

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 882

(Senator Jennings, *et al.*)

Finance

Economic Matters

**Economic Development - Northeastern Maryland Additive Manufacturing
Innovation Authority**

This bill renames the Northeastern Maryland Additive Manufacturing Innovation Authority as the Regional Additive Manufacturing Partnership of Maryland (RAMP MD) and the associated special fund as the RAMP MD Fund and makes conforming changes throughout statute. The bill also alters the voting membership of the authority's executive board. The authority, when submitting its annual budget request as required under current law, must include a specific request to the Department of Economic Competitiveness and Commerce (DOC) for financial support in the following fiscal year. Existing provisions of law related to State and local funding for the authority are unchanged.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local government finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Chapters 570 and 571 of 2014 established the Northeastern Maryland Additive Manufacturing Innovation Authority and Fund. DOC, the Cecil County Office of Economic Development, and the Harford County Office of Economic

Development jointly must provide staff, office space, and operational support for the authority. To further the purposes of the Acts, the authority must, among other things:

- foster collaborative efforts, including public-private partnerships and memoranda of understanding, among government agencies, military installations, educational institutions, businesses, nonprofits, individuals, and other entities for specified purposes;
- facilitate the involvement of specified institutions of higher education in developing and sustaining a skilled additive manufacturing workforce through degree, certification, specialized training, and continuing education programs;
- obtain, coordinate, and disseminate marketing resources to promote and enhance additive manufacturing opportunities and investment in the region; and
- pursue federal, State, local, and other public and private funding and collaboration initiatives.

The authority may (1) employ, as regular employees or as independent contractors, additional staff that the authority considers necessary; (2) retain any professional consultants that the authority considers necessary; and (3) select and retain its own legal counsel or use the Attorney General as its legal counsel. The authority may also make grants from the fund to further the purposes of the Acts.

State and Local Funding

The Acts specified that the Governor *may* include in the State budget an appropriation beginning in fiscal 2016 to partially support the authority, and the governing bodies of Cecil and Harford counties *may* appropriate funds to the authority annually to promote the purposes of the authority. Any State appropriation is contingent upon the commitment of Cecil and Harford counties to contribute funds to the authority, and *legislative intent* is that an appropriation be at least two times the total amount contributed by the counties during the same fiscal year. A county appropriation may be a designated portion of the budget of the county's Office of Economic Development. The authority may accept additional money from any other public or private source.

RAMP MD

The authority established by Chapters 570 and 571 of 2014 is also known as RAMP MD. It describes itself as a consortium of private businesses, educational institutions, governmental agencies, and representatives of U.S. Army Aberdeen Proving Ground that

are working together to expand Maryland's capabilities in additive manufacturing. The authority received \$15,000 in State funding in fiscal 2015. The Governor's proposed fiscal 2017 State budget includes no funding for the authority.

Additive Manufacturing

According to a report by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, additive manufacturing is generally a process where thin horizontal slices of material are stacked progressively on top of one another to form a three-dimensional object. The process can involve several unique technologies. A well-known form of additive manufacturing is "3D printing," which is when a machine spreads layers of plaster or resin powder in a similar fashion to an inkjet printer and then binds them together.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Commerce, Cecil County, Northeastern Maryland Manufacturing Innovation Authority, Society of Manufacturing Engineers, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 19, 2016
min/rhh Revised - Senate Third Reader/Updated Information - March 15, 2016

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