

# HOUSE BILL 509

C8

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By: **Delegate B. Robinson**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2016

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Green Career Gender Empowerment and Training Pilot Program**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation to  
4 establish, under certain circumstances, the Green Career Gender Empowerment and  
5 Training Pilot Program by a certain date to encourage young women and minorities  
6 to pursue green careers; requiring the Department to take certain actions under the  
7 Program; authorizing the Department to coordinate with certain entities; requiring  
8 funding for the Program to be provided in certain amounts in certain fiscal years  
9 through the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund; altering the authorized  
10 uses of the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund to include the Program;  
11 requiring the Department to develop a certain evaluation process for the Program;  
12 requiring the Department to report to the General Assembly on or before a certain  
13 date; defining certain terms; providing for the termination of the Program; providing  
14 for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Green Career Gender  
15 Empowerment and Training Pilot Program.

16 BY adding to

17 Article – Labor and Employment

18 Section 11–604

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

22 Article – State Government

23 Section 9–20B–05(a) and (k)

24 Annotated Code of Maryland

25 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

26 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

27 Article – State Government

28 Section 9–20B–05(f)

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Annotated Code of Maryland  
2 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

5 **Article – Labor and Employment**

6 **11-604.**

7 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
8 INDICATED.

9 (2) (I) “GREEN CAREER” MEANS A CAREER:

10 1. WORKING FOR A BUSINESS THAT PRODUCES GOODS  
11 OR PROVIDES SERVICES THAT BENEFIT THE ENVIRONMENT OR CONSERVE NATURAL  
12 RESOURCES; OR

13 2. WORKING IN A POSITION THAT INVOLVES MAKING THE  
14 PRODUCTION PROCESSES OF BUSINESSES MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY OR  
15 USE FEWER NATURAL RESOURCES.

16 (II) “GREEN CAREER” INCLUDES ENTRY LEVEL, MIDDLE  
17 MANAGEMENT, AND EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT GREEN OCCUPATIONS.

18 (3) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE GREEN CAREER GENDER  
19 EMPOWERMENT AND TRAINING PILOT PROGRAM.

20 (4) “YOUNG WOMEN” MEANS WOMEN WHO ARE BETWEEN THE AGES  
21 OF 10 AND 25 YEARS.

22 (B) (1) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2017, SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY  
23 OF FUNDS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH THE GREEN CAREER GENDER  
24 EMPOWERMENT AND TRAINING PILOT PROGRAM.

25 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG  
26 WOMEN AND MINORITIES TO PURSUE GREEN CAREERS.

27 (C) UNDER THE PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

28 (1) ENGAGE, ENCOURAGE, EDUCATE, AND EMPOWER YOUNG WOMEN  
29 AND MINORITIES TO EXPLORE GREEN CAREERS;

1           **(2) ENGAGE MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES AND WOMEN’S**  
2 **BUSINESS ENTERPRISES TO MENTOR YOUNG WOMEN AND MINORITIES TO**  
3 **ENCOURAGE THE EXPLORATION OF GREEN CAREERS BY YOUNG WOMEN AND**  
4 **MINORITIES;**

5           **(3) ENGAGE MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES AND WOMEN’S**  
6 **BUSINESS ENTERPRISES TO TRAIN YOUNG WOMEN AND MINORITIES IN GREEN**  
7 **CAREERS;**

8           **(4) PROMOTE GREEN CAREERS TO YOUNG WOMEN AND MINORITIES;**  
9 **AND**

10           **(5) TAKE ANY OTHER ACTIONS TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG WOMEN AND**  
11 **MINORITIES TO PURSUE GREEN CAREERS.**

12           **(D) THE DEPARTMENT MAY COORDINATE WITH OTHER PUBLIC AND**  
13 **PRIVATE ENTITIES THAT OFFER TO PROVIDE RESOURCES FOR THE PROGRAM,**  
14 **INCLUDING FUNDING, TRAINING, AND MENTORING SERVICES.**

15           **(E) (1) FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL BE PROVIDED FROM THE**  
16 **MARYLAND STRATEGIC ENERGY INVESTMENT FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER §**  
17 **9-20B-05 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

18           **(2) FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL BE PROVIDED IN THE**  
19 **FOLLOWING AMOUNTS:**

20                   **(I) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018, \$200,000;**

21                   **(II) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019, \$500,000; AND**

22                   **(III) FOR EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2020 AND 2021, \$1,500,000.**

23           **(F) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AN EVALUATION PROCESS FOR THE**  
24 **PROGRAM THAT INCLUDES A MECHANISM TO EVALUATE WHETHER THE PROGRAM**  
25 **HAS OPERATED TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG WOMEN AND MINORITIES TO PURSUE GREEN**  
26 **CAREERS.**

27           **(G) THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL TERMINATE**  
28 **AT THE END OF JUNE 30, 2021.**

29                                   **Article – State Government**

30           **9-20B-05.**

1 (a) There is a Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund.

2 (f) The Administration shall use the Fund:

3 (1) to invest in the promotion, development, and implementation of:

4 (i) cost-effective energy efficiency and conservation programs,  
5 projects, or activities, including measurement and verification of energy savings;

6 (ii) renewable and clean energy resources;

7 (iii) climate change programs directly related to reducing or  
8 mitigating the effects of climate change; and

9 (iv) demand response programs that are designed to promote  
10 changes in electric usage by customers in response to:

11 1. changes in the price of electricity over time; or

12 2. incentives designed to induce lower electricity use at times  
13 of high wholesale market prices or when system reliability is jeopardized;

14 (2) to provide targeted programs, projects, activities, and investments to  
15 reduce electricity consumption by customers in the low-income and moderate-income  
16 residential sectors;

17 (3) to provide supplemental funds for low-income energy assistance  
18 through the Electric Universal Service Program established under § 7-512.1 of the Public  
19 Utilities Article and other electric assistance programs in the Department of Human  
20 Resources;

21 (4) to provide rate relief by offsetting electricity rates of residential  
22 customers, including an offset of surcharges imposed on ratepayers under § 7-211 of the  
23 Public Utilities Article;

24 (5) to provide grants, loans, and other assistance and investment as  
25 necessary and appropriate to implement the purposes of the Program as set forth in §  
26 9-20B-03 of this subtitle;

27 (6) to implement energy-related public education and outreach initiatives  
28 regarding reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions;

29 (7) to provide rebates under the Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment  
30 Rebate Program established under § 9-2009 of this title;

31 (8) to provide grants to encourage combined heat and power projects at  
32 industrial facilities; [and]

1           **(9) TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO THE GREEN CAREER GENDER**  
2 **EMPOWERMENT AND TRAINING PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER § 11-604 OF**  
3 **THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE; AND**

4           **[(9)] (10)** to pay the expenses of the Program.

5           (k) Expenditures from the Fund shall be made by:

6           (1) an appropriation in the annual State budget; or

7           (2) a budget amendment in accordance with § 7-209 of the State Finance  
8 and Procurement Article.

9           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 31,  
10 2020, the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation shall report to the General  
11 Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on the  
12 effectiveness of the Green Career Gender Empowerment and Training Pilot Program  
13 established under this Act to encourage young women and minorities to pursue green  
14 careers.

15           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
16 1, 2016. It shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and, at the end of June 30, 2021,  
17 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and  
18 of no further force and effect.