

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.



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

9 (2) INTER-CHAMBER EVENTS.

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

12 (1) GRANT TYPE:

(3) POINT OF CONTACT RESPONSIBLE FOR GRANT ADMINISTRATION:

16 (4) PROJECTED TIMELINE:

17 (5) PROPOSED BUDGET:

22 (E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

23 (1) REVIEW APPLICATIONS:

24 (2) DETERMINE AWARD AMOUNTS: AND

25 (3) NOTIFY CHAMBERS REGARDING AN AWARD

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

5 (II) ANNUAL FUNDING FOR AT LEAST ONE FULL-TIME PAID
6 POSITION.

(I) THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL AWARDS; AND

15 (II) PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK ON THE UTILITY OF THE
16 CHAMBER'S PROGRAMMING.

17 (G) (1) TWO OR MORE CHAMBERS MAY APPLY JOINTLY FOR AN
18 INTER-CHAMBER GRANT UNDER THIS SECTION.

20 (I) A PLAN FOR THE PROPOSED EVENT;

21 (II) EXPECTED ATTENDANCE; AND

22 (III) COST.

23 (3) **ELIGIBLE USES OF INTER-CHAMBER GRANTS INCLUDE:**

24 (I) VENUE EXPENSES;

25 (II) EVENT PROMOTION;

26 (III) STAFF SUPPORT; AND

(IV) RELATED COSTS.

(I) ATTENDANCE;

(II) EVENT ACTIVITIES; AND

(III) RECEIPTS FOR EVENT EXPENDITURES.

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

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