

SENATE BILL 265

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(PRE-FILED)

4lr0133
CF HB 106

By: **Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee (By Request – Departmental – Human Services)**

Requested: September 18, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Human Services – Public Assistance to Entrepreneurship (PA2E) Program –**
3 **Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Public Assistance to Entrepreneurship (PA2E)
5 Program in the Department of Human Services; authorizing the Department to
6 provide certain business start-up funding to participants in the PA2E Program who
7 meet certain requirements; and generally relating to the establishment of the Public
8 Assistance to Entrepreneurship (PA2E) Program.

9 BY adding to
10 Article – Human Services
11 Section 5–507
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Human Services**

17 **5–507.**

18 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
19 **INDICATED.**

20 **(2) “ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL” MEANS A RECIPIENT OF SUPPLEMENTAL**
21 **NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BENEFITS.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(3) "PARTICIPANT" MEANS AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL WHOM THE**
2 **DEPARTMENT APPROVES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PA2E PROGRAM.**

3 **(4) "PA2E PROGRAM" MEANS THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TO**
4 **ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM.**

5 **(B) (1) THERE IS A PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP**
6 **(PA2E) PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.**

7 **(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PA2E PROGRAM IS TO TRAIN**
8 **PARTICIPANTS ON HOW TO ESTABLISH AND RUN A SMALL BUSINESS.**

9 **(3) THE PA2E PROGRAM SHALL:**

10 **(I) INTRODUCE PARTICIPANTS TO THE VALUES AND BASICS OF**
11 **STARTING AND RUNNING A BUSINESS; AND**

12 **(II) GUIDE PARTICIPANTS THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF A**
13 **BUSINESS PLAN.**

14 **(4) THE PA2E PROGRAM MAY INCLUDE SIMULATIONS OF A BUSINESS**
15 **START-UP AND OPERATION TO AID IN THE TRAINING OF PARTICIPANTS.**

16 **(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

17 **(1) ESTABLISH ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND A PROCESS FOR**
18 **INTERESTED ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO ENROLL IN**
19 **THE PA2E PROGRAM;**

20 **(2) ENROLL APPROVED ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS FOR PARTICIPATION**
21 **IN THE PA2E PROGRAM; AND**

22 **(3) COVER THE REGISTRATION AND COURSE FEES FOR PARTICIPANTS**
23 **IN THE PA2E PROGRAM.**

24 **(D) (1) SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS OF THE STATE BUDGET, THE**
25 **DEPARTMENT MAY PROVIDE UP TO \$10,000 IN BUSINESS START-UP FUNDING TO**
26 **EACH PARTICIPANT WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES THE PA2E PROGRAM AND**
27 **DEVELOPS A VIABLE BUSINESS PLAN.**

28 **(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

1 **(I) ESTABLISH A PROCESS FOR RECEIVING AND ASSESSING**
2 **APPLICATIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS FOR BUSINESS START-UP FUNDING,**
3 **INCLUDING ASSESSING THE VIABILITY OF THE PARTICIPANT’S BUSINESS PLAN; AND**

4 **(II) NOTIFY EACH APPLICANT OF THE DEPARTMENT’S DECISION**
5 **TO APPROVE OR DENY AN APPLICATION FOR BUSINESS START-UP FUNDING WITHIN**
6 **60 DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE APPLICATION.**

7 **(E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A PROCESS FOR EVALUATING THE**
8 **EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PA2E PROGRAM IN ADDRESSING POVERTY FOR ELIGIBLE**
9 **INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR HOUSEHOLDS.**

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 October 1, 2024.