

SENATE BILL 867

C8

6lr3214

By: Senator A. Washington

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Economic Development – Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission –**
3 **Alterations**

4 FOR the purpose of expanding the purpose of the Maryland Aerospace and Technology
5 Commission by promoting innovation in space science, space technology, and
6 aeronautics; altering the membership, duties, and staff responsibilities of the
7 Commission; requiring the Commission to appoint an Executive Director;
8 authorizing the Commission to provide grants to certain entities for certain
9 purposes; and generally relating to the Maryland Aerospace and Technology
10 Commission.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Economic Development
13 Section 5–2601, 5–2602, 5–2603(a) and (d), 5–2604, 5–2605, and 5–2608(a)
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 5–2603(b) and (c)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

23 **Article – Economic Development**

24 5–2601.

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) "Commission" means the Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission.

2 (c) **"ELIGIBLE ENTITY" MEANS:**

3 (1) A BUSINESS OR NONPROFIT ENTITY INVOLVED IN
4 AEROSPACE-RELATED TECHNOLOGIES;

5 (2) A GOVERNMENT ENTITY; OR

6 (3) AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT CONDUCTS
7 AEROSPACE RESEARCH WITHIN THE STATE.

8 (D) "Institution of higher education" means an educational institution in the State
9 that:

10 (1) by law or charter:

11 (i) is a public or nonprofit educational institution; and

12 (ii) is authorized to provide:

13 1. a program of education beyond the high school level and
14 award a bachelor's or advanced degree; or

15 2. a program of 2 or more years' duration that is accepted for
16 full credit toward a bachelor's degree; and

17 (2) meets the standards and regulations that the Maryland Higher
18 Education Commission prescribes and is authorized to issue a certificate, diploma, or
19 degree under Title 12 of the Education Article.

20 [(d)] (E) "Zone" means an aerospace and technology zone designated under §
21 5-2607 of this subtitle.

22 5-2602.

23 (a) There is a Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission in the
24 Department.

25 (b) The purpose of the Commission is to promote innovation in the fields of space
26 exploration, **SPACE SCIENCE, SPACE TECHNOLOGY, AERONAUTICS**, and commercial
27 aerospace opportunities, including the integration of space, aeronautics, and aviation
28 industries into the economy of the State.

29 5-2603.

(a) The Commission consists of the following members:

(1) the Secretary, or the Secretary's designee;

(2) a member of the Senate **FROM EACH DESIGNATED AEROSPACE**
nted by the President of the Senate, who shall serve as [an] ex officio nonvoting
MEMBERS;

(3) a member of the House of Delegates **FROM EACH DESIGNATED ZONE**, appointed by the Speaker of the House, who shall serve as [an] existing [member] **MEMBERS**;

15 (6) the Director of the [Federal Bureau of Investigation] **NAVAL CENTER**
16 **FOR SPACE TECHNOLOGY OF THE NAVAL RESEARCH LAB**, or the Director's designee,
17 who shall serve as an ex officio nonvoting member;

(7) the [president of the Goddard Contractors' Association] **CHAIR OF THE MARYLAND AEROSPACE ALLIANCE**, or the [president's] **CHAIR'S** designee;

20 (8) the President of the University of Maryland Baltimore County, or the
21 President's designee;

(9) the President of the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance, or the President's designee;

24 (10) THE COMMAND MASTER CHIEF OF NAVAL AIR STATION
25 PATUXENT RIVER, OR THE MASTER CHIEF'S DESIGNEE, WHO SHALL SERVE AS AN
26 EX OFFICIO NONVOTING MEMBER;

(11) the president of the Maryland Space Business Roundtable, or the president's designee;

29 [11] (12) the President of the University of Maryland, College Park, or the
30 President's designee;

31 [12] (13) the director of the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, or
32 the director's designee;

1 **[(13)] (14)** the director of the Association of Universities for Research in
2 Astronomy, or the director's designee;

3 **[(14)] (15)** the director of the Space Telescope Science Institute, or the
4 director's designee;

5 **(16) THE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM,**
6 **OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;**

7 **(17) THE CHAIR OF THE MARYLAND AVIATION COMMISSION, OR THE**
8 **CHAIR'S DESIGNEE, WHO SHALL SERVE AS AN EX OFFICIO NONVOTING MEMBER;**

9 **(18) THE CHAIR OF THE MARYLAND ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY**
10 **COUNCIL, OR THE CHAIR'S DESIGNEE, WHO SHALL SERVE AS AN EX OFFICIO**
11 **NONVOTING MEMBER;**

12 **(19) THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF MARYLAND TECHNOLOGY**
13 **DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (TEDCO), OR THE CHIEF'S DESIGNEE;**

14 **(20) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND ECONOMIC**
15 **DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MEDCO), OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE; and**

16 **[(15)] (21)** the following members, appointed by the Governor with the
17 advice and consent of the Senate:

18 (i) a representative of institutions of higher education;

19 (ii) **[a] AN AEROSPACE** representative of the National Society of
20 Black Engineers;

21 (iii) a representative of the Maryland aerospace manufacturing
22 community; **[and]**

23 (iv) **[a representative] UP TO THREE REPRESENTATIVES** of the
24 aerospace technology industry; **AND**

25 **(v) UP TO THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMERCIAL**
26 **SPACE INDUSTRY.**

27 (b) A member of the Commission:

28 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

3 (c) The Commission and its members are subject to the Maryland Public Ethics
4 Law.

5 (d) (1) The term of an appointed member is 4 years.

(2) The terms of the appointed members are staggered as required by the terms provided for members on October 1, [2024] **2026**.

10 (4) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for the
11 rest of the term until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

12 5-2604.

13 (A) (1) SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR, THE
14 COMMISSION SHALL APPOINT AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

15 (2) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SERVES AT THE PLEASURE OF THE
16 COMMISSION.

17 (3) THE COMMISSION SHALL DETERMINE THE SALARY OF THE
18 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

19 **(B) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S**
20 **DESIGNEE, SHALL:**

21 (1) SERVE AS THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE
22 COMMISSION:

26 (3) MANAGE EXECUTION OF ALL PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES AS
27 CONSIDERED NECESSARY BY THE COMMISSION:

8 [(a)] (c) (1) The Department shall provide staff support to the Commission.

(I) ATTEND ALL MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION;

11 (II) ACT AS SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION;

14 (IV) CONNECT THE COMMISSION TO OTHER RELEVANT
15 ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER STATE DEPARTMENTS.

16 [b] (D) The Commission may retain consultants as necessary.

17 5-2605.

18 (A) The Commission shall:

19 (1) identify research and funding opportunities for entities in this State
20 that:

21 (i) strengthen and enhance the State's leadership position in civil,
22 commercial, and military aerospace research and development;

23 (ii) integrate the aerospace industry into the economy of the State;]

24 (II) ATTRACT INVESTMENT INTO THE STATE'S AEROSPACE
25 INDUSTRY WITH AN EMPHASIS ON COMMERCIALIZATION;

26 (III) PROVIDE TANGIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS;

6 (2) establish advisory committees as needed;

9 [(3)] (4) develop aerospace-related educational opportunities within the
10 State in coordination with local educational institutions; and

13 (B) THE COMMISSION MAY PROVIDE GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES FOR
14 THE PURPOSE OF:

15 (1) DEVELOPMENT OF EMERGING AEROSPACE-RELATED
16 TECHNOLOGIES:

22 (4) DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS
23 THAT ENHANCE THE STATE'S ABILITY TO COMPETE IN THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY.

24 (C) A GRANT AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSISTENT WITH
25 THE STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPED BY THE COMMISSION

(D) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO ESTABLISH:

27 (1) A COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS:

1 (3) PROCESSES AND METRICS FOR MONITORING THE SUCCESS AND
2 IMPACT OF GRANT AWARDS.

7 5-2608.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of the initial
12 members of the Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission appointed under §
13 5-2603(a)(21)(ii), (iv), and (v) of the Economic Development Article, as enacted by Section
14 1 of this Act, shall expire as follows:

15 (1) two members in 2028;

16 (2) two members in 2029; and

17 (3) two remaining members in 2030.

18 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
19 1, 2026.