

NANCY J. KING  
Legislative District 39  
Montgomery County

MAJORITY LEADER

Budget and Taxation Committee

*Chair*  
Education, Business, and  
Administration Subcommittee



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 123  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3686  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3686  
Nancy.King@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Senate Bill 392 – TEDCO – Long COVID Innovation Grant and Loan Program**

February 12, 2026

Madame Chair and Members of the Finance Committee:

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), “COVID-19 can lead to serious long-term effects, known as post COVID-19 condition (PCC). It is also commonly referred to as long COVID. Post COVID-19 condition is characterized by a range of symptoms which usually start within 3 months of the initial COVID-19 illness and last at least 2 months. PCC can affect a person’s ability to perform daily activities such as work or household chores and restrict social participation.” WHO further reports that, “Millions of people have been affected with post COVID-19 condition since the beginning of the pandemic. Global estimates indicate that 6 in 100 people with COVID-19 develop post COVID-19 condition.”

A large range of symptoms have been reported by people with Long COVID, but common symptoms include fatigue, aches and pains in muscles or joints, feeling breathless, headaches, difficulty in thinking or concentrating, and alterations in taste. Impaired sleep, depression and anxiety are also common occurrences. These symptoms sometimes persist from their initial illness or develop after their recovery. Symptoms can be mild to severely debilitating and affect someone’s capacity to work and perform their daily activities.

Reporting on a study done by City University of New York, the study’s senior author Professor Bruce Y. Lee stated, “Our results quantify the already significant burden of long COVID on society. This includes productivity losses that are hitting businesses around the country and healthcare costs that are further straining our healthcare system. These costs could end up trickling down to everyone who pays insurance premiums and taxes.”

Maryland has long been recognized for its strong support of innovative and groundbreaking research and development across a wide range of fields. Senate Bill 392 will set Maryland up to be a leader in research, product development and manufacturing as it relates to the treatment of Long COVID. The Long COVID Innovation Grant and Loan Program will be administered by the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO). Funding for the program can come from state appropriations or any other source accepted for the benefit of the fund.

Long COVID is having a lasting impact on public health. We need to act swiftly and proactively to raise awareness, improve patient support and address all the challenges associated with Long Covid, and so I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 392.