

# HOUSE BILL 960

C8, K3

6lr3071

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By: **Delegates Roberts, Acevero, Amprey, Patterson, Phillips, Taylor, Turner,  
White Holland, Wilkins, Wims, and Woods**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Economic Matters and Appropriations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Economic Development – Federal Employee–to–Entrepreneur Program –**  
3 **Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Federal Employee–to–Entrepreneur Program in the  
5 Department of Commerce to provide former or transitioning federal employees with  
6 certain training, tools, and mentorship for successfully transitioning to  
7 entrepreneurship; and generally relating to the Federal Employee–to–Entrepreneur  
8 Program.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Economic Development

11 Section 3–701 and 3–702 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 7. Federal  
12 Employee–to–Entrepreneur Program”

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Economic Development**

18 **SUBTITLE 7. FEDERAL EMPLOYEE–TO–ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAM.**

19 **3–701.**

20 IN THIS SUBTITLE, “PROGRAM” MEANS THE FEDERAL  
21 EMPLOYEE–TO–ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAM.

22 **3–702.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(A) THERE IS A FEDERAL EMPLOYEE-TO-ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAM IN**  
2 **THE DEPARTMENT.**

3           **(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE FORMER OR**  
4 **TRANSITIONING FEDERAL EMPLOYEES WITH TRAINING, TOOLS, AND MENTORSHIP**  
5 **NECESSARY FOR SUCCESSFULLY TRANSITIONING TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP.**

6           **(C) (1) EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE PROGRAM SHALL SERVE FOUR COHORTS**  
7 **OF 15 INDIVIDUALS.**

8                   **(2) FOR EACH COHORT, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE:**

9                           **(I) SESSIONS ON ENTREPRENEURIAL EXPLORATION AND**  
10 **BUSINESS AND CAPITAL READINESS;**

11                           **(II) ONE-ON-ONE COACHING FOR EACH PARTICIPANT;**

12                           **(III) TRAINING IN BUSINESS PLANNING, COMPLIANCE,**  
13 **MARKETING, BUDGETING, AND PITCH DEVELOPMENT; AND**

14                           **(IV) TOOLS TO CREATE A BUSINESS PLAN AND A CAPITAL**  
15 **READINESS STRATEGY.**

16           **(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

17                   **(1) ESTABLISH APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR AN INDIVIDUAL TO**  
18 **PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM; AND**

19                   **(2) DEVELOP A CURRICULUM FOR THE PROGRAM.**

20           **(E) FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE**  
21 **ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$400,000 TO THE DEPARTMENT TO**  
22 **CARRY OUT THE PROGRAM.**

23           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
24 October 1, 2026.