UNIT  
5 OR INSTRUMENTALITY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT;

6           (6)    GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF FUNDS FROM THE STATE, A  
7 POLITICAL SUBDIVISION, OR ANY OTHER SOURCE;

8           (7)    PREMIUMS FOR GUARANTEEING LONG-TERM LOANS UNDER THIS  
9 SUBTITLE;

10          (8)    NOTWITHSTANDING § 10-469(E) AND (F) OF THIS ARTICLE OR ANY  
11 OTHER LAW, ANY RECOVERY OF INVESTMENTS MADE UNDER § 10-469 OF THIS  
12 ARTICLE THAT WERE FUNDED BY A TRANSFER OF MONEY FROM THE FUNDS UNDER  
13 THIS SUBTITLE TO THE ENTERPRISE FUND, INCLUDING AN INVESTMENT IN MMG  
14 VENTURES LLP;

15          (9)    NOTWITHSTANDING § 10-469(E) AND (F) OF THIS ARTICLE OR ANY  
16 OTHER LAW, ANY REPAYMENT OF A GRANT MADE UNDER § 10-469 OF THIS ARTICLE  
17 THAT WAS FUNDED BY A TRANSFER OF MONEY FROM THE FUNDS UNDER THIS  
18 SUBTITLE TO THE ENTERPRISE FUND;

19          (10)  MONEY THE STATE APPROPRIATES TO THE FUND;

20          (11)  MONEY MADE AVAILABLE TO THE FUND THROUGH FEDERAL  
21 PROGRAMS OR PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS;

22          (12)  PREMIUMS, FEES, ROYALTIES, AND REPAYMENTS OF  
23 INVESTMENTS MADE UNDER THE TERMS OF BONDING ASSISTANCE AND EQUITY  
24 PARTICIPATION FINANCING; AND

25          (13)  ALL OTHER RECEIPTS OF THE DEPARTMENT UNDER THIS  
26 SUBTITLE.

27           Part III. Small Business Development Contract Financing [Fund] PROGRAM.

28           5-517.

29           In this part, ["Fund"] "PROGRAM" means the Small Business Development  
30 Contract Financing [Fund] PROGRAM.

1 5-518.

2 There is a Small Business Development Contract Financing [Fund] PROGRAM  
3 WITHIN THE FUND.

4 [5-519.

5 The Authority shall use the Fund to implement this part.]

6 [5-520.

7 The Authority shall administer the Fund.]

8 [5-521.

9 (a) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to reversion under  
10 § 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

11 (b) The Treasurer shall:

12 (1) invest the money in the Fund in the same manner as other State money  
13 may be invested; and

14 (2) credit any investment earnings to the Fund.

15 (c) If the Authority determines by resolution that any money in the Fund is no  
16 longer needed to meet its obligations, the Authority may authorize the Comptroller to first  
17 employ that money to pay the principal of and interest on outstanding bonds issued under  
18 any Act authorizing the issue of State general obligation bonds issued to implement this  
19 subtitle.]

20 [5-522.

21 The Fund consists of:

22 (1) premiums for guaranteeing loans under § 5-525(a) of this subtitle;

23 (2) premiums for guaranteeing equity investments under § 5-525(b) of this  
24 subtitle;

25 (3) repayments of principal of and interest on direct loans made under §  
26 5-525(c) of this subtitle;

27 (4) proceeds from the sale, disposition, lease, or rental of collateral for  
28 direct loans or loan guaranties made under § 5-525 of this subtitle; and

1 (5) all other receipts of the Authority under this part.]

2 [5-523.

3 (a) If the Authority and the Secretary determine that more money is needed to  
4 keep the Fund at an adequate level, the Authority shall send a written request for the  
5 additional money to the Board of Public Works.

6 (b) The Board of Public Works may pay the amount requested from the General  
7 Emergency Fund.]

8 [5-524.] **5-519.**

9 The Authority may use the Fund for:

- 10 (1) loan guaranties made under [§ 5-525(a)] **§ 5-520(A)** of this subtitle;
- 11 (2) equity investment guaranties made under [§ 5-525(b)] **§ 5-520(B)** of  
12 this subtitle;
- 13 (3) direct loans made under [§ 5-525(c)] **§ 5-520(C)** of this subtitle; and
- 14 (4) expenses for administrative, legal, actuarial, and other services.

15 [5-525.] **5-520.**

16 (a) (1) The Authority may use the Fund to guarantee a loan made to an  
17 applicant only if:

- 18 (i) the applicant meets the requirements of this part;
- 19 (ii) [the loan is to be used to perform a contract for which the  
20 majority of the funding is provided by the federal government, a state government, a local  
21 government, or a utility regulated by the Public Service Commission;

22 (iii)] the maximum amount payable by the Authority under the  
23 guaranty does not exceed [ \$2,000,000 ] **\$3,000,000**; and

24 [(iv)] **(III)** the guaranteed loan is to be used for:

- 25 1. working capital; or
- 26 2. equipment needed to perform the contract, the cost of  
27 which can be repaid from contract proceeds, if the Authority has entered into an agreement  
28 with the applicant to secure the loan or guaranty.

1           (2) A guaranty made by the Authority may not exceed the term of the  
2 contract, unless the Authority determines that a longer term better serves the purposes of  
3 this subtitle.

4           (b) (1) The Authority may use the Fund to guarantee a person's proposed  
5 equity investment in the applicant only if:

6                   (i) the applicant meets the requirements of this part;

7                   (ii) the amount of the equity investment to be guaranteed does not  
8 exceed the lesser of:

9                           1. 10% of the person's equity investment in the applicant; or

10                           2. \$250,000; **AND**

11                   (iii) [the equity investment to be guaranteed is to be used to perform  
12 a contract for which the majority of funding is provided by the federal government, a state  
13 government, a local government, or a utility regulated by the Public Service Commission;  
14 and

15                   (iv)] the equity investment to be guaranteed is to be used for:

16                           1. working capital; or

17                           2. equipment needed to perform the contract, the cost of  
18 which can be repaid from contract proceeds, if the Authority has entered into an agreement  
19 with the applicant to secure the guaranty.

20           (2) The Authority may not guarantee the equity investment of a person  
21 who:

22                   (i) previously held an equity investment in the applicant;

23                   (ii) previously participated in the management of the applicant; or

24                   (iii) in any other manner is related to:

25                           1. the applicant; or

26                           2. any of the current stockholders, officers, or management  
27 personnel of the applicant.

28           (c) (1) The Authority may use the Fund to lend money to an applicant only if:

29                   (i) the applicant meets the requirements of this part;

1 (ii) the applicant is unable to obtain money on reasonable terms  
2 through normal lending channels from another source;

3 (iii) the loan does not exceed [~~\$2,000,000~~] **\$3,000,000**; AND

4 (iv) [the loan is to be used to perform a contract for which the  
5 majority of funding is provided by the federal government, a state government, a local  
6 government, or a utility regulated by the Public Service Commission; and

7 (v)] the loan is to be used for:

8 1. working capital; or

9 2. equipment needed to perform the contract, if the contract  
10 proceeds can repay the cost of the equipment and if the Authority has entered into an  
11 agreement with the applicant to secure the loan.

12 (2) A loan that the Authority makes shall mature not later than the term  
13 of the contract, unless the Authority finds that a longer term better serves the purposes of  
14 this part.

15 (d) In providing financial assistance under this section, the Authority shall  
16 recognize the need to serve applicants from all political subdivisions in the State.

17 [~~5-526.~~] **5-521.**

18 (a) If the applicant is an individual, to qualify for financial assistance under this  
19 part the applicant shall satisfy the Authority that:

20 (1) the applicant is of good moral character;

21 (2) the applicant has a reputation for financial responsibility, as  
22 determined from creditors, employers, and other individuals who have personal knowledge  
23 of the applicant;

24 (3) the applicant is a resident of the State or the principal place of business  
25 of the applicant is in the State; and

26 (4) the applicant is unable to obtain adequate business financing on  
27 reasonable terms through normal lending channels because the applicant:

28 (i) belongs to a group that historically has been deprived of access  
29 to normal economic or financial resources [because of race, color, creed, sex, religion, or  
30 national origin];

31 (ii) has [an identifiable physical handicap that severely limits the

1 ability of the applicant to obtain financial assistance, but that does not limit the ability of  
2 the applicant to perform the contract or other activity for which the applicant would be  
3 receiving financial assistance] **A DOCUMENTED DISABILITY;**

4 (iii) has any other social or economic impediment that is beyond the  
5 control of the applicant but that does not limit the ability of the applicant to perform the  
6 contract or other activity for which the applicant would be receiving financial assistance,  
7 including:

8 1. the lack of formal education or financial capacity; or

9 2. geographical or regional economic distress; or

10 (iv) does not meet the established credit criteria of at least one  
11 financial institution.

12 (b) If the applicant is a business enterprise that is not a sole proprietorship, to  
13 qualify for financial assistance under this part at least 70% of the business enterprise shall  
14 be owned by individuals who meet the qualifications for an individual applicant under  
15 subsection (a) of this section.

16 (c) An applicant for a loan guaranty shall have applied for and been denied a loan  
17 by a financial institution.

18 **[5-527.] 5-522.**

19 (a) To apply for financial assistance from the Fund under **[§ 5-525] § 5-520** of  
20 this subtitle, an applicant shall submit to the Authority an application on the form that the  
21 Authority provides **WITH THE INFORMATION THE AUTHORITY REQUIRES.**

22 **[(b) The application shall:**

23 (1) describe the project in detail;

24 (2) itemize known and estimated costs;

25 (3) specify the total amount of investment required to perform the contract;

26 (4) specify the amount of funds available to the applicant without financial  
27 assistance from the Authority;

28 (5) specify the amount of financial assistance requested from the  
29 Authority;

30 (6) provide information that demonstrates the inability of the applicant to  
31 obtain adequate financing on reasonable terms through normal lending channels;

1           (7) provide information that demonstrates the financial status of the  
2 applicant, including:

3                   (i) a current balance sheet;

4                   (ii) a profit and loss statement; and

5                   (iii) credit references; and

6           (8) contain any other relevant information that the Authority requires.】

7           **[(c) (B)]** The Authority may require an applicant to provide an audited balance  
8 sheet before the Authority approves or denies the application.

9           **[(d)]** The Authority may delegate the review and approval of the application  
10 information required under subsection (b)(1), (2), and (3) of this section to the Executive  
11 Director if an applicant meets all other requirements of this section.】

12 **[5-528.] 5-523.**

13           (a) The Authority may set the terms and conditions for a loan guaranty made  
14 under **[§ 5-525(a)] § 5-520(A)** of this subtitle.

15           (b) (1) If the Authority decides to lend money from the Fund to an applicant  
16 under **[§ 5-525(c)] § 5-520(C)** of this subtitle, the Authority shall prepare loan documents  
17 that include:

18                   (i) the interest rate on the loan that equals the market rate for a  
19 conventional loan of comparable risk unless the Authority determines that a lower rate  
20 better serves the purposes of this subtitle;

21                   (ii) a disbursement schedule that provides enough money to the  
22 applicant when the applicant needs it to perform the contract;

23                   (iii) a requirement that the applicant and the Authority co-sign each  
24 request for an advance of money before release of the money; and

25                   (iv) provisions for repayment of the loan.

26           (2) The loan documents may include any other provision that the Authority  
27 determines is necessary to secure the loan, including an assignment of or a lien on payment  
28 under the contract.

29 **[5-529.]**

30 The Treasurer shall report each year to the Authority on:

- 1 (1) the status of the money invested under § 5-521 of this subtitle;
- 2 (2) the market value of the assets in the Fund as of the date of the report;
- 3 and
- 4 (3) the interest received from investments during the period covered by the
- 5 report.]

6 ~~[5-530.] 5-524.~~

7 (a) A person may not knowingly make or cause to be made a false statement or

8 report in an application or document submitted to the Authority under this part.

9 (b) A person may not knowingly make or cause to be made a false statement or

10 report to influence an action of the Authority under this part:

11 (1) on an application for financial assistance; or

12 (2) affecting financial assistance whether or not the assistance has already

13 been extended.

14 (c) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction

15 is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 5 years or a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or both.

16 ~~5-525. RESERVED.~~

17 ~~5-526. RESERVED.~~

18 Part IV. Small Business Development Guaranty [Fund] **PROGRAM.**

19 ~~[5-533.] 5-527.~~

20 In this part, ["Fund"] "**PROGRAM**" means the Small Business Development

21 Guaranty [Fund] **PROGRAM.**

22 ~~[5-534.] 5-528.~~

23 There is a Small Business Development Guaranty **PROGRAM WITHIN THE** Fund.

24 ~~[5-535.]~~

25 The Authority shall use the Fund to implement this part.]

26 ~~[5-536.]~~

1 The Authority shall administer the Fund.]

2 [5-537.

3 (a) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to reversion under  
4 § 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

5 (b) The Treasurer shall:

6 (1) invest the money in the Fund in the same manner as other State money  
7 may be invested; and

8 (2) credit any investment earnings to the Fund.

9 (c) If the Authority determines by resolution that any money in the Fund is no  
10 longer needed to meet its obligations, the Authority may authorize the Comptroller to first  
11 apply that money to pay the principal of and interest on outstanding bonds issued under  
12 any Act authorizing the issue of State general obligation bonds issued to implement this  
13 subtitle.]

14 [5-538.

15 The Fund consists of:

16 (1) loans and grants from the federal government or a unit or  
17 instrumentality of the federal government;

18 (2) grants and contributions of funds from the State, a political subdivision,  
19 or any other source;

20 (3) premiums for guaranteeing long-term loans under § 5-540 of this  
21 subtitle;

22 (4) proceeds from the sale, disposition, lease, or rental of collateral by the  
23 Authority relating to loans guaranteed under § 5-540 of this subtitle; and

24 (5) all other receipts of the Authority under this part.]

25 [5-539.] **5-529.**

26 The Authority may use the Fund for:

27 (1) guaranty payments made under [§ 5-540(a)] **§ 5-530(A)** of this  
28 subtitle;

29 (2) interest subsidy payments under [§ 5-540(b)] **§ 5-530(B)** of this

1 subtitle; and

2 (3) expenses for administrative, legal, actuarial, and other services.

3 ~~[5-540.] 5-530.~~

4 (a) (1) The Authority may use the Fund to guarantee up to 80% of the principal  
5 of and interest on a long-term loan made by a financial institution to an applicant only if:

6 (i) the applicant meets the requirements under ~~[§ 5-541] § 5-531~~  
7 of this subtitle and has not violated ~~[§ 5-545] § 5-534~~ of this subtitle;

8 (ii) the loan amount is \$5,000 or more and the maximum amount  
9 payable by the Authority under the guaranty does not exceed ~~[\$2,000,000] \$3,000,000~~;

10 (iii) the loan is used for:

11 1. working capital;

12 2. refinancing the applicant's existing debt;

13 3. acquisition and installation of equipment;

14 4. making necessary improvements to real property that the  
15 applicant leases or owns in fee simple; or

16 5. acquiring real property that the applicant will own in fee  
17 simple if the property is to be used in the applicant's trade or business for which the  
18 guaranty is sought and the financial institution or the Authority places a lien on the  
19 property;

20 (iv) the loan matures within 10 years after the closing date of the  
21 loan; and

22 (v) the interest rate does not exceed the monthly weighted average  
23 of the prime lending rate prevailing in Baltimore City on unsecured commercial loans, plus  
24 2%, as determined by the Authority.

25 (2) The Authority may authorize the provision of a guaranty under this  
26 section in the following forms:

27 (i) an irrevocable letter of credit;

28 (ii) an official treasurer's check;

29 (iii) funds on deposit in an escrow or other depository account; or

1 (iv) any other legal instrument promising a financial institution  
2 restitution or reimbursement for its loan losses, within the limits of the guaranty.

3 (3) Any terms and conditions governing the instruments described under  
4 paragraph (2) of this subsection may not be so onerous as to discourage the financial  
5 institution from offering the loan.

6 (4) (i) The Authority may only approve a guaranty under this section if  
7 the Authority determines that the loan to be guaranteed will have a substantial economic  
8 impact.

9 (ii) To determine the economic impact of a loan, the Authority may  
10 consider:

- 11 1. the amount of the guaranty obligation;
- 12 2. the terms of the loan to be guaranteed;
- 13 3. the number of new jobs that the loan will create; and
- 14 4. any other factor that the Authority considers relevant.

15 (b) (1) In addition to a loan guaranty, the Authority may provide an interest  
16 subsidy for the benefit of the applicant.

17 (2) The subsidy:

18 (i) may be for the life of the loan;

19 (ii) may not exceed 4%;

20 (iii) shall be payable quarterly; and

21 (iv) shall be made to the financial institution that makes the loan  
22 that the Authority guarantees.

23 (3) (i) The subsidy may not exceed the difference between:

24 1. the interest rate on the guaranteed loan; and

25 2. the discount interest rate that the Federal Reserve Bank  
26 uses.

27 (ii) The interest rate may not exceed the monthly weighted average  
28 of the prime lending rate that prevails in Baltimore City on unsecured commercial loans,  
29 as the Authority determines as of the date of closing, plus 2%.

1           (4)    The subsidy may not be paid during any period in which the loan is in  
2 default.

3           (c)    In providing financial assistance under this section, the Authority shall  
4 recognize the need to serve applicants from all political subdivisions in the State.

5 ~~[5-541.] 5-531.~~

6           (a)    If the applicant is a sole proprietor, to qualify for financial assistance under  
7 this part the applicant shall satisfy the Authority that:

8                   (1)    the applicant is of good moral character;

9                   (2)    the applicant has a reputation for financial responsibility, as  
10 determined from creditors, employers, and other individuals who have personal knowledge  
11 of the applicant;

12                  (3)    the applicant is a resident of the State or the principal place of business  
13 of the applicant is in the State; and

14                  (4)    the applicant is unable to obtain adequate business financing on  
15 reasonable terms through normal lending channels because the applicant:

16                           (i)    belongs to a group that historically has been deprived of access  
17 to normal economic or financial resources [because of race, color, creed, sex, religion, or  
18 national origin];

19                           (ii)   has [an identifiable physical handicap that severely limits the  
20 ability of the applicant to obtain financial assistance, but that does not limit the ability of  
21 the applicant to perform the contract or other activity for which the applicant would be  
22 receiving financial assistance] **A DOCUMENTED DISABILITY**;

23                           (iii)  has any other social or economic impediment that is beyond the  
24 control of the applicant, but that does not limit the ability of the applicant to perform the  
25 contract or other activity for which the applicant would be receiving financial assistance,  
26 including:

27                                   1.    the lack of formal education or financial capacity; or

28                                   2.    geographical or regional economic distress; or

29                           (iv)  does not meet the established credit criteria of at least one  
30 financial institution.

31           (b)    If the applicant is not a sole proprietorship, to qualify for financial assistance  
32 under this part at least 70% of the business enterprise shall be owned by individuals who  
33 meet the qualifications for an individual applicant under subsection (a) of this section.

1 (c) An applicant for a loan guaranty shall have applied for and been denied a loan  
2 by a financial institution.

3 ~~[5-542.] 5-532.~~

4 (a) To apply for financial assistance from the Fund, a financial institution shall  
5 submit to the Authority an application on the form that the Authority provides **WITH THE**  
6 **INFORMATION THE AUTHORITY REQUIRES.**

7 [(b) The application shall include:

8 (1) a detailed description of the proposed use of the loan proceeds, including  
9 projected cash flow analyses, marketing plans, and appraisals;

10 (2) a detailed description of the funds available to the applicant;

11 (3) a detailed description of the proposed loan documents to be executed by  
12 the financial institution and the applicant;

13 (4) a detailed description of the property proposed as collateral for the loan  
14 and the financial institution's certification of the property's value;

15 (5) information that demonstrates the inability of the applicant to obtain  
16 adequate financing on reasonable terms through normal lending channels;

17 (6) information that demonstrates the financial status of the applicant,  
18 including:

19 (i) a current balance sheet;

20 (ii) a profit and loss statement; and

21 (iii) credit references;

22 (7) a proposed disbursement schedule;

23 (8) a proposed amortization schedule;

24 (9) a detailed description of the applicant's experience in the trade or  
25 business for which the loan and guarantee are requested;

26 (10) information that shows that the applicant satisfies the requirements of  
27 § 5-541 of this subtitle; and

28 (11) any other relevant information that the Authority requests.]

1            [(c)] (B)        The Authority may require an applicant to provide an audit report and  
2 balance sheet certified by an independent certified public accountant in accordance with  
3 generally accepted accounting principles before the Authority approves or denies the  
4 application.

5    **[5-543.] 5-533.**

6            A guaranty shall contain terms and conditions that the Authority determines to be  
7 appropriate.

8    **[5-544.]**

9            The Treasurer shall report each year to the Authority on:

- 10            (1)        the status of the money invested under § 5-537 of this subtitle;
- 11            (2)        the market value of the assets in the Fund as of the date of the report;
- 12    and
- 13            (3)        the interest received from investments during the period covered by the  
14 report.]

15    **[5-545.] 5-534.**

16            (a)        A person may not knowingly make or cause to be made a false statement or  
17 report in an application or document submitted to the Authority under this part.

18            (b)        A person may not knowingly make or cause to be made a false statement or  
19 report to influence an action of the Authority under this part:

- 20            (1)        on an application for financial assistance; or
- 21            (2)        affecting financial assistance whether or not the assistance has already  
22 been extended.

23            (c)        A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction  
24 is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 5 years or a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or both.

25    **[5-546.] 5-535.**

26            If an applicant or financial institution violates any provision of the loan documents  
27 or ceases to meet the requirements of this part, on reasonable notice to the applicant or  
28 financial institution, the Authority may:

- 29            (1)        withhold from the applicant further loan payments until the applicant  
30 complies with the documents or requirements;

1           (2) withhold from the financial institution further interest subsidy  
2 payments until the financial institution complies with the loan documents or requirements;  
3 and

4           (3) exercise any other remedy for which the loan documents provide.

5 **5-536. RESERVED.**

6 **5-537. RESERVED.**

7           Part V. Equity Participation Investment Program.

8 ~~[5-549.]~~ **5-538.**

9           (a) In this part the following words have the meanings indicated.

10           (b) (1) “Enterprise” means a business entity proposing to carry on a business  
11 in the State that meets the requirements of ~~[§ 5-526]~~ **§ 5-521** of this subtitle.

12           (2) “Enterprise” includes:

13                   (i) a sole proprietorship;

14                   (ii) a partnership;

15                   (iii) **A LIMITED LIABILITY CORPORATION;**

16                   **(IV)** a limited partnership;

17                   ~~[(iv)]~~ **(V)** a corporation; or

18                   ~~[(v)]~~ **(VI)** a joint venture.

19           (c) “Equity participation financing” includes investment or guaranty of  
20 investment in an enterprise.

21           (d) “Existing business” means a business whose board of directors or owners  
22 approve the sale of the business to an enterprise receiving equity participation financing.

23           (e) **[“Fund” means the Equity Participation Investment Program Fund.**

24           **(f)]** “Program” means the Equity Participation Investment Program.

25           ~~[(g)]~~ **(F)** “Qualified security” means:

- 1 (1) a note, bond, debenture, or other evidence of indebtedness;
- 2 (2) stock or other form of equity participation;
- 3 (3) a certificate of interest or participation in a profit-sharing agreement;
- 4 (4) an investment contract;
- 5 (5) a certificate of deposit for a security;
- 6 (6) a certificate of interest or participation in a patent or patent application  
7 or in royalty or other payments under a patent or patent application; or
- 8 (7) an interest or instrument commonly known as a “security” or a  
9 certificate for, receipt for, guaranty of, or option, warrant, or right to subscribe to or  
10 purchase a qualified security.

11 **[(h)] (G)** “Small business” means a business that is classified as a small business  
12 under the U.S. Small Business Administration size standards.

13 **[5-550.] 5-539.**

14 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

- 15 (1) small businesses have proven to be a fast growing and reliable form of  
16 successful business expansion and successful new business creation;
- 17 (2) small businesses play a major role in the economy of the State and have  
18 been a continuing source of increasing tax revenues and job opportunities;
- 19 (3) the growth of small businesses should be encouraged and should be an  
20 integral part of the State’s economic development effort;
- 21 (4) socially or economically disadvantaged individuals often lack adequate  
22 capital and are unable to obtain financing from financial institutions or venture capital  
23 firms to begin and develop a small business, or to purchase an existing business; and
- 24 (5) promoting the creation and viability of small businesses and the  
25 purchase of existing businesses by socially or economically disadvantaged individuals is in  
26 the public interest.

27 (b) The purposes of the Equity Participation Investment Program are to:

- 28 (1) encourage and help socially or economically disadvantaged individuals  
29 to create and develop small businesses and acquire existing businesses in the State; and
- 30 (2) assist small businesses that, because they do not meet the established

1 credit criteria of financial institutions, cannot obtain adequate business financing on  
2 reasonable terms through normal financing channels.

3 ~~[5-551.]~~ **5-540.**

4 There is an Equity Participation Investment Program in the ~~[Department]~~ **FUND.**

5 ~~[5-552.~~

6 The Authority shall administer the Program.]

7 ~~[5-553.]~~ **5-541.**

8 The Authority may:

9 (1) provide equity participation financing to help socially or economically  
10 disadvantaged individuals in the State create and develop small businesses and acquire  
11 existing businesses;

12 (2) buy, hold, and sell qualified securities;

13 (3) prepare, publish, and distribute technical studies, reports, and other  
14 materials with or without charge; and

15 (4) provide and pay for advisory services and technical assistance that are  
16 necessary or desirable to carry out the Program.

17 ~~[5-554.~~

18 There is an Equity Participation Investment Program Fund.]

19 ~~[5-555.]~~ **5-542.**

20 [(a) The Authority shall administer the Fund.

21 (b) (1) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to reversion  
22 under § 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

23 (2) The Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the Comptroller  
24 shall account for the Fund.

25 (c) The Fund consists of:

26 (1) money drawn from the Small Business Development Guaranty Fund  
27 established under Part IV of this subtitle;

1 (2) money the State appropriates to the Fund;

2 (3) money made available to the Fund through federal programs or private  
3 contributions;

4 (4) proceeds from the sale, disposition, lease, or rental by the Authority of  
5 collateral related to equity participation financing;

6 (5) premiums, fees, royalties, and repayments of principal, interest, and  
7 investments paid by and on behalf of enterprises to the Authority under the terms of equity  
8 participation financing; and

9 (6) any other money made available under the Program.

10 (d)] The Authority shall use the Fund to:

11 (1) purchase qualified securities that an enterprise issues to provide equity  
12 participation financing as the Program allows;

13 (2) provide guaranties of investments to expand the capital resources of  
14 enterprises;

15 (3) purchase advisory services and technical assistance consistent with the  
16 Program;

17 (4) purchase securities in which a fiduciary of the State may lawfully  
18 invest;

19 (5) provide equity participation financing as the Program allows; and

20 (6) pay for administrative, legal, and actuarial services that relate to the  
21 Program.

22 [(e) The Fund shall be self-sustaining and shall achieve investment returns on its  
23 portfolio in the form of:

24 (1) royalties from enterprises in amounts to be determined by the  
25 Authority; and

26 (2) interest payments from any debt securities.

27 (f) As needed for the Program, the Authority may withdraw from time to time up  
28 to a total of \$2,000,000 from the Small Business Development Guaranty Fund and deposit  
29 the withdrawal into the Fund.

30 (g) (1) The Treasurer shall invest the money of the Fund in the same manner  
31 as other State money may be invested.

1 (2) Any investment earnings of the Fund shall be paid into the Fund.

2 (h) In accordance with § 2.5-109 of this article, the Authority shall submit a  
3 report on the Program.]

4 ~~[5-556.]~~ **5-543.**

5 [(a)] The Authority may provide equity participation financing under the Program  
6 only after the enterprise submits an application [that contains a business plan that meets  
7 the requirements of subsection (b) of this section] **ON THE FORM THAT THE AUTHORITY**  
8 **PROVIDES WITH THE INFORMATION THE AUTHORITY REQUIRES.**

9 [(b)] The business plan of an enterprise shall include:

10 (1) a description of the small business or existing business and its  
11 management, product, and market;

12 (2) a statement of the amount, immediacy of need, and projected use of the  
13 capital required;

14 (3) a statement of the potential economic impact of the purchase;

15 (4) information that relates to the satisfaction of the applicant's  
16 requirements of § 5-557(d) and (e) of this subtitle; and

17 (5) any other information the Authority requires.]

18 ~~[5-557.]~~ **5-544.**

19 (a) (1) Under the Program the Authority may not:

20 (i) own securities representing more than 49% of the voting stock of  
21 a small business or own an interest greater than 49% in a small business; or

22 (ii) own securities representing more than 49% of the voting stock of  
23 an enterprise acquiring an existing business or own an interest greater than 49% in an  
24 enterprise acquiring an existing business.

25 (2) The amount of the Authority's equity participation financing in an  
26 enterprise may not exceed \$2,000,000.

27 (3) Before providing equity participation financing, the Authority shall find  
28 that there is a reasonable probability that the Authority will recover its initial investment  
29 and an adequate return on investment from the equity participation financing.

1           (4)    The Authority's investment shall be recoverable within 7 years after  
2 the equity participation financing.

3           (5)    The Authority's recovery shall be the greater of:

4                   (i)    the current value of the percentage of the equity investment in  
5 the enterprise; or

6                   (ii)   the amount of the initial investment in the enterprise.

7           (6)    If there is a dispute between the borrower and the Authority as to the  
8 value of the business entity at the time of recovery, the value shall be determined after  
9 obtaining at least one independent appraisal of the value from an appraiser selected from  
10 a list of at least three appraisers supplied by the Authority.

11           (b)    When an enterprise applies to the Authority for equity participation financing  
12 to acquire an existing business, an enterprise or its principals shall have:

13                   (1)    an equity investment equal to at least 5% of the total cost of acquisition;  
14 and

15                   (2)    at least 3 years of successful experience with demonstrated  
16 achievements and management responsibilities.

17           (c)    The Authority may provide equity participation financing for the acquisition  
18 of an existing business if the existing business:

19                   (1)    has been in existence for at least 5 years;

20                   (2)    has been profitable for at least 2 of the previous 3 years;

21                   (3)    has sufficient cash flow to service the debt and ensure adequate return  
22 of the Authority's investment;

23                   (4)    has the capacity for growth and job creation;

24                   (5)    has its principal place of business in the State; and

25                   (6)    has a strong customer base.

26           (d)    If the applicant enterprise is a sole proprietorship, to qualify for financial  
27 assistance under this part, the applicant shall satisfy the Authority that:

28                   (1)    the applicant is of good moral character;

29                   (2)    the applicant has a reputation for financial responsibility, as  
30 determined from creditors, employers, and other individuals who have personal knowledge

1 of the applicant;

2 (3) the applicant is a resident of the State or the principal place of business  
3 of the applicant is in the State; and

4 (4) the applicant is unable to obtain adequate business financing on  
5 reasonable terms through normal lending channels because the applicant:

6 (i) belongs to a group that historically has been deprived of access  
7 to normal economic or financial resources [because of race, color, creed, sex, religion, or  
8 national origin];

9 (ii) has [an identifiable physical handicap that severely limits the  
10 ability of the applicant to obtain financial assistance, but that does not limit the ability of  
11 the applicant to perform the contract or other activity for which the applicant would be  
12 receiving financial assistance] **A DOCUMENTED DISABILITY**;

13 (iii) has any other social or economic impediment that is beyond the  
14 control of the applicant, but that does not limit the ability of the applicant to perform the  
15 contract or other activity for which the applicant would be receiving financial assistance,  
16 including:

17 1. the lack of formal education or financial capacity; or

18 2. geographical or regional economic distress; or

19 (iv) does not meet the established credit or investment criteria of at  
20 least one financial institution.

21 (e) If the applicant enterprise is not a sole proprietorship, to qualify for financial  
22 assistance under this part, at least 51% of the enterprise shall be owned by individuals who  
23 meet the qualifications for applicants under subsection (d) of this section.

24 **[5-558.] 5-545.**

25 The liability of the State and of the Authority in providing equity participation  
26 financing is limited to investments under the Program.

27 **[5-559.]**

28 (a) This section applies to financing provided under the Program during fiscal  
29 years 2021 and 2022 for the purpose of relieving the adverse effects of the coronavirus  
30 pandemic.

31 (b) The Authority may convert to a grant up to \$50,000 of the financing described  
32 under subsection (a) of this section that is provided to a small business.]

1 **5-546. RESERVED.**

2 **5-547. RESERVED.**

3 Part VI. Small Business Surety Bond Program.

4 **[5-561.] 5-548.**

5 (a) In this part the following words have the meanings indicated.

6 (b) ["Fund" means the Small Business Surety Bond Fund.

7 (c) "Principal" means a small business entity that has assets, income, or  
8 employees that do not exceed limits that the Authority sets by regulation.

9 **[(d)] (C)** "Program" means the Small Business Surety Bond Program.

10 **[5-562.] 5-549.**

11 There is a Small Business Surety Bond **PROGRAM WITHIN THE** Fund.

12 **[5-563.**

13 (a) (1) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to reversion  
14 under § 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

15 (2) The Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the Comptroller  
16 shall account for the Fund.

17 (b) (1) The Treasurer shall invest the money of the Fund in the same manner  
18 as other State money may be invested.

19 (2) Any investment earnings of the Fund shall be credited to the Fund.]

20 **[5-564.**

21 The Fund consists of:

22 (1) money the State appropriates to the Fund;

23 (2) premiums, fees, and any other amounts the Authority receives with  
24 respect to bonding assistance it provides;

25 (3) proceeds the Authority designates from the sale, lease, or other  
26 disposition of property or contracts the Authority holds or acquires; and

1 (4) any other money available under the Program.]

2 [5-565.

3 The Fund shall be used:

4 (1) for the purposes described in the Program; and

5 (2) to pay expenses of the Authority in administering the Program.]

6 [5-566.] **5-550.**

7 In administering the Program, the Authority may:

8 (1) use the services of other governmental units;

9 (2) contract for and accept loans and grants from the federal government,  
10 the State government, or a local government and their units; and

11 (3) on the terms and conditions it considers advisable:

12 (i) acquire, manage, operate, dispose of, or otherwise deal with  
13 property;

14 (ii) take assignments of rentals and leases; and

15 (iii) make contracts, leases, agreements, and arrangements that are  
16 necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties.

17 [5-567.] **5-551.**

18 The Authority may:

19 (1) prescribe or approve the form of and terms and conditions in  
20 applications, guaranty agreements, or any other documents entered into by the Authority,  
21 principals, or sureties under the Program;

22 (2) acquire or take assignments of documents executed, obtained, or  
23 delivered in connection with any assistance the Authority provides under the Program;

24 (3) set and collect premiums, fees, charges, costs, and expenses in  
25 connection with any assistance the Authority provides under the Program;

26 (4) adopt regulations to carry out the Program; and

27 (5) do anything necessary or convenient to carry out its powers and the

1 purposes of the Program.

2 ~~[5-568.] 5-552.~~

3 (a) The Authority may guarantee a surety up to the lesser of 90% or ~~[\$2,250,000]~~  
4 **\$3,000,000** of its loss under a bid bond, payment bond, or performance bond on a contract  
5 ~~[financed by the federal government, a state government, a local government, a private~~  
6 ~~entity, or a utility that the Public Service Commission regulates].~~

7 (b) The term of a guaranty under this part may not exceed the contract term,  
8 including:

9 (1) the maintenance or warranty period required by the contract; and

10 (2) the period during which the surety may be liable for latent defects.

11 (c) The Authority may vary the terms and conditions of a guaranty based on:

12 (1) the Authority's history of experience with a surety; and

13 (2) any other factor the Authority considers relevant.

14 ~~[5-569.] 5-553.~~

15 (a) The Authority may execute and perform a bid bond, performance bond, and  
16 payment bond as a surety for the benefit of a principal in connection with a contract  
17 ~~[financed by the federal government or a state government, a local government, a private~~  
18 ~~entity, or a utility regulated by the Public Service Commission].~~

19 (b) (1) This subsection does not apply if the sources of funding for the bonds  
20 are grants.

21 (2) The bonds may not exceed ~~[\$2,500,000]~~ **\$5,000,000** each.

22 (c) Bonds are subject to the approval of the Authority based on the bond  
23 worthiness of the principal.

24 ~~[5-570.] 5-554.~~

25 (a) The Authority may only approve a guaranty or a bond under this part if the  
26 Authority determines that the contract, for which a bond is sought to be guaranteed or  
27 issued, will have a substantial economic impact.

28 (b) To determine the economic impact of a contract, the Authority may consider:

29 (1) the amount of the guaranty obligation;

1 (2) the terms of the bond to be guaranteed;

2 (3) the number of new jobs that the contract to be bonded will create; and

3 (4) any other factor that the Authority considers relevant.

4 **[5-571.] 5-555.**

5 The Authority may establish a surety bonding line to issue or guarantee multiple  
6 bonds to a principal within preapproved terms, conditions, and limitations.

7 **[5-572.] 5-556.**

8 (a) To qualify for financial assistance under this part the principal shall satisfy  
9 the Authority that the principal:

10 (1) is of good moral character or is owned by individuals of good moral  
11 character;

12 (2) as determined from creditors, employers, and other individuals who  
13 have personal knowledge, is an individual with a reputation for financial responsibility or  
14 is owned by individuals, a majority of whom have a reputation for financial responsibility;

15 (3) is a resident of the State or the principal place of business of the  
16 applicant is in the State; and

17 (4) is unable to obtain adequate bonding on reasonable terms through  
18 normal channels.

19 (b) To qualify for financial assistance under this part the principal shall certify to  
20 the Authority, and the Authority shall be satisfied, that:

21 (1) a bond is required to bid on a contract or to serve as prime contractor  
22 or subcontractor;

23 (2) a bond cannot be obtained on reasonable terms and conditions without  
24 assistance from the Program; and

25 (3) the principal will not subcontract more than 75% of the monetary value  
26 of the contract.

27 **[5-573.] 5-557.**

28 (a) To apply for financial assistance from the Program under this part, a principal  
29 and, if applicable, a surety shall submit to the Authority an application on the form that  
30 the Authority provides **WITH THE INFORMATION THE AUTHORITY REQUIRES.**

1 (b) [The application shall include:

2 (1) a detailed description of the project;

3 (2) an itemization of known and estimated costs;

4 (3) the total investment required to perform the contract;

5 (4) the working capital available to the principal;

6 (5) the bonding assistance sought;

7 (6) information that demonstrates the inability of the principal to obtain  
8 adequate bonding on reasonable terms and conditions through normal channels without  
9 assistance from the Program;

10 (7) a current balance sheet, a profit and loss statement, and credit  
11 references about the financial status of the principal;

12 (8) a schedule of the status of existing and pending contracts; and

13 (9) any other relevant information the Authority requests.

14 (c) The Authority may require an applicant to provide an audited balance sheet  
15 before the Authority approves or denies the application.

16 [(d)] (C) The Authority may not approve a guaranty or bond under this part for  
17 a principal that has defaulted on a loan or guaranty from the Authority unless:

18 (1) 2 years have passed since the time of the default; and

19 (2) the principal has cured any default in any financing program  
20 administered by the Department.

21 [5-574.] **5-558.**

22 (a) In its sole discretion, the Authority may set:

23 (1) the premiums and fees for providing bonding assistance under the  
24 Program; and

25 (2) the terms and conditions when the premiums and fees are payable.

26 (b) The premiums and fees may vary in amount among transactions and at  
27 different stages of a transaction.

1 (c) A determination by the Authority on premiums and fees remains effective for  
2 as long as the bonding assistance provided by the Authority is in effect.

3 ~~[5-575.]~~ **5-559.**

4 (a) A person may not knowingly make or cause to be made a false statement or  
5 report in an application or document submitted to the Authority under this part.

6 (b) A person may not knowingly make or cause to be made a false statement or  
7 report to influence an action of the Authority under this part:

8 (1) on an application for assistance; or

9 (2) affecting bonding assistance whether or not the assistance has been  
10 extended.

11 (c) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction  
12 is subject to imprisonment not exceeding ~~[6 months]~~ **5 YEARS** or a fine not exceeding  
13 ~~[\$1,000]~~ **\$50,000** or both.

14 ~~6-309.~~

15 (a) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, this subtitle and the tax credit  
16 authorized under it shall terminate on January 1, ~~[2027]~~ **2032**.

17 (b) After termination of this subtitle:

18 (1) a business entity may be considered for eligibility for the tax credit  
19 authorized under this subtitle based on positions filled before termination of this subtitle,  
20 provided that the other requirements of the subtitle are satisfied; and

21 (2) tax credits earned may be carried forward and are subject to recapture  
22 in accordance with § 6-305 of this subtitle.

23 **PART I. MARYLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.**

24 ~~10-101.~~

25 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

26 (d) "Corporation" means the Maryland Economic Development Corporation.

27 **10-135. RESERVED.**

28 **10-136. RESERVED.**

1 Part II. Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise Zone Program.

2 10–137.

3 (a) In this [subtitle] **PART** the following words have the meanings indicated.

4 (b) “Area” means a geographic area in one or more political subdivisions in the  
5 State described by a closed perimeter boundary.

6 (c) “Fund” means the Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise Zone Fund  
7 created under [§ 5–1408] **§ 10–144** of this subtitle.

8 (d) “Nonprofit organization” means an organization that is exempt or eligible for  
9 exemption from taxation under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

10 (e) “Qualified institution” means an entity that is designated as a qualified  
11 institution under [§ 5–1403] **§ 10–139** of this subtitle and may include:

12 (1) a regional higher education center as defined under § 10–101 of the  
13 Education Article;

14 (2) an institution of higher education as defined under § 10–101 of the  
15 Education Article; or

16 (3) a nonprofit organization that is affiliated with a federal agency.

17 (f) “RISE zone” means a geographic area in immediate proximity to a qualified  
18 institution that is targeted for increased economic and community development that meets  
19 the requirements of [§ 5–1404] **§ 10–140** of this subtitle and is designated as a Regional  
20 Institution Strategic Enterprise zone by the [Secretary] **CORPORATION** under [§ 5–1404]  
21 **§ 10–140** of this subtitle.

22 10–138.

23 The purposes of the Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise Zone Program are to  
24 access institutional assets that have a strong and demonstrated history of commitment to  
25 economic development and revitalization in the communities in which they are located and  
26 incentivize the location of innovative start–up businesses based on technology developed,  
27 licensed, or poised for commercialization at or in collaboration with qualified Maryland  
28 institutions.

29 10–139.

30 (a) An institution may apply to the [Secretary] **CORPORATION** to be designated  
31 as a qualified institution.

1 (b) To be eligible for designation as a qualified institution, the applicant shall:

2 (1) evidence an intention:

3 (i) to make a significant financial investment or commitment in an  
4 area of the State that the applicant intends to become a RISE zone;

5 (ii) to use the resources and expertise of the applicant to spur  
6 economic development and community revitalization in an area of the State that the  
7 applicant intends to become a RISE zone; and

8 (iii) to create a significant number of new jobs within an area of the  
9 State that the applicant intends to become a RISE zone;

10 (2) have a demonstrated history of community involvement and economic  
11 development within the communities that the applicant serves; and

12 (3) meet the minimum financial qualifications established by the  
13 **[Secretary] CORPORATION**.

14 (c) If the applicant is a nonprofit organization that is not an institution of higher  
15 education, the application shall demonstrate an affiliation with a federal agency.

16 (d) (1) In addition to the requirements under subsection (b) of this section, the  
17 **[Secretary] CORPORATION** may establish by regulation any other requirements necessary  
18 and appropriate in order for an applicant to be designated as a qualified institution.

19 (2) The **[Secretary] CORPORATION** shall adopt regulations that establish  
20 factors for evaluating applications under subsection (b) of this section.

21 (e) In the form and content acceptable to the **[Secretary] CORPORATION**, an  
22 applicant shall submit to the **[Secretary] CORPORATION** an application that contains the  
23 information that the Secretary considers necessary to evaluate the request for designation  
24 as a qualified institution.

25 (f) (1) Within 90 days after submission of an application under this section,  
26 the **[Secretary] CORPORATION** shall approve or reject the application of an institution to  
27 be designated as a qualified institution.

28 (2) At least 30 days before approval or rejection of an application under this  
29 section, the **[Secretary] CORPORATION** shall notify the Legislative Policy Committee.

30 (3) The Legislative Policy Committee may provide advice to the **[Secretary]**  
31 **CORPORATION** regarding the approval or rejection of an institution as a qualified  
32 institution.

1 10–140.

2 (a) On or after July 1, [2015] **2026**, a qualified institution shall apply jointly with  
3 a county, a municipal corporation, or the economic development agency of a county or  
4 municipal corporation to the [Secretary] **CORPORATION** to designate an area as a  
5 Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise zone.

6 (b) The application shall:

7 (1) be in the form and contain the information that the [Secretary]  
8 **CORPORATION** requires by regulation;

9 (2) state the boundaries of the area of the proposed RISE zone, not  
10 exceeding 500 acres;

11 (3) describe the nexus of the RISE zone with the qualified institution; and

12 (4) contain a plan that identifies the target strategy and anticipated  
13 economic impacts of the RISE zone.

14 (c) The [Secretary] **CORPORATION** may establish, by regulation, any other  
15 requirements necessary and appropriate for an area to be designated as a RISE zone.

16 (d) (1) Unless a county in which a municipal corporation is located agrees to  
17 designation of a RISE zone in the municipal corporation, qualified property in the  
18 municipal corporation may not receive a tax credit against county property tax.

19 (2) Unless a municipal corporation located within a county agrees to  
20 designation of a RISE zone within its boundaries, qualified property in the county may not  
21 receive a tax credit against the municipal property tax.

22 (e) (1) Within 120 days after submission of an application under this section,  
23 the [Secretary] **CORPORATION** shall:

24 (i) approve or reject an application for designation of a RISE zone,  
25 including approval or modification of the proposed boundaries of the RISE zone; and

26 (ii) define the boundaries of the approved RISE zone.

27 (2) At least 45 days before approval or rejection of an application under this  
28 section, the [Secretary] **CORPORATION** shall notify the Legislative Policy Committee.

29 (3) The Legislative Policy Committee may provide advice to the [Secretary]  
30 **CORPORATION** regarding:

31 (i) the approval or rejection of the RISE zone; or

1 (ii) the boundaries of the RISE zone proposed by the [Secretary]  
 2 **CORPORATION.**

3 (f) (1) (i) Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the designation of  
 4 an area as a RISE zone is effective for 10 years.

5 (ii) Upon a joint application of a qualified institution, a county and,  
 6 if applicable, a municipal corporation, or the economic development agency of a county or  
 7 municipal corporation, the [Secretary] **CORPORATION** may renew a RISE zone for an  
 8 additional [5] **10** years.

9 (2) The [Secretary] **CORPORATION** may not:

10 (i) 1. except as provided in item 2 of this item **OR PARAGRAPH**  
 11 **(3) OF THIS SUBSECTION**, approve more than three RISE zones in a single county or  
 12 municipal corporation; or

13 2. **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS**  
 14 **SUBSECTION**, approve more than four RISE zones in Baltimore City; or

15 (ii) approve a RISE zone the geographic area of which exceeds 500  
 16 acres.

17 **(3) THE CORPORATION MAY APPROVE ONE EXTRAORDINARY RISE**  
 18 **ZONE IN A SINGLE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION FOR AN AREA THAT, IN THE**  
 19 **DETERMINATION OF THE SECRETARY, PROMOTES QUANTUM COMPUTING.**

20 (g) (1) A RISE zone may not be required to be in the immediate geographic  
 21 proximity of a qualified institution if an appropriate nexus for the increased economic and  
 22 community development is established with the qualified organization.

23 (2) If the proposed RISE zone is in a rural part of the State, a qualified  
 24 institution may not be required to be in the immediate area of the RISE zone.

25 (h) [The Secretary may not designate a RISE zone in:

26 (1) a development district established under Title 12, Subtitle 2 of this  
 27 article; or

28 (2) a special taxing district established under Title 21 of the Local  
 29 Government Article or Section 62A of the Baltimore City Charter.

30 (i)] The designation of an area as a RISE zone may not be construed to limit or  
 31 supersede a provision of a comprehensive plan, zoning ordinance, or other land use policy  
 32 adopted by a county, municipal corporation, or bicounty agency with land use authority

1 over the area designated as a RISE zone.

2 10–141.

3 (a) The [Secretary] CORPORATION shall assign to a RISE zone a business and  
4 community development concierge who is an employee of the [Department]  
5 CORPORATION.

6 (b) A business and community development concierge shall assist entities  
7 locating in the RISE zone with:

8 (1) State, county, or municipal corporation permit and license applications;

9 (2) accessing existing programs at the CORPORATION, THE Department,  
10 the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Maryland Department of  
11 Labor, the Maryland Technology Development Corporation, or the Department of  
12 Transportation; and

13 (3) any other activities the [Secretary] CORPORATION authorizes that  
14 relate to the development of the RISE zone.

15 10–142.

16 (a) (1) To the extent provided for in this section, a business entity that locates  
17 in a RISE zone is entitled to:

18 (i) for a business entity that locates in the RISE zone before January  
19 1, 2023, the property tax credit under § 9–103.1 of the Tax – Property Article;

20 (ii) for a taxable year beginning before January 1, 2023, the income  
21 tax credit under § 10–702 of the Tax – General Article; and

22 (iii) priority consideration for financial assistance from programs in  
23 **TITLE 5**, Subtitle 1 of this [title] **ARTICLE**.

24 (2) For purposes of the income tax credit authorized under paragraph (1)(ii)  
25 of this subsection, the business entity is treated as being located in an enterprise zone.

26 (b) Subject to the limitations under subsection (a) of this section, a business entity  
27 that moves into or locates in a RISE zone on or after the date that the zone is designated  
28 under this [subtitle] **PART** may qualify for the incentives under this section.

29 (c) A business entity may not qualify for the incentives under subsection (a) of  
30 this section unless the [Department] CORPORATION, in consultation with the county or  
31 municipal corporation in which a RISE zone is located, certifies the business entity and its  
32 location as consistent with the target strategy of the RISE zone.

1 (d) (1) Unless a business entity makes a significant capital investment or  
 2 expansion of its labor force after a RISE zone is designated, the incentives under this  
 3 section are not available to a business entity that was in a RISE zone before the date that  
 4 the zone is designated.

5 (2) The [Department] CORPORATION shall adopt regulations  
 6 establishing factors to determine if a business entity makes a significant capital investment  
 7 or expansion of its labor force under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

8 10–143.

9 (a) (1) (i) A qualified institution, THE CORPORATION, a county and, if  
 10 applicable, a municipal corporation, or the economic development agency of a county or  
 11 municipal corporation may establish a program to provide rental assistance to a business  
 12 entity that[:

13 1.] moves into or locates in a RISE zone on or after the date  
 14 that the zone is designated under this [subtitle;

15 2. has nexus with a qualified institution located in the RISE  
 16 zone;

17 3. has been in active business not longer than 7 years] PART.

18 (ii) A business entity may not receive rental assistance under a  
 19 rental assistance program established in accordance with subparagraph (i) of this  
 20 paragraph for more than [3] 5 years.

21 (2) (i) A qualified institution, a county and, if applicable, a municipal  
 22 corporation, or the economic development agency of a county or municipal corporation that  
 23 establishes a rental assistance program in accordance with paragraph (1) of this subsection  
 24 may submit a request to receive a distribution [of matching funds] from the Fund.

25 (ii) The application shall include:

26 1. a description of the rental assistance program;

27 2. [the amount of funding that the applicant has secured to  
 28 provide rental assistance under the rental assistance program;

29 3.] the amount requested for distribution from the Fund in  
 30 accordance with this section; and

31 [4.] 3.any other information requested by the [Department]  
 32 CORPORATION.

1 (iii) The applicant shall submit the application on or before the date  
2 that the [Department] CORPORATION specifies.

3 (b) (1) The [Department] CORPORATION shall review each request for  
4 distribution of [matching] funds from the Fund for compliance with the provisions of this  
5 section and [Department] CORPORATION regulations.

6 (2) [Subject to the availability of funds in the Fund and paragraph (3) of  
7 this subsection, if the Department approves a request for distribution of matching funds  
8 from the Fund, the Department shall distribute to a fund dedicated to the applicant's rental  
9 assistance program an amount equal to three times the amount of funding specified under  
10 subsection (a)(2)(ii)2 of this section.

11 (3) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the Department]  
12 THE CORPORATION shall make available not more than 25% of cumulative program funds  
13 from the Fund for rental assistance programs in a single RISE zone.

14 (c) [(1) Within 90 days after approval by the Department of a request for  
15 matching funds under subsection (a) of this section, the applicant shall deposit an amount  
16 equal to or greater than the amount specified under subsection (a)(2)(ii)2 of this section into  
17 a fund dedicated to the applicant's rental assistance program.

18 (2) If an applicant fails to have deposited the amount required under  
19 paragraph (1) of this subsection, any portion of funds allocated to the applicant that has  
20 not been distributed shall be reallocated to another applicant in accordance with this  
21 section.

22 (3) If the [Department] CORPORATION fails to allocate the funds in the  
23 Fund under this [subtitle] PART and rental assistance programs in a single RISE zone  
24 have previously received 25% of cumulative program funds from the Fund, the Department  
25 may distribute additional funds to applicants for that RISE zone in accordance with this  
26 [subtitle] PART.

27 (d) (1) On or before September 15 each year, a rental assistance program that  
28 has received a distribution of funds from the Fund shall submit to the [Department]  
29 CORPORATION an annual report in the form and containing the information required by  
30 the [Secretary] CORPORATION.

31 (2) The report required under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall detail  
32 the use of funds received under this section for the immediately preceding fiscal year and  
33 provide an update on any funds that were not disbursed during that fiscal year.

34 (3) The [Department] CORPORATION may not distribute [matching]  
35 funds from the Fund to a rental assistance program under this section if the rental  
36 assistance program has failed to submit the report required under paragraph (1) of this

1 subsection.

2 (e) A rental assistance program that receives a distribution of [matching] funds  
3 from the Fund shall be subject to an audit at least once every 3 years by an independent  
4 certified public accountant that the applicant and the [Department] CORPORATION  
5 select.

6 (f) Based on the findings of an audit conducted under subsection (e) of this  
7 section, the [Department] CORPORATION may make an assessment against a qualified  
8 institution, a county, a municipal corporation, or an economic development agency to  
9 recapture any misused or undistributed funds.

10 10–144.

11 (a) There is a Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise Fund in the  
12 [Department] CORPORATION.

13 (b) The [Secretary] EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CORPORATION shall  
14 manage and supervise the Fund.

15 (c) (1) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7–302 of  
16 the State Finance and Procurement Article.

17 (2) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the  
18 Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

19 (d) The Fund consists of:

20 (1) money appropriated in the State budget to the Fund; and

21 (2) any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the  
22 Fund.

23 (e) The [Department] CORPORATION may use the Fund to:

24 (1) finance, in coordination with qualified institutions, counties, and  
25 municipal corporations, the provision of rental assistance to business entities located in  
26 RISE zones; and

27 (2) pay the related administrative, legal, and actuarial expenses of the  
28 [Department] CORPORATION.

29 (f) (1) The State Treasurer shall invest the money of the Fund in the same  
30 manner as other State money may be invested.

31 (2) Any investment earnings of the Fund shall be credited to the Fund.

1 (g) Expenditures from the Fund may be made only in accordance with the State  
2 budget.

3 10–145.

4 [In accordance with § 2.5–109 of this article, the Department] **THE CORPORATION**  
5 shall submit a report on the effectiveness of the tax incentives authorized under this  
6 [subtitle] **PART WITH THE ANNUAL REPORT SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH §**  
7 **10–133 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

8 10–146.

9 This [subtitle] **PART** and the tax credits and benefits authorized under it shall  
10 terminate on January 1, 2030.

11 **10–147. RESERVED.**

12 **10–148. RESERVED.**

13 Part III. Build Our Future Grant [Pilot] Program.

14 10–149.

15 (a) In this [subtitle] **PART** the following words have the meanings indicated.

16 (b) “Fund” means the Build Our Future Grant Fund.

17 (c) “Program” means the Build Our Future Grant [Pilot] Program.

18 10–150.

19 (a) There is a Build Our Future Grant [Pilot] Program in the [Department]  
20 **CORPORATION.**

21 (b) The purpose of the Program is to provide grant funding for infrastructure  
22 projects intended to support innovation in an eligible technology sector.

23 (c) Grants may be awarded to private companies, nonprofit entities, local  
24 governments, or colleges and universities in the State.

25 (d) The [Department] **CORPORATION** shall administer the Program.

26 10–151.

27 (a) To carry out the purpose of the Program, the [Department] **CORPORATION**

1 may award grants in accordance with this [subtitle] PART to approved recipients carrying  
2 out infrastructure projects intended to support innovation in any of the following eligible  
3 technology sectors:

- 4 (1) advanced manufacturing;
- 5 (2) aerospace;
- 6 (3) agriculture;
- 7 (4) artificial intelligence;
- 8 (5) biotechnology;
- 9 (6) blue technology;
- 10 (7) cybersecurity;
- 11 (8) defense;
- 12 (9) energy and sustainability;
- 13 (10) life sciences;
- 14 (11) quantum; and
- 15 (12) sensor and robotics.

16 (b) Examples of eligible projects include:

- 17 (1) sensitive compartmented information facilities;
- 18 (2) wet laboratories;
- 19 (3) cyber ranges;
- 20 (4) prototype manufacturing centers; and
- 21 (5) other specialized workforce training, skill certification, or  
22 research-related spaces.

23 (c) Grant awards may be used to defray the cost a grantee incurs to acquire,  
24 construct, rehabilitate, install, improve, or equip an eligible innovation infrastructure  
25 project.

26 (d) (1) A single entity may be awarded not more than \$2,000,000 in grant  
27 funds in a fiscal year.

1 (2) (i) For a grant award up to \$1,000,000, a grantee shall provide  
2 matching funds that are at least 200% of the grant amount.

3 (ii) For a grant award exceeding \$1,000,000, and up to \$2,000,000, a  
4 grantee shall provide matching funds that are at least 400% of the grant amount.

5 (iii) Funds received by a grantee through other State grant programs  
6 are not counted toward the grantee's matching funds requirement.

7 (3) A grantee must demonstrate an ability to cover the full estimated costs  
8 of the project for which the grant is awarded.

9 (4) (i) Not more than 50% of the appropriation to the Fund in a fiscal  
10 year may be awarded to colleges and universities in that fiscal year.

11 (ii) Grants to colleges and universities from the Fund must be  
12 awarded to projects that:

13 1. are performed in collaboration with private industry; or

14 2. offer the prospect of significant economic impact and the  
15 opportunity to develop entrepreneurship or clusters of technological innovation in the  
16 State.

17 **(E) WHEN PROVIDING FUNDING FROM THE FUND, THE CORPORATION**  
18 **SHALL PRIORITIZE APPLICANTS LOCATED IN A REGIONAL INSTITUTION STRATEGIC**  
19 **ENTERPRISE ZONE THAT IS DESIGNATED UNDER PART II OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

20 10–152.

21 A grantee may be subject to repayment of the grant in an amount determined by the  
22 [Department] CORPORATION if the grantee fails to:

23 (1) comply with reporting requirements established by the [Department]  
24 CORPORATION; or

25 (2) demonstrate appropriate use of grant funds.

26 10–153.

27 (a) There is a Build Our Future Grant Fund.

28 (b) The [Department] CORPORATION shall administer the Fund.

29 (c) The purpose of the Fund is to provide grants for infrastructure projects to

1 support innovation in eligible technology sectors under this [subtitle] **PART**.

2 (d) (1) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to reversion  
3 under § 7–302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

4 (2) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the  
5 Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

6 (e) The Fund consists of:

7 (1) money appropriated in the State budget to the Fund;

8 (2) any interest earnings of the Fund; and

9 (3) any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the  
10 Fund.

11 (f) (1) The Fund may be used to:

12 (i) provide grants in accordance with this [subtitle] **PART**; and

13 (ii) pay the administrative costs of the Program.

14 (2) During each fiscal year, the [Department] **CORPORATION** may use not  
15 more than 10% of the money appropriated to the Fund to administer the Program.

16 (g) (1) The State Treasurer shall invest the money of the Fund in the same  
17 manner as other State money may be invested.

18 (2) Any interest earnings of the Fund shall be credited to the Fund.

19 (h) Expenditures from the Fund may be made only in accordance with the State  
20 budget.

21 10–154.

22 On or before July 1, 2026, **AND EACH JULY 1 THEREAFTER**, the [Department]  
23 **CORPORATION** shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State  
24 Government Article, the General Assembly on the projects funded through and the  
25 economic impact of the Program.

26 10–155.

27 The [Secretary] **CORPORATION** may adopt regulations to carry out this [subtitle]  
28 **PART**.

1 **10-156.**

2 **THIS PART AND THE GRANT PROGRAM UNDER IT SHALL TERMINATE ON JUNE**  
 3 **30, 2030.**

4 10-470.

5 (b) (1) Whenever the Corporation is authorized by law to make a grant,  
 6 [including a grant from the Economic Development Opportunities Program Account  
 7 authorized under § 7-314 of the State Finance and Procurement Article,] the Corporation  
 8 may use money appropriated for the grant to make an equity investment in a qualified  
 9 business.

10 12-201.

11 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

12 (p) "RISE zone" means an area designated as a Regional Institution Strategic  
 13 Enterprise zone under [§ 5-1404] **§ 10-140** of this article.

14 **Article – Corporations and Associations**

15 1-203.

16 (b) **(14) BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2027, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL**  
 17 **WAIVE THE FILING FEE FOR A BUSINESS ENTITY DESCRIBED UNDER PARAGRAPH**  
 18 **(3)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION FOR EACH YEAR THAT THE ENTITY PROVIDES EVIDENCE**  
 19 **TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE ENTITY:**

20 **(I) HAS LOCATED WITHIN A REGIONAL INSTITUTION**  
 21 **STRATEGIC ENTERPRISE ZONE THAT IS DESIGNATED UNDER TITLE 10, SUBTITLE 1**  
 22 **OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARTICLE WITHIN 3 YEARS OF THE DATE BY**  
 23 **WHICH THE FILING FEE IS DUE; AND**

24 **(II) IS IN AN ELIGIBLE TECHNOLOGY SECTOR DESCRIBED**  
 25 **UNDER § 10-151 OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARTICLE.**

26 [(14)] **(15)** There is no processing fee for documents filed to dissolve, cancel,  
 27 or terminate an entity under this subsection.

28 **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

29 7-309.

30 (a) There is a State Reserve Fund.

1 (b) The State Reserve Fund comprises:

2 (1) the Dedicated Purpose Account;

3 (2) the Revenue Stabilization Account;

4 (3) the [Economic Development Opportunities Program Account]  
5 **STRATEGIC CLOSING FUND**; and

6 (4) the Catastrophic Event Account.

7 **Article – State Government**

8 9–1A–27.

9 (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section and §  
10 9–1A–26(a)(3) of this subtitle, on a properly approved transmittal prepared by the  
11 Commission, the Comptroller shall pay the following amounts from the proceeds of video  
12 lottery terminals at each video lottery facility:

13 (6) [(i) except as provided in items (ii) and (iii) of this item,] 1.5% to **BE**  
14 **DISTRIBUTED EQUALLY BETWEEN THE MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS**  
15 **DEVELOPMENT FINANCING FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER § 5–515 OF THE ECONOMIC**  
16 **DEVELOPMENT ARTICLE** AND the Small, Minority, and Women–Owned Businesses  
17 Account established under § 5–1501 of the Economic Development Article;

18 [(ii) for fiscal year 2018, 1.5% to the General Fund to pay a portion of  
19 the costs of the grants provided under Chapters 6 and 607 of the Acts of the General  
20 Assembly of 2017; and

21 (iii) for fiscal years 2019 and 2020, 1.5% to the Education Trust Fund  
22 established under § 9–1A–30 of this subtitle;]

23 (c) (1) For the first 10 years of operations at a video lottery facility in Allegany  
24 County, on a properly approved transmittal prepared by the Commission, the Comptroller  
25 shall pay the following amounts from the proceeds of video lottery terminals at a video  
26 lottery facility in Allegany County:

27 (v) 1. except as provided in items 2 and 3 of this item, 0.75% to  
28 the Small, Minority, and Women–Owned Businesses Account established under § 5–1501  
29 of the Economic Development Article;

30 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
31 as follows:

## Article – Tax – General

1

2 10–702.

3 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

4 (4) (ii) “Enterprise zone” includes a Regional Institution Strategic  
5 Enterprise zone established under [Title 5, Subtitle 14] **TITLE 10, SUBTITLE 1** of the  
6 Economic Development Article.

7 10–721.

8 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

9 (2) “Department” means the Department of Commerce.

10 (3) “Maryland base amount” means the base amount as defined in § 41(c)  
11 of the Internal Revenue Code that is attributable to Maryland, determined by:12 (i) substituting “Maryland qualified research and development  
13 expense” for “qualified research expense”;14 (ii) substituting “Maryland qualified research and development” for  
15 “qualified research”; and

16 (iii) using, instead of the “fixed base percentage”:

17 1. the percentage that the Maryland qualified research and  
18 development expense for the 4 taxable years immediately preceding the taxable year in  
19 which the expense is incurred is of the gross receipts for those years; or20 2. for a taxpayer who has fewer than 4 but at least 1 prior  
21 taxable year, the percentage as determined under item 1 of this item, determined using the  
22 number of immediately preceding taxable years that the taxpayer has.23 (4) “Maryland gross receipts” means gross receipts that are reasonably  
24 attributable to the conduct of a trade or business in this State, determined under methods  
25 prescribed by the Comptroller based on standards similar to the standards under § 10–402  
26 of this title.27 (5) “Maryland qualified research and development” means qualified  
28 research as defined in § 41(d) of the Internal Revenue Code that is conducted in this State.29 (6) “Maryland qualified research and development expenses” means  
30 qualified research expenses as defined in § 41(b) of the Internal Revenue Code incurred for  
31 Maryland qualified research and development.

1 (7) “Net book value assets” means the total of a business’s net value of  
2 assets, including intangibles but not including liabilities, minus depreciation and  
3 amortization.

4 (8) “Small business” means a for–profit corporation, limited liability  
5 company, partnership, or sole proprietorship with net book value assets totaling, at the  
6 beginning or the end of the taxable year for which Maryland qualified research and  
7 development expenses are incurred, as reported on the balance sheet, less than \$5,000,000.

8 (b) (1) The purpose of the Research and Development Tax Credit Program is  
9 to foster increased research activities and expenditures in Maryland.

10 (2) Subject to the limitations of this section, an individual or a corporation  
11 may claim credits against the State income tax in an amount equal to 10% of the amount  
12 by which the Maryland qualified research and development expenses paid or incurred by  
13 the individual or corporation during the taxable year exceed the Maryland base amount for  
14 the individual or corporation.

15 **(I) (1) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT APPROVE A CREDIT UNDER THIS**  
16 **SECTION FOR A TAXABLE YEAR BEGINNING AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2030.**

17 **(2) IF A TAXPAYER’S TAXABLE YEAR FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES IS**  
18 **NOT THE CALENDAR YEAR, FOR THE TAXABLE YEAR THAT BEGINS IN CALENDAR**  
19 **YEAR 2030, THE TAXPAYER MAY APPLY FOR ONLY A PRORATED CREDIT FOR**  
20 **RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EXPENSES PAID OR INCURRED IN THE TAXABLE**  
21 **YEAR FOR THAT PART OF THE TAXABLE YEAR THAT FALLS IN CALENDAR YEAR 2030.**

22 10–725.

23 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

24 (2) “Biotechnology company” means a company organized for profit that is  
25 primarily engaged in, or within 2 months will be primarily engaged in, the research,  
26 development, or commercialization of innovative and proprietary technology that  
27 comprises, interacts with, or analyzes biological material including biomolecules (DNA,  
28 RNA, or protein), cells, tissues, or organs.

29 (3) (i) “Company” means any entity of any form duly organized and  
30 existing under the laws of any jurisdiction for the purpose of conducting business for profit.

31 (ii) “Company” does not include a sole proprietorship.

32 (4) “Department” means the Department of Commerce.

33 (5) (i) “Investment” means the contribution of money in cash or cash  
34 equivalents expressed in United States dollars, at a risk of loss, to a qualified Maryland

1 biotechnology company in exchange for stock, a partnership or membership interest, or  
2 other ownership interest in the equity of the qualified Maryland biotechnology company,  
3 title to which ownership interest shall vest in the qualified investor.

4 (ii) “Investment” does not include debt.

5 (iii) For purposes of this section, an investment is at risk of loss when  
6 its repayment entirely depends upon the success of the business operations of the qualified  
7 company.

8 (6) (i) “Qualified investor” means any individual or entity that invests  
9 at least \$25,000 in a qualified Maryland biotechnology company and that is required to file  
10 an income tax return in any jurisdiction.

11 (ii) “Qualified investor” does not include:

12 1. a qualified pension plan, individual retirement account, or  
13 other qualified retirement plan under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of  
14 1974, as amended, or fiduciaries or custodians under such plans, or similar tax-favored  
15 plans or entities under the laws of other countries; or

16 2. a founder or current employee of the qualified Maryland  
17 biotechnology company, if the company has been in active business for more than 5 years.

18 (7) (i) “Qualified Maryland biotechnology company” means a  
19 biotechnology company that:

20 1. has its headquarters and base of operations in this State;

21 2. has fewer than 50 full-time employees;

22 3. has been in active business no longer than 12 years;

23 4. does not have its securities publicly traded on any  
24 exchange;

25 5. has been certified as a biotechnology company by the  
26 Department; and

27 6. the qualified investors in the company have not received  
28 more than \$7,000,000 in tax credits in the aggregate under this section.

29 (ii) “Qualified Maryland biotechnology company” includes a  
30 company that, within 2 months of the receipt of the investment, has met the requirements  
31 of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph.

32 (8) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

1 (b) (2) Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection and subsections (d)  
2 and (e) of this section, for the taxable year in which an investment in a qualified Maryland  
3 biotechnology company is made, a qualified investor may claim a credit against the State  
4 income tax in an amount equal to the amount of tax credit stated in the final credit  
5 certificate approved by the Secretary for the investment as provided under this section.

6 (3) To be eligible for the tax credit described in paragraph (2) of this  
7 subsection, the qualified investor shall be:

8 (i) for a company **WITH ITS BASE OF OPERATIONS OUTSIDE THE**  
9 **STATE**, duly organized and in good standing in the jurisdiction under the laws under which  
10 it is organized;

11 (ii) for a company **WITH ITS BASE OF OPERATIONS IN THE STATE**,  
12 in good standing and authorized or registered to do business in the State;

13 (iii) current in the payment of all tax obligations to the State or any  
14 unit or subdivision of the State; and

15 (iv) not in default under the terms of any contract with, indebtedness  
16 to, or grant from the State or any unit or subdivision of the State.

17 **(5) IF THE QUALIFIED INVESTOR ALLOWED TO CLAIM A CREDIT**  
18 **UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION IS A PASS-THROUGH ENTITY THAT**  
19 **PAYS THE INCOME TAX IMPOSED UNDER § 10-102.1 OF THIS TITLE ON BEHALF OF**  
20 **ALL MEMBERS OF THE PASS-THROUGH ENTITY, THE PASS-THROUGH ENTITY MAY**  
21 **CLAIM AND ALLOCATE THE CREDIT AMONG MEMBERS OF THE PASS-THROUGH**  
22 **ENTITY IN ANY MANNER.**

23 (d) (1) The tax credit allowed in an initial tax credit certificate issued under  
24 this section is:

25 (i) except as provided in item (ii) of this paragraph, 33% of the  
26 investment in a qualified Maryland biotechnology company, not to exceed \$250,000; or

27 (ii) ~~[50%]~~ **75%** of the investment in the qualified Maryland  
28 biotechnology company, not to exceed ~~[\$500,000]~~ **\$750,000**, if a qualified Maryland  
29 biotechnology company:

30 1. is located in Allegany County, Dorchester County, Garrett  
31 County, or Somerset County; or

32 2. is located in a Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise  
33 zone that is designated under [Title 5, Subtitle 14] **TITLE 10, SUBTITLE 1** of the Economic  
34 Development Article[, is based on technology that was developed at a qualified institution

1 within that zone, and has been in active business not longer than 7 years].

2 (2) During any fiscal year, the Secretary may not certify eligibility for tax  
3 credits for investments in a single qualified Maryland biotechnology company that in the  
4 aggregate exceed 10% of the total appropriations to the Maryland Biotechnology  
5 Investment Tax Credit Reserve Fund for that fiscal year.

6 (3) (I) If the tax credit allowed under this section in any taxable year  
7 exceeds the total tax otherwise payable by the qualified investor for that taxable year, the  
8 qualified investor may claim a refund in the amount of the excess.

9 (II) **FOR A TAXABLE YEAR BEGINNING AFTER DECEMBER 31,**  
10 **2026, IF THE QUALIFIED INVESTOR ALLOWED TO CLAIM A CREDIT UNDER**  
11 **SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH IS A PASS-THROUGH ENTITY THAT PAYS**  
12 **THE INCOME TAX IMPOSED UNDER § 10-102.1 OF THIS TITLE ON BEHALF OF ALL**  
13 **MEMBERS OF THE PASS-THROUGH ENTITY, THE PASS-THROUGH ENTITY MAY CLAIM**  
14 **AND ALLOCATE THE CREDIT AMONG MEMBERS OF THE PASS-THROUGH ENTITY IN**  
15 **ANY MANNER.**

16 (K) **FOR A TAXABLE YEAR BEGINNING AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2025, THE**  
17 **COMPTROLLER SHALL PROVIDE THE MEANS FOR A QUALIFIED INVESTOR TO FILE**  
18 **THE INVESTOR'S RETURN ELECTRONICALLY.**

19 10-730.

20 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

21 (4) (i) "Film production activity" means:

22 1. the production of a film or video project that is intended  
23 for nationwide commercial distribution; and

24 2. for a television series, each season of the television series.

25 (ii) "Film production activity" includes the production of:

26 1. a feature film;

27 2. a television project;

28 3. a commercial;

29 4. a corporate film;

30 5. a music video;

- 6. a digital animation project;
- 7. a documentary; or
- 8. a talk, reality, or game show.

(iii) "Film production activity" does not include the production of:

- 1. a student film;
- 2. a noncommercial personal video;
- 3. a sports broadcast;
- 4. a broadcast of a live event;
- 5. a video, computer, or social networking game;
- 6. pornography;
- 7. an infomercial;
- 8. a digital product or an animation project other than a digital animation project; or
- 9. a multimedia project.

(7) "Qualified film production entity" means an entity that:

- (i) is carrying out a film production activity; and
- (ii) the Secretary determines to be eligible for the tax credit under this section in accordance with subsection (c) of this section.

(b) (1) A qualified film production entity may claim a credit against the State income tax for film production activities in the State in an amount equal to the amount stated in the final tax credit certificate approved by the Secretary for film production activities.

(2) If the tax credit allowed under this section in any taxable year exceeds the total tax otherwise payable by the qualified film production entity for that taxable year, the qualified film production entity may claim a refund in the amount of the excess.

(c) (1) Before beginning a film production activity, a film production entity shall submit to the Department an application to qualify as a film production entity.

(2) The application shall describe the anticipated film production activity,

1 including:

2 (i) the projected total budget;

3 (ii) the estimated number of Maryland resident and out-of-state  
4 employees and total wages to be paid; and

5 (iii) the anticipated dates for carrying out the major elements of the  
6 film production activity.

7 (3) Except as provided in subsection (h) of this section, to qualify as a film  
8 production entity, the estimated total direct costs incurred in the State must exceed  
9 \$250,000.

10 (4) The application shall include any other information required by the  
11 Secretary.

12 (5) For a film production entity with total direct costs that exceed \$250,000,  
13 the Secretary may require the information provided in an application to be verified by an  
14 independent auditor selected and paid for by the film production entity seeking  
15 certification.

16 (6) The Secretary shall:

17 (i) determine if the film production entity qualifies for the credit  
18 under this section; and

19 (ii) notify the Comptroller of the estimated amount of total direct  
20 costs and the taxable year the credit will be claimed.

21 **(7) (I) A QUALIFIED FILM PRODUCTION ENTITY MAY AMEND ITS**  
22 **INITIAL APPLICATION SUBMITTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION IF**  
23 **AN INDEPENDENT AUDITOR SELECTED AND PAID FOR BY THE QUALIFIED FILM**  
24 **PRODUCTION ENTITY HAS VERIFIED THAT THE PROJECTED TOTAL BUDGET IN ITS**  
25 **INITIAL APPLICATION HAS INCREASED OR DECREASED BY AT LEAST 50%.**

26 **(II) THE SECRETARY SHALL:**

27 **1. EVALUATE AN AMENDED APPLICATION SUBMITTED**  
28 **UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH;**

29 **2. DETERMINE IF THE FILM PRODUCTION ENTITY**  
30 **CONTINUES TO QUALIFY FOR THE CREDIT UNDER THIS SECTION; AND**

31 **3. SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF CREDIT AMOUNT**  
32 **IN THE FISCAL YEAR, IF THE SECRETARY APPROVES THE AMENDED APPLICATION,**

1 NOTIFY THE COMPTROLLER OF THE AMENDED ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF TOTAL  
2 DIRECT COSTS AND THE TAXABLE YEAR THE CREDIT WILL BE CLAIMED.

3 (f) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Secretary  
4 may not issue tax credit certificates for credit amounts in the aggregate totaling more than:

5 (i) for fiscal year 2014, \$25,000,000;

6 (ii) for fiscal year 2015, \$7,500,000;

7 (iii) for fiscal year 2016, \$7,500,000;

8 (iv) for fiscal year 2019, \$8,000,000;

9 (v) for fiscal year 2020, \$11,000,000;

10 (vi) for fiscal years 2021 through 2023, \$12,000,000;

11 (vii) for fiscal year 2024, \$15,000,000;

12 (viii) for fiscal year 2025, \$17,500,000; and

13 (ix) for fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter, \$12,000,000.

14 (2) If the aggregate credit amounts under the tax credit certificates issued  
15 by the Secretary total less than the maximum provided under paragraph (1) of this  
16 subsection in any fiscal year, any excess amount may be carried forward and issued under  
17 tax credit certificates in a subsequent fiscal year.

18 (3) [The Secretary may not issue tax credit certificates for credit amounts  
19 totaling more than \$10,000,000 in the aggregate for a single film production activity.

20 (4) (i) For fiscal year 2019 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary  
21 shall make 10% of the credit amount authorized under paragraph (1) of this subsection  
22 available for Maryland small or independent film entities.

23 (ii) If the total amount of credits applied for by Maryland small or  
24 independent film entities is less than the amount made available under subparagraph (i)  
25 of this paragraph, the Secretary shall make available the unused amount of credits for use  
26 by qualified film production entities.

27 10-732.

28 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

29 (2) "Costs" means the costs to an individual or corporation for:

1 (i) security clearance administrative expenses incurred with regard  
2 to an employee in the State including, but not limited to:

3 1. processing application requests for clearances for  
4 employees in the State;

5 2. maintaining, upgrading, or installing computer systems in  
6 the State required to obtain federal security clearances; and

7 3. training employees in the State to administer the  
8 application process; and

9 (ii) construction and equipment costs incurred to construct or  
10 renovate a sensitive compartmented information facility (“SCIF”) located in the State as  
11 required by the federal government.

12 (3) “Department” means the Department of Commerce.

13 (4) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

14 (5) “Small business” has the meaning stated in § 7–218 of this article.

15 (b) (1) Subject to the limitations of this section, for a taxable year beginning  
16 after December 31, 2022, but before January 1, ~~[2028]~~ **2033**, an individual or a corporation  
17 that employs not more than 500 employees may claim credits against the State income tax  
18 for:

19 (i) security clearance administrative expenses, not to exceed  
20 \$200,000;

21 (ii) expenses incurred for rental payments owed during the first year  
22 of a rental agreement for spaces leased in the State if the individual or corporation is a  
23 small business that performs security–based contracting, not to exceed \$200,000; and

24 (iii) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, construction and  
25 equipment costs incurred to construct or renovate a single SCIF in an amount equal to the  
26 lesser of 50% of the costs or \$200,000.

27 (2) The total amount of construction and equipment costs incurred to  
28 construct or renovate multiple SCIFs for which an individual or a corporation is eligible to  
29 claim as a credit against the State income tax is \$500,000.

30 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
31 as follows:

32 **Article – Tax – Property**

1 9–103.

2 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

3 (6) (i) “Qualified property” means real property that is:

4 1. not used for residential purposes;

5 2. used in a trade or business by a business entity that meets  
6 the requirements of § 5–707 of the Economic Development Article; and

7 3. located in an enterprise zone that is designated under  
8 Title 5, Subtitle 7 of the Economic Development Article.

9 (ii) “Qualified property” includes personal property on real property  
10 that is located in a focus area as defined in § 5–701 of the Economic Development Article.

11 (b) (1) The governing body of a county or of a municipal corporation shall grant  
12 a tax credit under this section against the property tax imposed on the eligible assessment  
13 of qualified property.

14 (d) (2) For newly constructed qualified property that provides both office and  
15 retail space and became eligible for the credit under this section on or after [January 1,  
16 2019] **JULY 1, 2018**, but before January 1, 2022, the appropriate governing body shall  
17 calculate the amount of the tax credit under this section equal to a percentage of the amount  
18 of property tax imposed on the eligible assessment of the qualified property as follows:

19 (i) 80% in each of the 1st 8 taxable years following the calendar year  
20 in which the property initially becomes a qualified property;

21 (ii) 70% in the 9th taxable year;

22 (iii) 60% in the 10th taxable year;

23 (iv) 50% in the 11th taxable year;

24 (v) 40% in the 12th taxable year; and

25 (vi) 30% in the 13th taxable year.

26 (5) For qualified property located in a focus area, the appropriate governing  
27 body shall calculate the amount of the tax credit under this section equal to 80% of the  
28 amount of property tax imposed on the eligible assessment of the qualified property:

29 (i) for newly constructed qualified property that provides both office  
30 and retail space and became eligible for the credit under this section on or after [January  
31 1, 2019] **JULY 1, 2018**, but before January 1, 2022, for each of the 13 taxable years

1 following the calendar year in which the property initially becomes a qualified property; or

2 (ii) for any other qualified property, for each of the 10 taxable years  
3 following the calendar year in which the property initially becomes a qualified property.

4 (e) (1) A tax credit under this section is available to a qualified property for no  
5 more than 10 consecutive years or, in the case of newly constructed qualified property that  
6 provides both office and retail space and became eligible for the credit under this section  
7 on or after [January 1, 2019] **JULY 1, 2018**, but before January 1, 2022, no more than 13  
8 consecutive years, beginning with:

9 (i) the taxable year following the calendar year in which the real  
10 property initially becomes a qualified property; or

11 (ii) the taxable year in which the real property initially becomes a  
12 qualified property, subject to the approval of the appropriate local governing body and the  
13 Secretary of Commerce.

14 9–103.1.

15 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

16 (6) “Qualified property” means real property that is:

17 (i) located in a RISE zone;

18 (ii) not used for residential purposes; and

19 (iii) used in a trade or business by a business entity that locates in  
20 the RISE zone before January 1, 2023.

21 (7) “RISE zone” has the meaning stated in [§ 5–1401] **§ 10–137** of the  
22 Economic Development Article.

23 (b) The governing body of a county or of a municipal corporation shall grant a tax  
24 credit under this section against the property tax imposed on the eligible assessment of  
25 qualified property.

26 (c) (3) **[For] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS**  
27 **SUBSECTION, FOR** purposes of calculating the amount of the credit allowed under this  
28 section, the amount of property tax imposed on the eligible assessment shall be calculated  
29 without reduction for any credits allowed under this title.

30 (4) (i) For qualified property located in an enterprise zone designated  
31 under Title 5, Subtitle 7 of the Economic Development Article, the appropriate governing  
32 body shall calculate the amount of the tax credit under this section equal to 80% of the  
33 amount of property tax imposed on the eligible assessment of the qualified property, **AFTER**

1 **FIRST APPLYING ANY CREDITS REQUIRED UNDER § 9–103 OF THIS SUBTITLE**, for each  
2 of the 5 taxable years following the calendar year in which the property initially becomes a  
3 qualified property.

4 (ii) For qualified property located in a focus area designated under §  
5 5–706 of the Economic Development Article, the appropriate governing body shall calculate  
6 the amount of the tax credit under this section equal to 100% of the amount of property tax  
7 imposed on the eligible assessment of the qualified property, **AFTER FIRST APPLYING ANY**  
8 **CREDITS REQUIRED UNDER § 9–103 OF THIS SUBTITLE**, for each of the 5 taxable years  
9 following the calendar year in which the property initially becomes a qualified property.

10 (iii) 1. If a business entity is certified as consistent with the  
11 target strategy of the RISE zone and the qualified property is located in an enterprise zone  
12 or focus area, the amount of the required reimbursement under § 9–103(h) of this subtitle  
13 may only be for the amount required for the required property tax credits under § 9–103 of  
14 this subtitle.

15 2. The property tax credits required under subparagraphs (i)  
16 and (ii) of this paragraph do not alter the amount of funds required to be reimbursed under  
17 § 9–103(h) of this subtitle.

18 **3. IF A BUSINESS ENTITY IS CERTIFIED AS CONSISTENT**  
19 **WITH THE TARGET STRATEGY OF THE RISE ZONE AND THE QUALIFIED PROPERTY**  
20 **IS LOCATED IN AN ENTERPRISE ZONE OR FOCUS AREA, THE BUSINESS ENTITY MAY**  
21 **CONCURRENTLY CLAIM THE PROPERTY TAX CREDITS UNDER THIS SECTION AND §**  
22 **9–103 OF THIS SUBTITLE, PROVIDED THAT THE TOTAL PROPERTY TAX CREDITS IN**  
23 **ANY TAXABLE YEAR MAY NOT EXCEED 100% OF THE PROPERTY TAX THAT WOULD**  
24 **OTHERWISE BE DUE TO THE STATE AND LOCAL JURISDICTION.**

25 **4. THE CONCURRENT APPLICATION OF PROPERTY TAX**  
26 **CREDITS UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT ALTER THE TIME LIMITATION ON THE**  
27 **AVAILABILITY OF ANY PROPERTY TAX CREDIT.**

28 (5) The governing body of a county or municipal corporation may increase,  
29 by local law, the percentage under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

30 (6) (i) If a RISE zone is renewed as provided under **[§ 5–1404] §**  
31 **10–140** of the Economic Development Article, the governing body of a county or municipal  
32 corporation shall calculate the amount of the tax credit under this section equal to at least  
33 10% of the amount of property tax imposed on the eligible assessment of the qualified  
34 property, **AFTER FIRST APPLYING ANY CREDITS REQUIRED UNDER § 9–103 OF THIS**  
35 **SUBTITLE**, for the sixth through tenth taxable years.

36 (ii) The governing body of a county or municipal corporation may  
37 increase, by local law, the percentage under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph.

1 (d) (1) Except as provided in subsection (c)(6) of this section, a tax credit under  
2 this section is available to a qualified property for no more than 5 consecutive years  
3 beginning with:

4 (I) the taxable year following the calendar year in which the real  
5 property initially becomes a qualified property; OR

6 (II) **THE TAXABLE YEAR IN WHICH THE REAL PROPERTY**  
7 **INITIALLY BECOMES A QUALIFIED PROPERTY, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE**  
8 **APPROPRIATE LOCAL GOVERNING BODY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.**

9 (2) If the designation of a RISE zone expires, the tax credit under this  
10 section continues to be available to a qualified property.

11 (3) State property tax imposed on real property is not affected by this  
12 section.

13 (e) When a Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise zone is designated by the  
14 [Secretary of Commerce] **MARYLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**, the  
15 [Secretary] **CORPORATION** shall certify to the State Department of Assessments and  
16 Taxation:

17 (1) the real properties in the zone that are qualified properties for each  
18 taxable year for which the property tax credit under this section is to be granted; and

19 (2) the date that the real properties became qualified properties.

20 (f) Before property tax bills are sent, the State Department of Assessments and  
21 Taxation shall submit to the [Secretary of Commerce] **MARYLAND ECONOMIC**  
22 **DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION** a list containing:

23 (1) the location of each qualified property;

24 (2) the amount of the base year value for each qualified property; and

25 (3) the amount of the eligible assessment for each qualified property.

26 SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
27 as follows:

28 **Chapter 430 of the Acts of 2023**

29 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
30 1, 2023. [It shall remain effective for a period of 4 years and, at the end of June 30, 2027,  
31 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and

1 of no further force and effect.]

2 **Chapter 431 of the Acts of 2023**

3 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
4 1, 2023. [It shall remain effective for a period of 4 years and, at the end of June 30, 2027,  
5 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and  
6 of no further force and effect.]

7 **Chapter 515 of the Acts of 2000, as amended by Chapter 98 of the Acts of 2005,**  
8 **Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2010, Chapter 85 of the Acts of 2019, and Chapter 114 of**  
9 **the Acts of 2021**

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

11 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, this Act shall be applicable to all  
12 taxable years beginning after December 31, 1999 [but before January 1, 2026].

13 (b) If a taxpayer's taxable year for income tax purposes is not the calendar year[:

14 (1)], for the taxable year that ends in calendar year 2000, the taxpayer may  
15 apply for a prorated credit for research and development expenses paid or incurred in the  
16 taxable year for that part of the taxable year that falls in calendar year 2000[; and

17 (2) for the taxable year that begins in calendar year 2025, the taxpayer  
18 may apply for only a prorated credit for research and development expenses paid or  
19 incurred in the taxable year for that part of the taxable year that falls in calendar year  
20 2025].

21 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
22 1, 2000. [It shall remain effective for a period of 27 years and, at the end of June 30, 2027,  
23 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and  
24 of no further force and effect.]

25 **Chapter 516 of the Acts of 2000, as amended by Chapter 98 of the Acts of 2005,**  
26 **Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2010, Chapter 85 of the Acts of 2019, and Chapter 114 of**  
27 **the Acts of 2021**

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

29 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, this Act shall be applicable to all  
30 taxable years beginning after December 31, 1999 [but before January 1, 2026].

31 (b) If a taxpayer's taxable year for income tax purposes is not the calendar year[:

32 (1)], for the taxable year that ends in calendar year 2000, the taxpayer may

1 apply for a prorated credit for research and development expenses paid or incurred in the  
2 taxable year for that part of the taxable year that falls in calendar year 2000[; and

3 (2) for the taxable year that begins in calendar year 2025, the taxpayer  
4 may apply for only a prorated credit for research and development expenses paid or  
5 incurred in the taxable year for that part of the taxable year that falls in calendar year  
6 2025].

7 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
8 1, 2000. [It shall remain effective for a period of 27 years and, at the end of June 30, 2027,  
9 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and  
10 of no further force and effect.]

11 SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the publisher of the  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland, in consultation with and subject to the approval of the  
13 Department of Legislative Services, shall correct, with no further action required by the  
14 General Assembly, cross-references and terminology rendered incorrect by this Act. The  
15 publisher shall adequately describe any correction that is made in an editor's note following  
16 the section affected.

17 SECTION 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 4 of this Act shall be  
18 applicable to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

19 SECTION 9. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 5 of this Act shall be  
20 applicable to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2026.

21 SECTION 10. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 of  
22 this Act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

23 SECTION 11. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in  
24 Section 10 of this Act, this Act shall take effect June 1, 2026.