

# SENATE BILL 942

K3, M3, C8

7lr3295  
CF 7lr3139

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By: **Senator Manno**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2017

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Labor and Employment – Clean Energy Workforce Account – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Clean Energy Workforce Account in the Maryland  
4 Employment Advancement Right Now Program; providing for the funding of the  
5 Account; specifying the purpose for which the Account may be used; specifying the  
6 priority for grants awarded from the Account; requiring a pre-apprenticeship job  
7 training program to include certain training and curriculum, a certain documented  
8 strategy, and certain performance and evaluation methods to qualify for a grant  
9 awarded from the Account; requiring the Maryland Energy Administration to use  
10 the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund in a certain manner; requiring  
11 proceeds from a certain Public Service Commission order to be allocated in a certain  
12 manner; defining a certain term; and generally relating to the Clean Energy  
13 Workforce Account.

14 BY adding to  
15 Article – Labor and Employment  
16 Section 11–708.1  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2016 Replacement Volume)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
20 Article – State Government  
21 Section 9–20B–01(a), (b), (d), and (e)  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland  
23 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

24 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
25 Article – State Government  
26 Section 9–20B–05(f) and (i) through (l)  
27 Annotated Code of Maryland  
28 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



BY adding to  
Article – State Government  
Section 9–20B–05(i)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

**Article – Labor and Employment**

**11–708.1.**

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “PRE–APPRENTICESHIP JOB TRAINING PROGRAM”  
MEANS A PROGRAM THAT:

(1) IS DESIGNED TO PREPARE INDIVIDUALS TO ENTER AND SUCCEED  
IN AN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM REGISTERED WITH THE MARYLAND  
APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING COUNCIL THAT PROMOTES  
INDUSTRY–RECOGNIZED SKILLS AND CREDENTIALS THROUGH WORK EXPERIENCE;  
AND

(2) HAS A DOCUMENTED PARTNERSHIP WITH AT LEAST ONE  
APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM REGISTERED WITH THE MARYLAND APPRENTICESHIP  
AND TRAINING COUNCIL THAT PROMOTES INDUSTRY–RECOGNIZED SKILLS AND  
CREDENTIALS THROUGH WORK EXPERIENCE.

(B) THERE IS A CLEAN ENERGY WORKFORCE ACCOUNT.

(C) THE ACCOUNT SHALL BE FUNDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 9–20B–05(I)  
OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

(D) (1) MONEY IN THE ACCOUNT SHALL BE USED TO PROVIDE GRANTS ON  
A COMPETITIVE BASIS TO PROVIDE PRE–APPRENTICESHIP JOB TRAINING FOR  
CAREERS IN THE CLEAN ENERGY INDUSTRY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE.

(2) MONEY IN THE ACCOUNT SHALL BE SUPPLEMENTAL TO AND IS  
NOT INTENDED TO TAKE THE PLACE OF THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS TO THE  
MARYLAND EARN PROGRAM.

(E) GRANTS SHALL BE AWARDED FROM THE ACCOUNT WITH PRIORITY  
GIVEN TO PRE–APPRENTICESHIP JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS THAT SEEK TO PROVIDE  
JOB READINESS TRAINING TO:

1           **(1) INDIVIDUALS FROM ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED AREAS WITH**  
2 **HIGH RATES OF UNEMPLOYMENT OR HIGH PERCENTAGES OF HOUSEHOLDS THAT**  
3 **EARN LESS THAN 80% OF THE AREA MEDIAN INCOME; OR**

4           **(2) INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BARRIERS TO ENTRY INTO THE LABOR**  
5 **FORCE, INCLUDING:**

6                   **(I) HOMELESSNESS;**

7                   **(II) PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORDS;**

8                   **(III) RECEIPT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE;**

9                   **(IV) UNEMPLOYMENT WITH NO HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION;**

10                  **(V) VETERANS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES;**

11 **AND**

12                  **(VI) FORMER FOSTER CARE YOUTH.**

13           **(F) TO QUALIFY FOR A GRANT AWARDED FROM THE ACCOUNT, A**  
14 **PRE-APPRENTICESHIP JOB TRAINING PROGRAM SHALL INCLUDE:**

15           **(1) TRAINING AND CURRICULUM BASED ON THE NATIONALLY**  
16 **CERTIFIED MULTI-CRAFT CORE CURRICULUM DEVELOPED BY THE NORTH**  
17 **AMERICA'S BUILDING TRADES UNIONS TO PREPARE PARTICIPANTS WITH THE**  
18 **SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES TO ENTER ONE OR MORE OF THE**  
19 **MARYLAND-REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS THAT PREPARE WORKERS**  
20 **FOR CAREERS IN THE CLEAN ENERGY INDUSTRY;**

21           **(2) A DOCUMENTED STRATEGY FOR INCREASING APPRENTICESHIP**  
22 **OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE INDIVIDUALS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS**  
23 **SECTION THAT INCLUDES:**

24                   **(I) RECRUITMENT STRATEGIES TO BRING THE INDIVIDUALS**  
25 **INTO THE PRE-APPRENTICESHIP JOB TRAINING PROGRAM;**

26                   **(II) EDUCATIONAL AND PREVOCATIONAL SERVICES TO**  
27 **PREPARE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS TO MEET THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS OF ONE**  
28 **OR MORE REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS;**

(III) ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE SUPPORT SERVICES TO ENABLE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS TO MAINTAIN PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM; AND

(IV) MECHANISMS TO ASSIST PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS IN IDENTIFYING AND APPLYING TO REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS; AND

(3) RIGOROUS PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION METHODS TO ENSURE PROGRAM EFFICACY AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT.

#### Article – State Government

9–20B–01.

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

(b) “Administration” means the Maryland Energy Administration.

(d) “Fund” means the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund.

(e) “Program” means the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Program.

9–20B–05.

(f) The Administration shall use the Fund:

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

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

(ii) renewable and clean energy resources;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**(9) TO INVEST IN PRE-APPRENTICESHIP JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS TO ESTABLISH CAREER PATHS IN THE CLEAN ENERGY INDUSTRY UNDER § 11-708.1 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE; AND**

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

**(I) MONEY THAT THE FUND RECEIVES UNDER PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ORDER NUMBER 86372 SHALL BE ALLOCATED TO THE CLEAN ENERGY WORKFORCE ACCOUNT ESTABLISHED IN THE MARYLAND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT RIGHT NOW PROGRAM UNDER § 11-708.1 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE.**

**[(i)] (J)** (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, compliance fees paid under § 7-705(b) of the Public Utilities Article may be used only to make loans and grants to support the creation of new Tier 1 renewable energy sources in the State.

(2) Compliance fees paid under § 7-705(b)(2)(i)2 of the Public Utilities Article shall be accounted for separately within the Fund and may be used only to make loans and grants to support the creation of new solar energy sources in the State.

**[(j)] (K)** (1) The Treasurer shall invest the money of the Fund in the same manner as other State money may be invested.

(2) Any investment earnings of the Fund shall be paid into the Fund.

(3) Any repayment of principal and interest on loans made from the Fund shall be paid into the Fund.

(4) Balances in the Fund shall be held for the benefit of the Program, shall be expended solely for the purposes of the Program, and may not be used for the general obligations of government.

**[(k)] (L)** Expenditures from the Fund shall be made by:

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

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

**[(l)] (M)** An expenditure by budget amendment may be made under subsection **[(k)] (L)** of this section only after:

(1) the Administration has submitted the proposed budget amendment and supporting documentation to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, Senate Finance Committee, House Appropriations Committee, and House Economic Matters Committee; and

(2) the committees have had 45 days for review and comment.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2017.