



**HOUSE ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE**

**Senate Bill 905**

**Maryland Technology Development Corporation - Maryland Advanced Manufacturing Grant  
Program - Established**

**April 1, 2026**

**Favorable**

Chair Valderrama, Vice Chair Charkoudian and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill 905. The bill establishes a dedicated grant program within the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) to support the growth of Maryland-based companies engaged in regenerative medicine and other forms of advanced manufacturing. The bill creates a capital fund that provides financial assistance for facility upgrades, infrastructure improvements, and specialized equipment, helping early-stage and scaling businesses expand their production capabilities and remain competitive within the state.

The University System of Maryland (USM) is composed of twelve distinguished institutions and three regional centers. We award eight out of every ten bachelor's degrees in the state. Each of USM's institutions has a distinct and unique approach to the mission of educating students and promoting the economic, intellectual, and cultural growth of its surrounding community. These institutions are located throughout the state, from western Maryland to the Eastern Shore, with the flagship campus in the Washington suburbs. The USM includes three Historically Black Institutions, comprehensive institutions and research universities, and the country's largest public online institution.

Across the USM, research enterprises and industry partners are working at the forefront of regenerative medicine, advanced biomanufacturing, clean-energy technologies, and next-generation materials. Yet many growing companies find themselves constrained not by a lack of ideas, but by the capital-intensive demands of scaling those ideas into production. Senate Bill 905 directly addresses this gap by establishing a dedicated, strategic grant fund housed at TEDCO to help homegrown firms modernize facilities, acquire specialized equipment, and expand the manufacturing capacity necessary for long-term competitiveness.

Advanced manufacturing has a well-documented multiplier effect, creating broad economic benefit far beyond the initial investment. Maryland already has competitive strength in critical areas including the life sciences, regenerative medicine, and other emerging technologies that require precise, sophisticated production environments. Rather than watching promising firms migrate to regions with lower barriers to scale, this targeted grant program helps ensure that innovations discovered in Maryland are built in Maryland. The state's manufacturing and technology landscape includes success stories that reflect this trajectory – from cell therapy manufacturing expansions in Gaithersburg to biosafety testing operations growing in Rockville. These examples illustrate the broader opportunity: that when Maryland invests in the infrastructure of advanced manufacturing, new jobs follow, often at a multiple that strengthens entire regional economies.

The USM is deeply engaged in this transformation. Institutions are not only educating the next generation of engineers, scientists, and technologists, but are also serving as active engines for high-tech product development and commercial manufacturing:

#### **University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) and HighT-Tech**

HighT-Tech, a company commercializing ultra-fast high-temperature synthesis methods for materials manufacturing, spun out of UMCP and has raised more than \$12 million to scale technologies relevant to catalysts, energy membranes, and aerospace coatings.

#### **Maryland Industrial Partnerships (MIPS)**

Administered through UMCP but serving all USM institutions, MIPS has supported more than 705 Maryland companies through over 1,003 projects, directly contributing to 14,000 high-tech jobs and \$52.7 billion in product revenue. These university-industry collaborations bridge research and manufacturing, demonstrating how academic expertise helps companies bring new technologies to market.

#### **UMD's Advanced Manufacturing Laboratory (Clark School of Engineering)**

This laboratory provides state-of-the-art facilities for manufacturing research and training, including CNC machining, injection molding, ceramic processing, layered manufacturing, and high-temperature sintering – resources that support both workforce development and technology prototyping critical for emerging manufacturers.

#### **ION Storage Systems – UMCP-developed battery manufacturing innovation**

A growing advanced battery manufacturer in Beltsville, ION Storage Systems is scaling solid-state battery production using technology originating at UMCP's Energy Innovation Institute. The company has expanded rapidly – reaching roughly 70 employees and securing over \$20 million in federal support for manufacturing expansion.

#### **Maryland Manufacturing Partnerships (MMP)**

A recent initiative launched by the University of Maryland's MTEch and the Regional Manufacturing Institute, MMP brings USM faculty, industry experts, and statewide resources together to strengthen manufacturers through technology acceleration, lean manufacturing improvements, and workforce support. This reflects USM's central role in preparing companies for 21st-century production.

These examples underscore how deeply integrated USM institutions are in Maryland's manufacturing ecosystem – and how often companies depend on university expertise, specialized equipment, and skilled graduates to scale new technologies. Senate Bill 905 reinforces this pipeline by supporting companies at their most vulnerable and capital-intensive moment: the transition from research and prototyping to full-scale production.

Senate Bill 905 is an investment in Maryland's long-term scientific and technological leadership. It strengthens the state's competitiveness, expands the opportunities available to graduates of Maryland's universities, and ensures that our homegrown companies can remain anchored in the communities where their innovations were born.

For these reasons, the USM strongly supports Senate Bill 905 and urges a Favorable Report.



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