

HOUSE BILL 799

C8

5lr3444

By: **Delegates Vogel and Buckel**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Economic Development – Maryland Innovation Initiative University**
3 **Partnership Extension Program – Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Innovation Initiative University
5 Partnership Extension Program; authorizing certain universities to participate in
6 the Program; establishing eligibility criteria for project proposals to receive funding
7 under the Program; requiring the Governor to include an appropriation in the annual
8 budget bill for certain fiscal years for the Program; altering the purpose and contents
9 of the Maryland Innovation Initiative Fund; and generally relating to the
10 establishment of the Maryland Innovation Initiative University Partnership
11 Extension Program.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
13 Article – Economic Development
14 Section 10–454(a), (b), and (d), 10–455(a), and 10–457(a)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
18 Article – Economic Development
19 Section 10–457(b) and (d)
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

22 BY adding to
23 Article – Economic Development
24 Section 10–461
25 Annotated Code of Maryland
26 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
2 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 **Article – Economic Development**

4 10–454.

5 (a) In this part the following words have the meanings indicated.

6 (b) “Commercialization” means the process of introducing a new product or
7 technology into the market.

8 (d) “Initiative” means the Maryland Innovation Initiative established under §
9 10–455 of this subtitle.

10 10–455.

11 (a) There is a Maryland Innovation Initiative.

12 10–457.

13 (a) There is a Maryland Innovation Initiative Fund.

14 (b) The purpose of the Fund is to provide funding for the purposes described in [§
15 10–456] §§ **10–456 AND 10–461** of this subtitle.

16 (d) The Fund consists of:

17 (1) appropriations as provided in the State budget;

18 (2) contributions by the qualifying universities under § 10–455 of this
19 subtitle **AND ELIGIBLE UNIVERSITIES UNDER § 10–461 OF THIS SUBTITLE;**

20 (3) grants or funds from federal laboratories located in Maryland;

21 (4) interest or other income earned on the investment of money in the
22 Fund; and

23 (5) any other money accepted for the benefit of the Initiative.

24 **10–461.**

25 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
26 **INDICATED.**

1 **(2) "ELIGIBLE UNIVERSITY" MEANS BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY AND**
2 **FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY.**

3 **(3) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE MARYLAND INNOVATION INITIATIVE**
4 **UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP EXTENSION PROGRAM.**

5 **(B) (1) THERE IS A MARYLAND INNOVATION INITIATIVE UNIVERSITY**
6 **PARTNERSHIP EXTENSION PROGRAM.**

7 **(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES**
8 **FOR TECHNOLOGY VALIDATION, ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND**
9 **INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT AT ELIGIBLE UNIVERSITIES.**

10 **(C) (1) THE INITIATIVE SHALL IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER THE**
11 **PROGRAM.**

12 **(2) THE INITIATIVE SHALL COLLABORATE WITH AN ELIGIBLE**
13 **UNIVERSITY TO IDENTIFY AND SUPPORT INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS AND**
14 **COMMERCIALIZATION OPPORTUNITIES.**

15 **(D) TO QUALIFY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM, EACH ELIGIBLE**
16 **UNIVERSITY SHALL PAY AN ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF \$50,000.**

17 **(E) (1) ONLY AN ELIGIBLE UNIVERSITY MAY SUBMIT PROJECT**
18 **PROPOSALS FOR FUNDING UNDER THE PROGRAM.**

19 **(2) TO QUALIFY FOR A GRANT UNDER THE PROGRAM, A PROJECT**
20 **PROPOSAL MUST:**

21 **(I) SUPPORT THE CREATION OF A NEW TECHNOLOGY-BASED**
22 **BUSINESS IN MARYLAND;**

23 **(II) ADVANCE TECHNOLOGY TOWARD COMMERCIALIZATION OF**
24 **A PRODUCT OR SERVICE;**

25 **(III) FOSTER ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE**
26 **ELIGIBLE UNIVERSITY;**

27 **(IV) CREATE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC**
28 **IMPACT IN THE REGION AROUND THE ELIGIBLE UNIVERSITY; OR**

29 **(V) FOSTER COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE ELIGIBLE**
30 **UNIVERSITY AND AN INDUSTRY PARTNER, INCLUDING:**

- 1 1. **PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT WITH COMMERCIALIZATION**
2 **POTENTIAL; AND**
- 3 2. **MATCHING FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE INDUSTRY**
4 **PARTNER.**

5 **(F) (1) THE INITIATIVE SHALL DEVELOP CRITERIA TO REVIEW,**
6 **EVALUATE, AND RATE PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR FUNDING UNDER THE PROGRAM.**

7 **(2) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL DISTRIBUTE GRANTS TO**
8 **PROJECTS BASED ON THE CRITERIA DEVELOPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH**
9 **(1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

10 **(G) (1) FOR FISCAL YEARS 2027 AND 2028, THE GOVERNOR SHALL**
11 **INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 FOR THE**
12 **PROGRAM.**

13 **(2) THE FUNDING PROVIDED IN THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE USED TO**
14 **SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT, ANY FUNDS THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE PROVIDED**
15 **TO THE INITIATIVE.**

16 **(H) IN ADDITION TO INFORMATION ON THE INITIATIVE INCLUDED IN THE**
17 **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CORPORATION UNDER § 10-415 OF THIS SUBTITLE, ON OR**
18 **BEFORE JULY 1, 2028, THE CORPORATION SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL**
19 **ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE,**
20 **ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM.**

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
22 1, 2025. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of June 30, 2028,
23 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
24 of no further force and effect.