

SENATE BILL 474

C8

(2lr2313)

ENROLLED BILL

— Budget and Taxation / Ways and Means —

Introduced by **Senators Edwards ~~and Corderman~~, Corderman, and Hester**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

_____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

President.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Economic Development – Western Maryland Economic Future Investment**
3 **Board and Senator George C. Edwards Fund – Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Western Maryland Economic Future Investment
5 Board; establishing the ~~Western Maryland Economic Future Investment~~ Senator
6 George C. Edwards Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; establishing the
7 qualifications necessary to receive certain funding; requiring the Board to develop
8 criteria to review, evaluate, and rate certain proposals for funding, to distribute
9 certain funding, and to monitor and track the progress of certain projects that have
10 received funding; and generally relating to the establishment of the Western
11 Maryland Economic Future Investment Board and Senator George C. Edwards
12 Fund.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14 Article – Economic Development

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber / conference committee amendments.



1 Section 13–701 and 13–702(a)
2 Annotated Code of Maryland
3 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

4 BY adding to
5 Article – Economic Development
6 Section 13–736 through 13–741 to be under the new part “Part IV. Western
7 Maryland Economic Future Investment Program”
8 Annotated Code of Maryland
9 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article – State Finance and Procurement
12 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2021 Replacement Volume)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – State Finance and Procurement
17 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)144. and 145.
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2021 Replacement Volume)

20 BY adding to
21 Article – State Finance and Procurement
22 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)146.
23 Annotated Code of Maryland
24 (2021 Replacement Volume)

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

27 **Article – Economic Development**

28 13–701.

29 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

30 (b) “Commissioners” means the Board of County Commissioners of Allegany
31 County, Garrett County, or Washington County, respectively.

32 (c) “Council” means the Tri–County Council for Western Maryland.

33 (d) “Executive Director” means the Executive Director of the Council.

34 (e) “Member county” means each county in the region that pays annual dues that
35 the Council sets.

1 (f) "Plan" means a regional plan that the Council prepares for the region.

2 (g) "Region" means Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties.

3 13-702.

4 (a) There is a Tri-County Council for Western Maryland.

5 **13-734. RESERVED.**

6 **13-735. RESERVED.**

7 **PART IV. WESTERN MARYLAND ECONOMIC FUTURE INVESTMENT PROGRAM.**

8 **13-736.**

9 (A) IN THIS PART THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
10 INDICATED.

11 (B) "BOARD" MEANS THE WESTERN MARYLAND ECONOMIC FUTURE
12 INVESTMENT BOARD ESTABLISHED UNDER § 13-737 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

13 (C) "FUND" MEANS THE ~~WESTERN MARYLAND ECONOMIC FUTURE~~
14 ~~INVESTMENT~~ SENATOR GEORGE C. EDWARDS FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER § 13-738
15 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

16 **13-737.**

17 (A) THERE IS A WESTERN MARYLAND ECONOMIC FUTURE INVESTMENT
18 BOARD.

19 (B) THE BOARD CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

20 (1) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
21 APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE;

22 (2) ONE COMMISSIONER FROM EACH MEMBER COUNTY, APPOINTED
23 BY EACH MEMBER COUNTY'S RESPECTIVE COMMISSIONERS;

24 (3) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
25 ORGANIZATION IN EACH MEMBER COUNTY, APPOINTED BY EACH MEMBER COUNTY'S
26 RESPECTIVE COMMISSIONERS;

1 (4) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FROM
2 EACH MEMBER COUNTY, APPOINTED BY EACH MEMBER COUNTY'S RESPECTIVE
3 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; AND

4 (5) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE MARYLAND MUNICIPAL
5 LEAGUE, APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE LEAGUE.

6 (C) THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE SHALL
7 CHAIR THE BOARD.

8 (D) THE COUNCIL SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE BOARD.

9 (E) A MEMBER OF THE BOARD:

10 (1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD;
11 BUT

12 (2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE
13 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

14 13-738.

15 (A) THERE IS A ~~WESTERN MARYLAND ECONOMIC FUTURE INVESTMENT~~
16 SENATOR GEORGE C. EDWARDS FUND.

17 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE GRANT OR LOAN FUNDING
18 TO CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
19 THAT IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THE REGION.

20 (C) THE COUNCIL SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

21 (D) (1) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

22 (I) APPROPRIATIONS AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET;

23 (II) INTEREST OR OTHER INCOME EARNED ON THE INVESTMENT
24 OF MONEY IN THE FUND; AND

25 (III) ANY OTHER MONEY ACCEPTED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE
26 FUND.

27 (2) ~~FOR IN EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2024 THROUGH 2028 AND 2025~~
28 THROUGH 2026, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL OPERATING OR

1 CAPITAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF AT LEAST ~~\$20,000,000~~ \$10,000,000
2 TO THE FUND.

3 (E) MONEY IN THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY TO:

4 (1) AWARD GRANTS AND PROVIDE LOANS TO CAPITAL
5 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS TO
6 IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THE REGION; AND

7 (2) PAY THE COSTS NECESSARY TO ADMINISTER THE FUND.

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

11 (2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY,
12 AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

13 (3) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY IN THE FUND
14 IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.

15 (4) ANY INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED
16 TO THE FUND.

17 13-739.

18 (A) A MEMBER COUNTY OR LOCAL ENTITY WITHIN A MEMBER COUNTY MAY
19 SUBMIT A PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING UNDER THIS PART.

20 (B) TO QUALIFY FOR ~~THE FUNDING IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION,~~ A
21 PROJECT SHALL BE:

22 (1) A CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT THAT:

23 (I) IS LINKED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION, AS
24 APPROVED BY THE BOARD; AND

25 (II) RECEIVES 20% MATCHING FUNDS FROM THE MEMBER
26 COUNTY WHERE THE PROJECT IS LOCATED, ANOTHER LOCAL ENTITY, A PRIVATE
27 BUSINESS, OR A COMBINATION THEREOF;

28 (2) A BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT THAT:

1 **(I) ENCOURAGES AND PROMOTES DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD**
2 **REVITALIZATION, SMALL BUSINESS TOURISM, OR OTHER AREAS AS APPROVED BY**
3 **THE BOARD; AND**

4 **(II) RECEIVES 10% MATCHING FUNDS FROM THE MEMBER**
5 **COUNTY WHERE THE PROJECT IS LOCATED, ANOTHER LOCAL ENTITY, A PRIVATE**
6 **BUSINESS, OR A COMBINATION THEREOF; OR**

7 **(3) ANY OTHER PROJECT THAT THE BOARD DETERMINES IS**
8 **APPROPRIATE TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION.**

9 **(C) (1) (I) THE BOARD SHALL DEVELOP CRITERIA TO REVIEW,**
10 **EVALUATE, AND RATE PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR FUNDING UNDER THIS PART.**

11 **(II) THE CRITERIA IN SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH**
12 **SHALL ENSURE THAT THE PROJECT:**

13 1. **CREATES OR RETAINS JOBS;**

14 2. **CREATES OR RETAINS BUSINESSES;**

15 3. **INCREASES WAGES; OR**

16 4. **CREATES NEW STATE OR LOCAL TAX REVENUE.**

17 **(2) THE BOARD SHALL DISTRIBUTE GRANTS AND LOANS TO**
18 **PROJECTS BASED ON THE CRITERIA DEVELOPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH**
19 **(1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

20 **(D) (1) THE BOARD SHALL MONITOR AND TRACK THE PROGRESS OF**
21 **EACH PROJECT THAT RECEIVES FUNDING UNDER THIS PART.**

22 **(2) IF THE BOARD DETERMINES THAT SUFFICIENT PROGRESS IS NOT**
23 **BEING MADE TOWARD ACHIEVING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION, THE**
24 **BOARD MAY RECLAIM THE AWARDED FUNDS.**

25 **(E) THE FUNDING PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE USED TO**
26 **SUPPLEMENT AND NOT SUPPLANT, ANY FUNDS THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE**
27 **PROVIDED TO THE BOARD OR THE MEMBER COUNTIES.**

28 **13-740.**

29 **(A) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31 EACH YEAR, THE BOARD SHALL REPORT**
30 **TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE**

1 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF**
2 **THIS PART.**

3 **(B) THE REPORT REQUIRED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL**
4 **INCLUDE, DISAGGREGATED BY MEMBER COUNTY:**

5 **(1) THE NUMBER OF NEW PROJECTS FUNDED DURING THE PREVIOUS**
6 **YEAR;**

7 **(2) THE NUMBER OF PROJECTS THAT WERE COMPLETED DURING THE**
8 **PREVIOUS YEAR;**

9 **(3) THE NUMBER OF ONGOING PROJECTS THAT WERE NOT**
10 **COMPLETED DURING THE PREVIOUS YEAR;**

11 **(4) THE AMOUNT AND TYPE OF FUNDING RECEIVED BY EACH**
12 **PROJECT;**

13 **(5) THE CURRENT STATUS OF EACH ONGOING PROJECT; AND**

14 **(6) ANY OTHER RELEVANT ECONOMIC METRICS DETERMINED BY THE**
15 **BOARD.**

16 **13-741.**

17 **THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS PART.**

18 **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

19 **6-226.**

20 **(a) (2) (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless**
21 **inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the**
22 **terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the**
23 **State Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to**
24 **receive interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General**
25 **Fund of the State.**

26 **(ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply**
27 **to the following funds:**

28 **144. the Health Equity Resource Community Reserve Fund;**
29 **[and]**

30 **145. the Access to Counsel in Evictions Special Fund; AND**

1 **146. THE ~~WESTERN MARYLAND ECONOMIC FUTURE~~**
2 **~~INVESTMENT~~ SENATOR GEORGE C. EDWARDS FUND.**

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 ~~October~~ June 1, 2022. ~~It shall remain effective for a period of 5 3 years and, at the end of~~
5 ~~September 30, 2027~~ May 31, 2025, this Act, with no further action required by the General
6 ~~Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.~~

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.