



SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Senate Bill 763

Maryland Technology Development Corporation - Maryland Growth Initiative - Established March 5, 2026 Favorable

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill 763. Senate Bill 763 establishes the Maryland Growth Initiative within the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) to support Maryland start-up companies as they move from early development into scaling. The bill also creates a dedicated Maryland Growth Initiative Fund, administered by TEDCO, and requires the Governor to include \$5 million annually to capitalize it.

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. All USM institutions are deeply embedded in Maryland's innovation and commercialization ecosystem, including early-stage venture creation, technology transfer, and the growth of companies that choose to remain in the state because of USM-linked resources. These connections align directly with the bill's objective: helping Maryland-based firms scale without relocating.

The [USM Office of Research and Economic Development](#) exists explicitly to promote technology commercialization, entrepreneurship, and partnerships that drive Maryland's economic development. It supports founders and private-sector partners through programs such as the USM Launch Fund and the Maryland Momentum Fund, a system-wide investment vehicle for early-stage USM-affiliated companies. These programs help new companies grow within Maryland's borders. [UM Ventures](#), the joint technology commercialization effort of University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP), actively invests in and supports Maryland-based startups through programs such as:

- The [Baltimore Fund](#), which provides financial incentives for companies affiliated with Maryland public higher education institutions to locate in Baltimore City, directly supporting retention of university-affiliated companies.
- [The Maryland Momentum Fund](#), staffed by UM Ventures, which provides early-stage capital for USM-affiliated companies – capital that directly parallels the funding category created in Senate Bill 763 (post-seed/Series A).
- Trajectory Next Accelerator and multiple translational research and commercialization programs designed to move technologies from labs to Maryland markets.

The [Maryland Innovation Initiative \(MII\)](#), administered by TEDCO, has proven to be one of the strongest collaborations between the state, TEDCO, and Maryland’s research universities. MII accelerates university-based technologies into Maryland-based companies, and its mission is explicitly to bring *“innovation from university research laboratories into the commercial market.”* Companies launched through MII commonly stay in Maryland because MII requires strong institutional ties, mentorship, and follow-on support from TEDCO – again directly aligned with the new fund in Senate Bill 763.

[The Maryland Innovation Extension](#) is a statewide entrepreneur support network part of UMD I-Corps and supported jointly by TEDCO MII, TEDCO RBII, TEDCO UBII and the University System of Maryland, explicitly exists to support Maryland-based deep-tech entrepreneurs. The program offers free entrepreneurship training, customer discovery programs, and venture support to entrepreneurs across the state, aimed at helping them grow in place. USM research parks, such as those at UMBC, UMCP, and UMB serve as essential “stickiness” factors for companies deciding whether to remain in Maryland as they scale.

Taken together, these USM-TEDCO partnerships create a robust upstream and mid-stage pipeline feeding directly into the scale-up capital envisioned in Senate Bill 763. The bill’s goal – to prevent the out-migration of Maryland-grown companies – is already partially achieved through USM’s existing initiatives. Senate Bill 763 would deepen this pipeline and allows companies mentored, incubated, or commercialized through USM to access larger follow-on funding without moving to other states.

For these reasons, the USM urges a Favorable Report on Senate Bill 763.

