



**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

**HOUSE BILL 799 - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - MARYLAND INNOVATION INITIATIVE  
UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP EXTENSION PROGRAM - ESTABLISHMENT**

**FEBRUARY 20, 2025  
SUPPORT**

The Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) is dedicated to economic growth through the fostering of an inclusive entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem. TEDCO discovers, invests in, and helps build great Maryland-based technology companies.

As drafted, HB 799 - Economic Development - Maryland Innovation Initiative University Partnership Extension Program – Establishments - establishes the Maryland Innovation Initiative University Partnership Extension Program within the Maryland Innovation Initiative, extending the Maryland Innovation Initiative University Partnership Pilot Program, which was created under CH697 of 2021 and expired in 2024.

Chapter 697 of 2021 established the Maryland Innovation University Partnership Pilot Program as a two-year pilot program expanding MII's model to entrepreneurial activities at two of the State's four-year public comprehensive universities, Bowie State University and Frostburg State University. The Program was designed to bolster the pilot universities as anchor economic development institutions for their respective regions and communities and to include the two pilot comprehensive universities in the ecosystem of knowledge and resources available at the State's other major research institution partners party to the MII program, strengthening the respective regional economic development strategies of FSU and BSU and fostering a statewide university entrepreneurship and commercialization ecosystem.

Over the duration of two fiscal years beginning July 1, 2022, the MII worked collaboratively with the two pilot universities to design and implement programs to encourage and support student and faculty entrepreneurship, industry collaboration, and technology commercialization, leveraging state resources to raise awareness, deploy educational materials, and directly fund proposals to strengthen each university's capacity to commercialize innovations. Through these programs, MII, BSU, and FSU have seen significant advancements towards the development of a resilient and lasting infrastructure that fosters and supports innovation and entrepreneurship at the two pilot institutions. Additional information on specific programs launched at each partner University through the University Pilot Program is made available on the Maryland Innovation Initiative University Partnership Pilot Program Report submitted on July 1, 2024.

Given the promising opportunities to further strengthen technology-based economic development for the State of Maryland, TEDCO supports the continuation of the partnership established through the program, and several efforts funded through the Program will continue beyond the scope of the pilot. These efforts are supported jointly by the MII Technology Validation Program and technology transfer infrastructure at each university. HB 799 would enable and formalize this continued partnership.

TEDCO thanks the State of Maryland for its past support of the University Pilot program and appreciates the opportunity to provide a position statement in support of HB799.