

# SENATE BILL 549

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CF HB 552

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By: **The President (By Request – Administration) and Senators Augustine, Beidle, Benson, Carozza, Carter, Elfreth, Ellis, Feldman, Gile, Hester, Hettleman, Jackson, James, King, Klausmeier, Muse, Sydnor, Waldstreicher, Watson, and West**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2023

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Economic Development – Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund**  
3 **(Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program in the  
5 Department of Commerce to provide funding for certain costs for infrastructure  
6 projects in eligible technology sectors; requiring certain grantees to provide matching  
7 funds and to demonstrate certain abilities; establishing the Build Our Future Grant  
8 Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; and generally relating to the Build Our Future  
9 Grant Pilot Program and Fund.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article – Economic Development  
12 Section 5–102  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

15 BY adding to  
16 Article – Economic Development  
17 Section 5–2301 through 5–2307 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 23. Build Our  
18 Future Grant Pilot Program”  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
22 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
23 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)  
24 Annotated Code of Maryland

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

2 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
3 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
4 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)170. and 171.  
5 Annotated Code of Maryland  
6 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

7 BY adding to  
8 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
9 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)172.  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Economic Development**

15 5–102.

16 The Department shall administer the State’s economic development and financial  
17 assistance programs and funds including:

18 (1) the BRAC Revitalization and Incentive Zone Program, under Subtitle  
19 13 of this title;

20 (2) **THE BUILD OUR FUTURE GRANT PILOT PROGRAM, UNDER**  
21 **SUBTITLE 23 OF THIS TITLE;**

22 (3) the Enterprise Fund, under Subtitle 6 of this title;

23 [(3)] (4) the Enterprise Zones Program, under Subtitle 7 of this title;

24 [(4)] (5) the Make Office Vacancies Extinct Program, under Subtitle 15 of  
25 this title;

26 [(5)] (6) the Maryland Economic Adjustment Fund, under Subtitle 2 of  
27 this title;

28 [(6)] (7) the Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority and  
29 Fund, under Subtitle 3 of this title;

30 [(7)] (8) the Maryland Industrial Development Financing Authority,  
31 under Subtitle 4 of this title;

1            [(8) (9)] the Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority,  
2 under Subtitle 5 of this title;

3            [(9) (10)] the Appalachian Regional Development Program, under Title 13,  
4 Subtitle 1 of this article;

5            [(10) (11)] jointly with the Department of Housing and Community  
6 Development, the Community Development Block Grant for Economic Development;

7            [(11) (12)] the Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise Zone Program  
8 under Subtitle 14 of this title; and

9            [(12) (13)] any other programs or funds designated by statute, the  
10 Governor, or the Secretary.

11            **SUBTITLE 23. BUILD OUR FUTURE GRANT PILOT PROGRAM.**

12            **5-2301.**

13            (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
14 INDICATED.

15            (B) “FUND” MEANS THE BUILD OUR FUTURE GRANT FUND.

16            (C) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE BUILD OUR FUTURE GRANT PILOT PROGRAM.

17            **5-2302.**

18            (A) THERE IS A BUILD OUR FUTURE GRANT PILOT PROGRAM IN THE  
19 DEPARTMENT.

20            (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE GRANT FUNDING FOR  
21 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS INTENDED TO SUPPORT INNOVATION IN AN ELIGIBLE  
22 TECHNOLOGY SECTOR.

23            (C) GRANTS MAY BE AWARDED TO PRIVATE COMPANIES, NONPROFIT  
24 ENTITIES, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, OR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE STATE.

25            (D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.

26            **5-2303.**

27            (A) TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT  
28 MAY AWARD GRANTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE TO APPROVED

1 **RECIPIENTS CARRYING OUT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS INTENDED TO SUPPORT**  
2 **INNOVATION IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ELIGIBLE TECHNOLOGY SECTORS:**

3 **(1) ADVANCED MANUFACTURING;**

4 **(2) AEROSPACE;**

5 **(3) AGRICULTURE;**

6 **(4) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE;**

7 **(5) BIOTECHNOLOGY;**

8 **(6) BLUE TECHNOLOGY;**

9 **(7) CYBERSECURITY;**

10 **(8) DEFENSE;**

11 **(9) ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY;**

12 **(10) LIFE SCIENCES;**

13 **(11) QUANTUM; AND**

14 **(12) SENSOR AND ROBOTICS.**

15 **(B) EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE PROJECTS INCLUDE:**

16 **(1) SECURE COMPARTMENTALIZED INFORMATION FACILITIES;**

17 **(2) WET LABORATORIES;**

18 **(3) CYBER RANGES;**

19 **(4) PROTOTYPE MANUFACTURING CENTERS; AND**

20 **(5) OTHER SPECIALIZED WORKFORCE TRAINING, SKILL**  
21 **CERTIFICATION, OR RESEARCH-RELATED SPACES.**

22 **(C) GRANT AWARDS MAY BE USED TO DEFRAY THE COST A GRANTEE INCURS**  
23 **TO ACQUIRE, CONSTRUCT, REHABILITATE, INSTALL, IMPROVE, OR EQUIP AN**  
24 **ELIGIBLE INNOVATION INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT.**

1 (D) (1) A SINGLE ENTITY MAY BE AWARDED NOT MORE THAN \$2,000,000  
2 IN GRANT FUNDS IN A FISCAL YEAR.

3 (2) (I) FOR A GRANT AWARD UP TO \$1,000,000, A GRANTEE SHALL  
4 PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS THAT ARE AT LEAST 200% OF THE GRANT AMOUNT.

5 (II) FOR A GRANT AWARD EXCEEDING \$1,000,000, AND UP TO  
6 \$2,000,000, A GRANTEE SHALL PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS THAT ARE AT LEAST  
7 400% OF THE GRANT AMOUNT.

8 (III) FUNDS RECEIVED BY A GRANTEE THROUGH OTHER STATE  
9 GRANT PROGRAMS ARE NOT COUNTED TOWARD THE GRANTEE'S MATCHING FUNDS  
10 REQUIREMENT.

11 (3) A GRANTEE MUST DEMONSTRATE AN ABILITY TO COVER THE FULL  
12 ESTIMATED COSTS OF THE PROJECT FOR WHICH THE GRANT IS AWARDED.

13 (4) (I) NOT MORE THAN 50% OF THE APPROPRIATION TO THE  
14 FUND IN A FISCAL YEAR MAY BE AWARDED TO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN  
15 THAT FISCAL YEAR.

16 (II) GRANTS TO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES FROM THE FUND  
17 MUST BE AWARDED TO PROJECTS THAT:

18 1. ARE PERFORMED IN COLLABORATION WITH PRIVATE  
19 INDUSTRY; OR

20 2. OFFER THE PROSPECT OF SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC  
21 IMPACT AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP ENTREPRENEURSHIP OR CLUSTERS  
22 OF TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION IN THE STATE.

23 5-2304.

24 A GRANTEE MAY BE SUBJECT TO REPAYMENT OF THE GRANT IN AN AMOUNT  
25 DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT IF THE GRANTEE FAILS TO:

26 (1) COMPLY WITH REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE  
27 DEPARTMENT; OR

28 (2) DEMONSTRATE APPROPRIATE USE OF GRANT FUNDS.

29 5-2305.

1           **(A)    THERE IS A BUILD OUR FUTURE GRANT FUND.**

2           **(B)    THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.**

3           **(C)    THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE GRANTS FOR**  
4 **INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS TO SUPPORT INNOVATION IN ELIGIBLE TECHNOLOGY**  
5 **SECTORS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.**

6           **(D)    (1)   THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT**  
7 **SUBJECT TO REVERSION UNDER § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND**  
8 **PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.**

9                   **(2)   THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY,**  
10 **AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.**

11           **(E)    THE FUND CONSISTS OF:**

12                   **(1)   MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND;**

13                   **(2)   ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND; AND**

14                   **(3)   ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR**  
15 **THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.**

16           **(F)    (1)   THE FUND MAY BE USED TO:**

17                           **(I)    PROVIDE GRANTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE;**

18 **AND**

19                           **(II)   PAY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF THE PROGRAM.**

20                   **(2)   DURING EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT MAY USE NOT**  
21 **MORE THAN 10% OF THE MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE FUND TO ADMINISTER THE**  
22 **PROGRAM.**

23           **(G)    (1)   THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND**  
24 **IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.**

25                   **(2)   ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO**  
26 **THE FUND.**

