

SENATE BILL 924

C8

6lr2903
CF HB 1033

By: **Senator Harris**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Social and Economic Mobility – Maryland Chamber of Commerce**
3 **Grant Program – Established**
4 **(Business Networks Access Act)**

5 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Chamber of Commerce Grant Program in
6 the Department of Social and Economic Mobility to provide grants for membership
7 subsidies for underrepresented individuals and inter-chamber events; specifying
8 certain application requirements for the Program; requiring Program applicants to
9 meet certain eligibility requirements; and generally relating to the Maryland
10 Chamber of Commerce Grant Program in the Department of Social and Economic
11 Mobility.

12 BY adding to
13 Article – State Government
14 Section 9–4109
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – State Government**

20 **9–4109.**

21 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
22 **INDICATED.**

23 **(2) “CHAMBER” MEANS A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN THE STATE.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(3) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE MARYLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GRANT PROGRAM.

(B) THERE IS A MARYLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GRANT PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.

(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO CHAMBERS FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

(1) MEMBERSHIP SUBSIDIES FOR UNDERREPRESENTED INDIVIDUALS; AND

(2) INTER-CHAMBER EVENTS.

(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP A UNIFIED APPLICATION REQUIRING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

(1) GRANT TYPE;

(2) CHAMBER PROGRAMMING AND CAPACITY TO SUPPORT GRANT ACTIVITIES;

(3) POINT OF CONTACT RESPONSIBLE FOR GRANT ADMINISTRATION;

(4) PROJECTED TIMELINE;

(5) PROPOSED BUDGET;

(6) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS SPECIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT; AND

(7) FOR MEMBERSHIP SUBSIDIES, A BRIEF JUSTIFICATION OF WHY A POTENTIAL MEMBER IS UNDERREPRESENTED IN A CHAMBER.

(E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

(1) REVIEW APPLICATIONS;

(2) DETERMINE AWARD AMOUNTS; AND

(3) NOTIFY CHAMBERS REGARDING AN AWARD.

(F) (1) TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A MEMBERSHIP GRANT, A CHAMBER SHALL DEMONSTRATE:

(IV) RELATED COSTS.

(4) CHAMBERS RECEIVING INTER-CHAMBER GRANTS SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT AFTER EACH EVENT WITH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

(I) ATTENDANCE;

(II) EVENT ACTIVITIES; AND

(III) RECEIPTS FOR EVENT EXPENDITURES.

(H) FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$100,000 TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PROGRAM.

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