



Governor Wes Moore

Lt. Governor Aruna Miller

Secretary Walter L. Simmons

Bill Number: House Bill 1070
Title: Department of Social and Economic Mobility – Workforce Opportunities Grant Program and Fund
Committee: Government, Labor, and Elections
Hearing Date: February 26, 2026
Position: Favorable with Amendments

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Social and Economic Mobility (DoSEM) submits this Letter of Information regarding House Bill 1070. This bill would establish a Workforce Opportunities Grant Program and a corresponding special, nonlapsing Workforce Opportunities Grant Fund within DoSEM to support the planning and execution of workforce events and job fairs that connect job seekers with employers.

HB 1070 is designed to strengthen a practical “front door” to employment by investing in workforce events and job fairs that directly connect Marylanders to hiring employers across multiple industries and regions. In practice, these events can:

- Expand access to work by bringing hiring employers and job seekers into the same place, particularly in regions or communities where transportation barriers, limited networks, or limited exposure to employers can reduce access to opportunities;
- Improve wages by connecting job seekers to employers with immediate hiring needs across sectors, and by supporting events that are structured to move participants from interest to interview to hire;
- Build pathways to wealth by accelerating entry into stable employment and creating repeatable, regionally accessible hiring touchpoints that can connect Marylanders to advancement opportunities and employer-connected career pathways over time.

Subject to available funding, DoSEM would establish a competitive grant application process for nonprofits, local workforce development boards, and partnerships (including employers and community organizations) that can run events across regions, engage multiple industries, and demonstrate capacity to connect job seekers directly with employers. Grant funds could be used for outreach, logistics, venues, support services, staffing, and event coordination.

The bill also requires an annual report beginning in 2028 with metrics including event locations, counts of participating employers and job seekers, and job placement/hires resulting from funded events. DoSEM can implement HB 1070 using existing resources.

DoSEM appreciates the committee’s consideration of HB 1070 and is available to answer questions and provide technical information.