

SENATE BILL 816

C8

6lr1763
CF HB 1276

By: **Senator Hayes**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 1, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **West North Avenue Development Authority – Neighborhood Social Connection**
3 **and Development Program – Establishment**
4 **(WNADA Neighborhood Social Connection and Development Act)**

5 FOR the purpose of establishing the Neighborhood Social Connection and Development
6 Program within the West North Avenue Development Authority to provide technical
7 support and grants to certain organizations to implement programs that foster social
8 connections and activities in a certain area; authorizing the West North Avenue
9 Development Authority, in conjunction with the Department of Housing and
10 Community Development, to use funds from the Continuing the CORE Partnership
11 Fund to assist with the removal of certain blighted property within a certain area;
12 and generally relating to the Neighborhood Social Connection and Development
13 Program in the West North Avenue Development Authority.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
15 Article – Economic Development
16 Section 12–701
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

19 BY adding to
20 Article – Economic Development
21 Section 12–715
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 2 Article – Housing and Community Development
 3 Section 4–511(a) and (b)
 4 Annotated Code of Maryland
 5 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 7 Article – Housing and Community Development
 8 Section 4–511(c)
 9 Annotated Code of Maryland
 10 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Economic Development**

14 12–701.

- 15 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.
- 16 (b) “Authority” means the West North Avenue Development Authority.
- 17 (c) “Board” means the Board of Directors of the Authority.
- 18 (d) “Buffer zone” means the area within 250 yards of the target area.
- 19 (e) “Target area” means the portion of West North Avenue in Baltimore City
 20 between the 600 block and the 3200 block, inclusive.
- 21 (f) “West North Avenue Corridor” includes the geographic area consisting of the
 22 target area and the buffer zone.

23 **12–715.**

24 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “PROGRAM” MEANS THE NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL**
 25 **CONNECTION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.**

26 **(B) THERE IS A NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL CONNECTION AND DEVELOPMENT**
 27 **PROGRAM IN THE AUTHORITY.**

28 **(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO FOSTER SOCIAL CONNECTIONS**
 29 **TO SUPPORT NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE WEST NORTH AVENUE**
 30 **CORRIDOR BY:**

1 (1) PROVIDING TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO PARTICIPATING
2 ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS,
3 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS, VOLUNTEER GROUPS, AND NONPROFIT
4 ORGANIZATIONS; AND

5 (2) AWARDING GRANTS TO IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS THAT FOSTER
6 SOCIAL CONNECTIONS AND ACTIVITIES TAILORED TO SUPPORT NEIGHBORHOOD
7 DEVELOPMENT.

8 (D) (1) THE AUTHORITY SHALL AWARD GRANTS TO IMPLEMENT THE
9 PROGRAM.

10 (2) THE AUTHORITY MAY ANNUALLY SET ASIDE EXISTING FUNDS OF
11 NOT MORE THAN ~~\$500,000~~ \$150,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AWARDING GRANTS
12 UNDER THE PROGRAM.

13 (3) THE AUTHORITY MAY AWARD A GRANT UNDER THIS SECTION
14 ONLY FOR:

15 (I) SOCIAL GATHERINGS, INCLUDING BLOCK PARTIES,
16 CULTURAL FESTIVALS, PARADES, SPEAKER SERIES, AND SERVICE OR
17 RECREATIONAL EVENTS;

18 (II) OUTREACH INITIATIVES, INCLUDING NEIGHBORHOOD
19 NEWSLETTERS, COMMUNITY BULLETINS, OR DIGITAL CONTENT, TO RAISE
20 AWARENESS OF SOCIAL EVENTS AND CONNECT RESIDENTS WITH AVAILABLE
21 RESOURCES AND SERVICES;

22 (III) STIPENDS TO COMPENSATE VOLUNTEERS FOR THE TIME
23 USED TO ORGANIZE PROJECTS, REFRESHMENTS AT PROGRAM DESIGNATED
24 EVENTS, RENTAL AND EVENT SPACES, AND MATERIALS FOR PROGRAM EVENTS;

25 (IV) OPERATING SUPPORT FOR PARTICIPATING
26 ORGANIZATIONS;

27 (V) SOCIAL CONNECTION PROJECTS TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN
28 GREEN SPACES OR OTHER COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACES;

29 (VI) RESOURCES FOR TRAINING AND HIRING COMMUNITY
30 ORGANIZERS; AND

31 (VII) RESOURCES FOR GRANT APPLICATION EFFORTS.

1 (E) PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS SHALL COLLABORATE WITH
2 RESIDENTS OF THE WEST NORTH AVENUE CORRIDOR IN THE PLANNING AND
3 IMPLEMENTATION OF EVENTS AND PROJECTS TO ENSURE THAT ACTIVITIES
4 REFLECT NEIGHBORHOOD PRIORITIES AND, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THAT
5 EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES ARE LED BY RESIDENTS.

6 (F) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2029, THE AUTHORITY SHALL COMPILE
7 EVALUATIONS AND OUTCOMES OF PROGRAMS TO DEVELOP A TEMPLATE FOR
8 NEIGHBORHOOD BUILDING AND PROVIDE SCALING RECOMMENDATIONS TO SIMILAR
9 ORGANIZATIONS IN THE STATE AND ACROSS THE UNITED STATES.

10 (G) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2027, AND EACH DECEMBER 1
11 THEREAFTER, THE AUTHORITY SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN
12 ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY ON ITS COMPREHENSIVE GRANT-AWARDING ACTIVITIES.

14 Article – Housing and Community Development

15 4-511.

16 (a) In this section, “Fund” means the Continuing the CORE Partnership Fund.

17 (b) There is a Continuing the CORE Partnership Fund.

18 (c) The purpose of the Fund is to assist the Department, in conjunction with the
19 Maryland Stadium Authority, THE WEST NORTH AVENUE DEVELOPMENT
20 AUTHORITY, and Baltimore City, in expeditiously removing blighted property within
21 Baltimore City.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 October 1, 2026. It shall remain effective until the taking effect of the termination provision
24 specified in Section 3 of Chapters 215 and 216 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2025.
25 If that termination provision takes effect, this Act, with no further action required by the
26 General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect. This Act may not
27 be interpreted to have any effect on that termination provision.