

Delegate Lily Qi

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**HB521: Maryland Small Business Innovation Research Technical Assistance Program—
Establishment (SB583)**

There is currently no program offering assistance to Maryland small businesses assisting with SBIR Phase 0, I, or II grant applications. HB521 creates the Maryland Small Business Innovation Research Technical Assistance Program to encourage small businesses to apply for federal SBIR grants and offer technical assistance from Phase 0 through Phase II. Businesses are eligible if they are based in Maryland, have significant economic impact, and fewer than 250 employees

Anticipated Questions

- **Do other states have Phase 0 assistance?**

Most states that have grant matching programs offer assistance in securing federal SBIR grants. Hawaii, Nebraska, Oregon, South Carolina, and West Virginia explicitly state Phase 0 support between \$3,000 and \$6,000.

- **Options to implement technical assistance**

Utilize the National Science Foundation's I-Corps which offers training and insights to researchers. Other states currently use I-Corps to educate its applicants on SBIR grant knowledge. The Maryland Department of Commerce recommends training 100 private sector and university researchers annually. After training completion, the partnership would be expanded to Phase 0 SBIR application assistance to researchers and small businesses.