



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 27

DATE: February 10, 2026

SPONSOR: Delegate Wims

ASSIGNED TO: Health

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POSITION: FAVORABLE (Department of Health and Human Services)

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### Maryland Technology Development Corporation - Long COVID Innovation Grant and Loan Program

House Bill 27 establishes a Long COVID Innovation Grant and Loan Program in the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (MTDC) and directs MTDC to contract with an independent review committee made up of scientific experts to review and recommend research proposals for state-funded long COVID innovation in the form of grants and loans. The bill also establishes the Maryland Long COVID Research Fund under the administration of MTDC but it does not mandate an annual appropriation amount.

The leading causes of death in Montgomery County between 2020-2022 were heart disease (24.9%), cancer (19.5%), **COVID-19 (9.4%)**, cerebrovascular disease (5.4%) and accidents (4.4%). The COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affected the County's Latino population, becoming the leading cause of mortality and hospitalization. Presently, long COVID continues to affect the physical, mental, and economic well-being of our residents, with disproportionate impact on communities of color and those already facing chronic disease and barriers to access to health care. Establishing a Long COVID Innovation Grant and Loan Program through the Maryland Technology Development Corporation will accelerate research, treatment development, and scalable solutions rooted in scientific review. House Bill 27 aligns with Montgomery County's health equity and racial justice goals by promoting data-driven, culturally responsive innovation that improves outcomes for all residents. The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services respectfully requests a favorable committee report.