

SENATE BILL 869

C8

6lr2426

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 Workforce Launch Pilot Program –**
3 **Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Workforce Launch Pilot Program in the
5 Department of Commerce to provide certain workforce training to qualified business
6 entities; and generally relating to the Maryland Workforce Launch Pilot Program.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Economic Development

9 Section 3–701 through 3–706 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 7. Maryland
10 Workforce Launch Pilot Program”

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Economic Development**

16 **SUBTITLE 7. MARYLAND WORKFORCE LAUNCH PILOT PROGRAM.**

17 **3–701.**

18 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
19 INDICATED.

20 (B) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE MARYLAND WORKFORCE LAUNCH PILOT
21 PROGRAM.

22 (C) “QUALIFIED BUSINESS ENTITY” MEANS A BUSINESS ENTITY THAT:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (1) DOES NOT HAVE A PHYSICAL LOCATION IN THE STATE;

2 (2) IS IN ACTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE DEPARTMENT TO
3 ESTABLISH A LOCATION IN THE STATE FROM OUTSIDE THE STATE; AND

4 (3) ENTERS INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT TO
5 PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.

6 (D) “STRATEGIC INDUSTRY” MEANS AN INDUSTRY SECTOR IDENTIFIED BY
7 THE DEPARTMENT IN THE STATE’S ECONOMIC STRATEGIC PLAN.

8 **3-702.**

9 THERE IS A MARYLAND WORKFORCE LAUNCH PILOT PROGRAM IN THE
10 DEPARTMENT.

11 **3-703.**

12 THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE CUSTOMIZED, NO-COST
13 WORKFORCE TRAINING AS A BUSINESS ATTRACTION TOOL TO RECRUIT STRATEGIC
14 INDUSTRIES AND QUALIFIED BUSINESS ENTITIES TO THE STATE.

15 **3-704.**

16 (A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.

17 (B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PARTNER WITH NOT MORE THAN TWO
18 COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN THE STATE TO DELIVER TRAINING SERVICES UNDER THE
19 PROGRAM.

20 (C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DISTRIBUTE FUNDS TO A PARTNER
21 COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO COVER THE DIRECT COSTS OF DEVELOPING AND
22 DELIVERING CUSTOMIZED TRAINING FOR A QUALIFIED BUSINESS ENTITY.

23 (D) FOR EACH QUALIFIED BUSINESS ENTITY RECEIVING ASSISTANCE
24 UNDER THE PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH PERFORMANCE
25 METRICS, INCLUDING:

26 (1) THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME JOBS CREATED; AND

27 (2) THE SALARY THAT THE QUALIFIED BUSINESS ENTITY IS
28 PROVIDING TO THE INDIVIDUALS BEING TRAINED.

1 **3-705.**

2 (A) ANY CURRICULUM, MANUALS, OR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS
3 DEVELOPED BY A COMMUNITY COLLEGE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE OWNED
4 BY THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

5 (B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE IN EACH AGREEMENT WITH A
6 QUALIFIED BUSINESS ENTITY A PROVISION REQUIRING THE QUALIFIED BUSINESS
7 ENTITY TO REIMBURSE THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE COST OF THE TRAINING
8 SERVICES IF THE QUALIFIED BUSINESS ENTITY FAILS TO MEET THE PERFORMANCE
9 METRICS ESTABLISHED UNDER § 3-704 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

10 **3-706.**

11 ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2028, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A
12 REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE
13 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE
14 PROGRAM, INCLUDING REVENUE GENERATED BY THE QUALIFIED BUSINESS
15 ENTITIES, JOBS CREATED BY QUALIFIED BUSINESS ENTITIES, AND
16 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATEWIDE EXPANSION.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 October 1, 2026. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of September
19 30, 2029, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
20 abrogated and of no further force and effect.