

# SENATE BILL 869

C8

6lr2426

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By: **Senator A. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

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Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 2, 2026

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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.**

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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           **(B) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE MARYLAND WORKFORCE LAUNCH PILOT**  
2 **PROGRAM.**

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

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

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

7                   **(3) ENTERS INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT TO**  
8 **PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.**

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

11 **3-702.**

12           **THERE IS A MARYLAND WORKFORCE LAUNCH PILOT PROGRAM IN THE**  
13 **DEPARTMENT.**

14 **3-703.**

15           **THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE CUSTOMIZED, NO-COST**  
16 **WORKFORCE TRAINING AS A BUSINESS ATTRACTION TOOL TO RECRUIT STRATEGIC**  
17 **INDUSTRIES AND QUALIFIED BUSINESS ENTITIES TO THE STATE.**

18 **3-704.**

19           **(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.**

20           **(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PARTNER WITH NOT MORE THAN TWO**  
21 **COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN THE STATE TO DELIVER TRAINING SERVICES UNDER THE**  
22 **PROGRAM.**

23           **(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DISTRIBUTE FUNDS TO A PARTNER**  
24 **COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO COVER THE DIRECT COSTS OF DEVELOPING AND**  
25 **DELIVERING CUSTOMIZED TRAINING FOR A QUALIFIED BUSINESS ENTITY.**

26           **(D) FOR EACH QUALIFIED BUSINESS ENTITY RECEIVING ASSISTANCE**  
27 **UNDER THE PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH PERFORMANCE**  
28 **METRICS, INCLUDING:**

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

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

4 **3-705.**

5           **(A) ANY CURRICULUM, MANUALS, OR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**  
6 **DEVELOPED BY A COMMUNITY COLLEGE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE OWNED**  
7 **BY THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE.**

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

13 **3-706.**

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

20           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
21 October 1, 2026. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of September  
22 30, 2029, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be  
23 abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.