



**Senate Bill 422 - Maryland Technology Development Corporation –
Long COVID Innovation Grant and Loan Program**

Senate Finance Committee
Letter of Information

February 12, 2026

Chair Beidle and members of the Finance Committee,

The Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) respectfully submits this Letter of Information to provide general information and context related to Senate Bill 422 – Maryland Technology Development Corporation – Long COVID Innovation Grant and Loan Program.

TEDCO is a public instrumentality of the State of Maryland created to advance technology-based economic development, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Serving Maryland’s innovation ecosystem, TEDCO discovers, invests in, and helps build Maryland-based technology companies and is dedicated to economic growth through the fostering of an inclusive entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem.

Senate Bill 422 establishes the Long COVID Fund within TEDCO to provide grants and loans supporting State-funded Long COVID innovation. The bill also requires TEDCO to contract with an independent review committee composed of scientific experts in the field of Long COVID to conduct the review, evaluation, ranking, and rating of submitted proposals. SB 422 does not include an appropriation or otherwise provide funding for the establishment or operation of the program or fund. TEDCO appreciates the budgetary conditions of Maryland and recognizes the challenges of additional funding obligations.

Based on an evaluation of similar programs, TEDCO anticipates that a program of this nature would require funding of at least \$5,000,000 - \$10,000,000 to operate at a scale sufficient to meaningfully support Long COVID innovation and research translation. As an emerging and rapidly developing field, Long COVID innovation has limited ecosystem maturity and does not currently benefit from a clearly defined funding or commercialization framework comparable to those available for more established research areas. In the absence of a mature and established ecosystem, the responsible launch and administration of a State-level grant and loan program require additional upfront structure and administrative capacity to ensure effective implementation.

As with the establishment of any new grant or loan program, TEDCO anticipates certain fixed administrative and operational costs associated with program launch and ongoing management. These costs typically include, but are not limited to, program design and oversight, contracting

with and administering an independent scientific review process, legal and compliance support, financial management and reporting, and outreach and applicant support. Such baseline costs are generally incurred regardless of the number or size of awards made under the program.

Based on a funding level of \$10,000,000, TEDCO estimates a minimum annual administrative cost of approximately \$500,000 to support required program functions, including contracting with an independent scientific review committee, staffing a subject-matter expert to serve as program manager, and providing administrative, legal, and financial management support.

At this time, SB 422 authorizes the creation of the program and fund but does not include a dedicated or identified funding mechanism to support awards or administration. Absent an identified funding source, the scope and timing of program implementation would necessarily depend on future state funding decisions.

TEDCO would note that it currently administers a range of grant and investment programs that support early-stage, research-driven innovation in the life sciences and health-related sectors. Within existing statutory authority and program parameters, and subject to the availability of funding, eligible Long COVID-related research and innovation efforts may already be supported through these existing programs using established application processes, review mechanisms, and oversight structures.

TEDCO appreciates the opportunity to provide this information regarding SB 422 and thanks the Committee for its consideration. TEDCO remains committed to the responsible stewardship of State-authorized programs and is available to provide additional information to assist the Committee.