

HOUSE BILL 599

C8, C9

4lr4521
CF SB 483

By: **The Speaker (By Request – Administration) and Delegates Allen, Amprey, Anderton, Bagnall, Bhandari, Bouchat, Buckel, Charkoudian, Conaway, Crutchfield, Davis, Ebersole, Edelson, Fennell, Foley, Grossman, Guyton, Guzzone, Henson, Hill, Holmes, Hornberger, Jackson, A. Johnson, S. Johnson, D. Jones, Kaiser, Kaufman, J. Long, McCaskill, Moon, Palakovich Carr, Pasteur, Patterson, Phillips, Pruski, Qi, Roberts, Ruff, Ruth, Simmons, Simpson, Solomon, Spiegel, Taveras, Toles, Turner, Valderrama, Watson, White Holland, and Williams**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation and Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Community Investment Corporation – Establishment**
3 **(Housing and Community Development Financing Act of 2024)**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Community Investment Corporation as an
5 independent unit to make investments in certain low-income communities;
6 authorizing the Board of Directors of the Corporation to establish a certain advisory
7 committee and requiring the Corporation to establish an investment committee;
8 requiring the Corporation to apply for an allocation of federal new markets tax
9 credits; establishing eligible uses of money of the Corporation; expanding the eligible
10 uses of the Strategic Demolition and Smart Growth Impact Fund to include grants
11 and loans for debt payments and for credit enhancement for certain projects; and
12 generally relating to community investment, the Maryland Community Investment
13 Corporation, and the Strategic Demolition and Smart Growth Impact Fund.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
15 Article – Economic Development
16 Section 9–101(a), (c), and (e)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

19 BY adding to
20 Article – Economic Development
21 Section 10–1101 through 10–1123 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 11.
22 Maryland Community Investment Corporation”

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Housing and Community Development
Section 4–508
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

Article – Economic Development

9–101.

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

(c) “Department” means the Department of Commerce.

(e) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

SUBTITLE 11. MARYLAND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT CORPORATION.

10–1101.

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

(B) “BOARD” MEANS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION.

**(C) “CORPORATION” MEANS THE MARYLAND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT
CORPORATION.**

**(D) “INVESTMENT COMMITTEE” MEANS A COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE
BOARD TO ADVISE ON AND APPROVE INVESTMENTS AS REQUIRED UNDER THIS
SUBTITLE.**

**(E) “LOW-INCOME COMMUNITY” MEANS A COMMUNITY IN THE STATE THAT
MEETS THE DEFINITION OF A LOW-INCOME COMMUNITY UNDER 26 U.S.C. §
45D(E)(1).**

**(F) “NEW MARKETS TAX CREDIT” MEANS THE FEDERAL TAX CREDITS
ALLOCATED UNDER 26 U.S.C. § 45D.**

(G) "QUALIFIED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ENTITY" MEANS AN ENTITY THAT MEETS THE DEFINITION OF A QUALIFIED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ENTITY UNDER 26 U.S.C. § 45D(C)(1).

(H) "QUALIFIED EQUITY INVESTMENT" MEANS AN INVESTMENT THAT MEETS THE DEFINITION OF A QUALIFIED EQUITY INVESTMENT UNDER 26 U.S.C. § 45D(B)(1).

10-1102.

THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE LIBERALLY CONSTRUED TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBTITLE.

10-1103.

(A) THERE IS A MARYLAND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT CORPORATION.

(B) THE CORPORATION IS A BODY POLITIC AND CORPORATE AND IS AN INSTRUMENTALITY OF THE STATE.

10-1104.

THE PURPOSES OF THE CORPORATION ARE TO:

(1) DO ALL THINGS NECESSARY TO QUALIFY AS A QUALIFIED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ENTITY;

(2) APPLY TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY TO BE DESIGNATED AS A QUALIFIED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ENTITY;

(3) APPLY TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY FOR AN ALLOCATION OF NEW MARKETS TAX CREDITS;

(4) RECEIVE, MAKE, AND FACILITATE QUALIFIED EQUITY INVESTMENTS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE IN LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES IN THE STATE;

(5) ALLOCATE ANY NEW MARKETS TAX CREDITS RECEIVED BY THE CORPORATION;

(6) COORDINATE WITH OTHER QUALIFIED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ENTITIES IN THE STATE TO HELP ENSURE THAT LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES ARE RECEIVING THE MAXIMUM BENEFIT OF QUALIFIED EQUITY

1 INVESTMENTS;

2 (7) MAKE INVESTMENTS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO
3 LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES FROM THE CORPORATION'S MONEY OR FROM ANY
4 OTHER SOURCE;

5 (8) BUILD A LONG-TERM FINANCIAL CAPACITY AND SUSTAINED
6 INVESTMENT IN LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES IN THE STATE;

7 (9) COORDINATE AND CREATE PATHWAYS TO FOLLOW-ON FINANCING
8 IN THE STATE; AND

9 (10) FOSTER INCLUSIVE AND DIVERSE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND
10 INNOVATION THROUGHOUT THE STATE, WHICH MAY INCLUDE INITIATIVES TO RAISE
11 AWARENESS OF PROGRAMS TO ASSIST LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES.

12 10-1105.

13 (A) A BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL MANAGE THE CORPORATION AND ITS
14 UNITS AND EXERCISE ITS CORPORATE POWERS.

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

16 (1) THE COMPTROLLER OR THE COMPTROLLER'S DESIGNEE;

17 (2) THE SECRETARY OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

18 (3) THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
19 OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

20 (4) THE SECRETARY OF PLANNING OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

21 (5) THE SECRETARY OF GENERAL SERVICES OR THE SECRETARY'S
22 DESIGNEE; AND

23 (6) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH
24 THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE:

25 (I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF NONPROFIT ENTITIES IN THE
26 STATE; AND

27 (II) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES.

1 (C) A MEMBER OF THE BOARD SHALL RESIDE IN THE STATE.

2 (D) IN MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD, THE GOVERNOR SHALL
3 CONSIDER:

4 (1) DIVERSITY; AND

5 (2) ALL GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS OF THE STATE.

6 (E) A MEMBER OF THE BOARD:

7 (1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD;
8 BUT

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

11 (F) (1) THE TERM OF AN APPOINTED MEMBER IS 4 YEARS.

12 (2) THE TERMS OF THE APPOINTED MEMBERS ARE STAGGERED AS
13 REQUIRED BY THE TERMS PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS ON OCTOBER 1, 2024.

14 (3) AT THE END OF A TERM, AN APPOINTED MEMBER CONTINUES TO
15 SERVE UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.

16 (4) A MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED AFTER A TERM HAS BEGUN SERVES
17 ONLY FOR THE REST OF THE TERM AND UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND
18 QUALIFIES.

19 (G) (1) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES TO A MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED BY
20 THE GOVERNOR UNDER SUBSECTION (B)(6) OF THIS SECTION.

21 (2) THE GOVERNOR MAY REMOVE AN APPOINTED MEMBER FOR
22 INCOMPETENCE, MISCONDUCT, OR FAILURE TO PERFORM THE DUTIES OF THE
23 POSITION.

24 10-1106.

25 THE BOARD SHALL ELECT A CHAIR FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS.

26 10-1107.

27 (A) FOUR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ARE A QUORUM.

(B) A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT AT A MEETING HAVING A QUORUM IS NEEDED FOR THE CORPORATION TO ACT.

10-1108.

(A) THE BOARD SHALL APPOINT MEMBERS OF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(B) THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHALL BE COMPOSED OF MEMBERS REQUIRED FOR THE CORPORATION TO QUALIFY AS A QUALIFIED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ENTITY UNDER 26 U.S.C. § 45D(c)(1).

(C) THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT POLICIES ESTABLISHING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

10-1109.

(A) THE CORPORATION SHALL ESTABLISH AN INVESTMENT COMMITTEE.

(B) THE CORPORATION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING:

(1) THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE; AND

(2) THE PROCEDURES FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

10-1110.

(A) THE CORPORATION SHALL EMPLOY A CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.

(B) THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SHALL HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH AND POSSESS QUALIFICATIONS RELEVANT TO THE ACTIVITIES AND PURPOSES OF THE CORPORATION.

(C) THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MAY NOT BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD.

10-1111.

(A) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IS THE LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE CORPORATION.

(B) (1) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL ASSIGN TO THE CORPORATION

1 ASSISTANT ATTORNEYS GENERAL.

2 (2) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL DESIGNATE ONE ASSISTANT
3 ATTORNEY GENERAL AS GENERAL COUNSEL TO THE CORPORATION.

4 (3) (I) THE GENERAL COUNSEL TO THE CORPORATION SHALL:

5 1. ADVISE THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, THE
6 BOARD, AND ANY OTHER OFFICIAL OF THE CORPORATION AS REQUESTED BY THE
7 CORPORATION;

8 2. SUPERVISE THE OTHER ASSISTANT ATTORNEYS
9 GENERAL ASSIGNED TO THE CORPORATION; AND

10 3. PERFORM FOR THE CORPORATION OTHER DUTIES
11 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ASSIGNS.

12 (II) THE GENERAL COUNSEL MAY NOT PROVIDE ANY OTHER
13 ASSISTANCE NOT SPECIFIED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

14 (C) WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE CORPORATION
15 MAY RETAIN ANY ADDITIONAL NECESSARY ATTORNEYS.

16 10-1112.

17 (A) THE DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND
18 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MAY PROVIDE STAFF TO THE CORPORATION AS
19 PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

20 (B) THE CORPORATION MAY RETAIN ANY NECESSARY ACCOUNTANTS,
21 ENGINEERS, FINANCIAL ADVISORS, OR OTHER CONSULTANTS.

22 10-1113.

23 (A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTIONS (B), (C), AND (E) OF THIS
24 SECTION, THE CORPORATION IS EXEMPT FROM TITLE 10 AND DIVISION II OF THE
25 STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

26 (B) THE CORPORATION IS SUBJECT TO THE PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT.

27 (C) THE BOARD, THE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CORPORATION,
28 MEMBERS OF THE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE, AND MEMBERS OF ANY ADVISORY
29 COMMITTEE APPOINTED ARE SUBJECT TO THE PUBLIC ETHICS LAW.

(D) THE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CORPORATION ARE NOT SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF DIVISION I OF THE STATE PERSONNEL AND PENSIONS ARTICLE THAT GOVERN THE STATE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

(E) (1) THE CORPORATION, THE BOARD, AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CORPORATION ARE SUBJECT TO TITLE 12, SUBTITLE 4 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

(2) THE BOARD, THE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CORPORATION, THE MEMBERS OF THE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE, AND THE MEMBERS OF ANY ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTED SHALL DISCLOSE TO THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION WHETHER THEY ARE EMPLOYED BY OR HAVE A FINANCIAL INTEREST IN AN ENTITY THAT CURRENTLY HAS OR WILL APPLY FOR FUNDS OR AN INVESTMENT IN A PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE CORPORATION.

(F) FOR PURPOSES OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT, A PROJECT SITE VISIT OR EDUCATIONAL FIELD TOUR MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED A MEETING OF THE CORPORATION IF NO ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS IS CONDUCTED.

10-1114.

(A) THE CORPORATION SHALL ESTABLISH A SYSTEM OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING, CONTROLS, AUDITS, AND REPORTS.

(B) THE FISCAL YEAR OF THE CORPORATION BEGINS ON JULY 1 AND ENDS ON THE FOLLOWING JUNE 30.

10-1115.

(A) THE CORPORATION MAY CREATE AND ADMINISTER THE ACCOUNTS THAT IT REQUIRES.

(B) THE CORPORATION SHALL DEPOSIT ITS MONEY INTO A STATE OR NATIONAL BANK OR A FEDERALLY INSURED SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION THAT HAS A TOTAL PAID-IN CAPITAL OF AT LEAST \$1,000,000.

(C) THE CORPORATION MAY DESIGNATE THE TRUST DEPARTMENT OF A STATE BANK, NATIONAL BANK, OR SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION AS A DEPOSITORY TO RECEIVE SECURITIES THAT THE CORPORATION OWNS OR ACQUIRES.

(D) UNLESS AN AGREEMENT OR COVENANT BETWEEN THE CORPORATION

1 AND THE HOLDERS OF ITS OBLIGATIONS LIMITS CLASSES OF INVESTMENTS, THE
2 CORPORATION MAY INVEST ITS MONEY IN BONDS OR OTHER OBLIGATIONS OF, OR
3 GUARANTEED AS TO PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST BY, THE UNITED STATES, THE
4 STATE, OR A GOVERNMENTAL UNIT.

5 (E) ANY INCOME FROM THE INVESTMENT OF MONEY OF THE CORPORATION,
6 INCLUDING INVESTMENT PROCEEDS AND EARNINGS, SHALL BE CREDITED TO THE
7 CORPORATION.

8 10-1116.

9 THE CORPORATION MAY:

10 (1) ADOPT BYLAWS FOR THE CONDUCT OF ITS BUSINESS;

11 (2) ADOPT A SEAL;

12 (3) MAINTAIN OFFICES AT A PLACE IT DESIGNATES IN THE STATE;

13 (4) ACCEPT LOANS, GRANTS, INVESTMENTS, OR ASSISTANCE OF ANY
14 KIND FROM THE FEDERAL OR STATE GOVERNMENT, A LOCAL GOVERNMENT, A
15 COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY, OR A PRIVATE SOURCE;

16 (5) ENTER INTO CONTRACTS AND OTHER LEGAL INSTRUMENTS;

17 (6) SUE OR BE SUED;

18 (7) ACQUIRE, PURCHASE, HOLD, LEASE AS LESSEE, AND USE:

19 (I) A FRANCHISE, PATENT, OR LICENSE;

20 (II) ANY REAL, PERSONAL, MIXED, TANGIBLE, OR INTANGIBLE
21 PROPERTY; OR

22 (III) AN INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY LISTED IN THIS ITEM;

23 (8) SELL, LEASE AS LESSOR, TRANSFER, LICENSE, ASSIGN, OR
24 DISPOSE OF PROPERTY OR A PROPERTY INTEREST THAT IT ACQUIRES;

25 (9) FIX AND COLLECT RATES, RENTALS, FEES, ROYALTIES, AND
26 CHARGES FOR SERVICES AND RESOURCES IT PROVIDES OR MAKES AVAILABLE;

27 (10) CREATE, OWN, CONTROL, OR BE A MEMBER OF A CORPORATION,

1 LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, PARTNERSHIP, OR OTHER ENTITY, WHETHER
2 OPERATED FOR PROFIT OR NOT FOR PROFIT;

3 (11) EXERCISE POWER USUALLY POSSESSED BY A PRIVATE
4 CORPORATION IN PERFORMING SIMILAR FUNCTIONS UNLESS TO DO SO WOULD
5 CONFLICT WITH STATE LAW; AND

6 (12) DO ALL THINGS NECESSARY OR CONVENIENT TO CARRY OUT THIS
7 SUBTITLE.

8 10-1117.

9 THE BOARD SHALL:

10 (1) DEVELOP A PUBLIC AND INTERNAL STRATEGIC PLAN THAT
11 INCLUDES:

12 (I) PERFORMANCE GOALS AND MEASURES;

13 (II) A MISSION STATEMENT AND CORE VALUES;

14 (III) AN ANALYSIS OF STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES,
15 OPPORTUNITIES, AND THREATS;

16 (IV) ACTION PLANS; AND

17 (V) YEARLY AND LONG-TERM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES;

18 (2) REVIEW STRATEGIC PLANS AND UPDATE THE PLANS ANNUALLY
19 TO MEASURE PERFORMANCE;

20 (3) APPROVE COMPENSATION PLANS FOR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
21 OFFICER AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CORPORATION;

22 (4) DESIGNATE A PERSON TO REVIEW AND APPROVE EXPENSE
23 REIMBURSEMENTS OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND EMPLOYEES OF THE
24 CORPORATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD;

25 (5) DESIGNATE A PERSON TO RECEIVE ETHICS COMPLAINTS AND ANY
26 COMPLAINTS INVOLVING THE BOARD, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, AND
27 EMPLOYEES OF THE CORPORATION;

28 (6) ESTABLISH POLICIES THAT GOVERN:

1 (I) SEVERANCE PACKAGES FOR EMPLOYEES THAT
2 INVOLUNTARILY LEAVE EMPLOYMENT;

3 (II) TUITION REIMBURSEMENT AND LIMITS FOR EMPLOYEES;

4 (III) ELIGIBLE EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT REQUIREMENTS
5 THAT INCLUDE:

6 1. THE TYPES OF EXPENSES THAT ARE CONSIDERED
7 PART OF CORPORATION FUNCTIONS;

8 2. LIMITS ON REIMBURSEMENTS AND TIME FRAMES FOR
9 SUBMISSION; AND

10 3. ALLOWABLE TRAVEL EXPENSES INCLUDING ANY
11 OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL;

12 (IV) THE USE OF ALL CORPORATION EQUIPMENT, PERSONAL
13 PROPERTY, AND REAL PROPERTY AND WHETHER ANY PROPERTY MAY BE
14 TRANSFERRED TO A DEPARTING EMPLOYEE; AND

15 (V) WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINTS AND PROTECTIONS FOR
16 THOSE FILING COMPLAINTS; AND

17 (7) CONDUCT AN ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE CHIEF
18 OPERATING OFFICER.

19 10-1118.

20 (A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, THE
21 CORPORATION MAY MAKE QUALIFIED EQUITY INVESTMENTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL
22 ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO PROJECTS IN LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES IF THE
23 INVESTMENTS ARE MADE ON REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF A WRITTEN APPLICATION
24 THAT CONTAINS:

25 (1) SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO VERIFY THAT THE PROJECT IS IN
26 THE STATE; AND

27 (2) A CERTIFICATION OF THE VERACITY OF THE INFORMATION BY AN
28 AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY OF THE APPLICANT.

29 (B) IN REGARD TO ANY AND ALL PROGRAMS OF THE CORPORATION, EXCEPT

AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SUBTITLE, THE CORPORATION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO GOVERN INVESTMENTS UNDER THIS SUBSECTION THAT SPECIFY:

(1) THE TYPES OF BUSINESSES AND PROJECTS IN WHICH AN INVESTMENT MAY BE MADE;

(2) THE BASIC STANDARDS AN ENTERPRISE SHALL MEET TO QUALIFY FOR AN INVESTMENT;

(3) THE AMOUNT OF MONEY AVAILABLE FOR INVESTMENT;

(4) THE INVESTMENT POLICY STATEMENT OF THE CORPORATION THAT DESCRIBES THE PROCEDURES, CRITERIA, INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY, AND GUIDELINES FOR HOW THE CORPORATION'S INVESTMENT DECISIONS WILL BE MADE; AND

(5) A PROCESS FOR CONSIDERING WHETHER INVESTMENTS HELP TO FOSTER INCLUSIVE AND DIVERSE ENTREPRENEURSHIP, INCLUDING THE CORPORATION'S SUPPORT FOR LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES.

(C) THE CORPORATION MAY MAKE INVESTMENTS UNDER AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE STATE RETIREMENT AND PENSION SYSTEM UNDER § 21-123.2 OF THE STATE PERSONNEL AND PENSIONS ARTICLE.

10-1119.

THE CORPORATION MAY:

(1) PROVIDE EQUITY INVESTMENT TO A QUALIFIED BUSINESS OR PROJECT IN THE FORM OF A GRANT, LOAN, TAX CREDIT ALLOCATION, OR ANY OTHER FORM OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO CARRY OUT ITS PURPOSES;

(2) ACQUIRE, DEVELOP, IMPROVE, MANAGE, MARKET, LICENSE, SUBLICENSE, MAINTAIN, LEASE AS LESSOR OR LESSEE, OR OPERATE A PROJECT IN THE STATE TO CARRY OUT ITS PURPOSES; AND

(3) ACQUIRE, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, FROM A PERSON OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION, BY PURCHASE, GIFT, OR DEVISE, ANY PROPERTY, RIGHTS-OF-WAY, FRANCHISES, EASEMENTS, OR OTHER INTERESTS IN LAND, INCLUDING SUBMERGED LAND AND RIPARIAN RIGHTS:

(I) AS NECESSARY OR CONVENIENT TO IMPROVE OR OPERATE A PROJECT TO CARRY OUT ITS PURPOSES; AND

(II) ON THE TERMS AND AT THE PRICES THAT THE CORPORATION CONSIDERS REASONABLE.

10-1120.

A DEBT, CLAIM, OBLIGATION, OR LIABILITY OF THE CORPORATION OR ANY SUBSIDIARY IS NOT:

(1) A DEBT, CLAIM, OBLIGATION, OR LIABILITY OF THE STATE, A UNIT OR INSTRUMENTALITY OF THE STATE, OR OF A STATE OFFICER OR STATE EMPLOYEE; OR

(2) A PLEDGE OF THE CREDIT OF THE STATE.

10-1121.

THE CORPORATION IS EXEMPT FROM STATE AND LOCAL TAXES.

10-1122.

(A) THE BOOKS AND RECORDS OF THE CORPORATION ARE SUBJECT TO AUDIT:

(1) AT ANY TIME BY THE STATE; AND

(2) EACH YEAR BY AN INDEPENDENT AUDITOR, INCLUDING AN ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT UNDER GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES.

(B) THE CORPORATION SHALL CONDUCT AN INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE BOARD AND THE CORPORATION EVERY 5 YEARS.

10-1123.

(A) (1) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 EACH YEAR, THE CORPORATION SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

(2) THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE:

(I) A COMPLETE OPERATING AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1 COVERING THE CORPORATION'S OPERATIONS;

2 (II) A SUMMARY OF THE CORPORATION'S ACTIVITIES DURING
3 THE PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR;

4 (III) INFORMATION ON ALL SALARIES AND ANY INCENTIVES
5 APPROVED BY THE BOARD FOR CORPORATION EMPLOYEES;

6 (IV) INFORMATION ON OUTREACH, TRAINING, MENTORSHIP,
7 SUPPORT, AND INVESTMENT IN MINORITY- AND WOMEN-OWNED QUALIFIED
8 BUSINESSES, INCLUDING SUPPORT FOR MARKETING BY THE MARYLAND SMALL
9 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FINANCING AUTHORITY;

10 (V) INFORMATION ON ENTITIES THAT HAVE CURRENT
11 INVESTMENTS AND ENTITIES THAT RECEIVED FUNDING OR INVESTMENTS IN THE
12 CURRENT YEAR ON:

13 1. THE PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OPERATIONS;

14 2. THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES IN THE STATE AND THE
15 NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES OUTSIDE THE STATE;

16 3. THE CAPITAL OR OTHER INVESTMENTS MADE IN THE
17 STATE; AND

18 4. THE PROPOSED AND ACTUAL JOB CREATION OR
19 CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN THE STATE AS A RESULT OF THE INVESTMENT OR
20 SUPPORT;

21 (VI) INFORMATION ON THE CREATION OF AND APPOINTMENTS
22 MADE TO AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ADVISORY
23 COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE; AND

24 (VII) THE POLICIES OF THE BOARD AND ANY CHANGES TO
25 EXISTING POLICIES.

26 (B) (1) ON A QUARTERLY BASIS, THE CORPORATION SHALL REPORT TO
27 THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT
28 ARTICLE, THE JOINT AUDIT AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE AND THE GENERAL
29 ASSEMBLY.

30 (2) THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL
31 INCLUDE A LIST OF THE BUSINESSES AND PROJECTS RECEIVING SUPPORT THROUGH

PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE CORPORATION, INCLUDING THOSE RECEIVING INVESTMENTS MADE UNDER § 21–123.2 OF THE STATE PERSONNEL AND PENSIONS ARTICLE.

(3) THE LIST OF BUSINESSES AND PROJECTS RECEIVING SUPPORT SHALL INCLUDE FOR EACH:

(I) THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES IN THE STATE;

(II) THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES OUTSIDE THE STATE;

(III) THE CAPITAL OR OTHER INVESTMENTS MADE IN THE STATE;

AND

(IV) PROPOSED JOB CREATION OR CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN THE STATE AS A RESULT OF THE INVESTMENT OR SUPPORT.

(C) THE CORPORATION SHALL PUBLISH ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, AUDIT REPORTS, AND POLICIES OF THE BOARD VISIBLY ON ITS WEBSITE.

Article – Housing and Community Development

4–508.

(a) In this section, “Fund” means the Strategic Demolition and Smart Growth Impact Fund.

(b) There is a Strategic Demolition and Smart Growth Impact Fund.

(c) The purpose of the Fund is to provide grants and loans to assist in predevelopment activities, including interior and exterior demolition, land assembly, architecture and engineering, [and] site development, **DEBT PAYMENTS, AND CREDIT ENHANCEMENT** for revitalization projects in designated areas of the State.

(d) The Department shall administer the Fund.

(e) (1) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7–302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

(2) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

(f) The Fund consists of:

(1) money appropriated in the State budget to the Fund;

(2) repayments of loans made from the Fund;

(3) interest earnings of the Fund; and

(4) any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the Fund.

(g) (1) The Fund may be used only to provide grants and loans to government agencies and community development organizations for interior and exterior demolition, land assembly, architecture and engineering, [and] site development, **DEBT PAYMENTS, AND CREDIT ENHANCEMENT** for revitalization projects in an area designated as:

(i) a Sustainable Community; or

(ii) a qualified opportunity zone designated under § 1400Z–1 of the Internal Revenue Code in Allegany County, Garrett County, Somerset County, or Wicomico County.

(2) (i) For fiscal years 2017 through 2019, to be eligible for a grant or loan from the Fund, a government agency or community development organization shall provide evidence of a matching fund that is equal to \$1 for every \$4 in State funding that the agency or organization is applying for from the Fund.

(ii) The matching fund required under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph may include:

1. money from the federal government, local government, or any other public or private source;

2. real property;

3. in-kind contributions; and

4. funds expended before the date the grant or loan is awarded.

(3) For fiscal year 2020 and each fiscal year thereafter, to be eligible for a grant or loan from the Fund, a government agency or community development organization is not required to provide evidence of a matching fund.

(4) The Department shall award grants and loans from the Fund on a competitive basis.

(h) (1) The State Treasurer shall invest the money of the Fund in the same manner as other State money may be invested.

1 (2) Any interest earnings of the Fund shall be credited to the Fund.

2 (i) Expenditures from the Fund may be made only in accordance with the State
3 budget.

4 (j) (1) For fiscal year 2018, the Governor shall include in the annual budget
5 bill or capital budget bill an appropriation of \$25,625,000 from general funds or the
6 proceeds from the sale of State general obligation bonds to the Fund, which shall be
7 allocated as follows:

8 (i) \$22,125,000 for projects in Baltimore City; and

9 (ii) \$3,500,000 for projects throughout the State.

10 (2) For fiscal year 2019, the Governor shall include in the annual budget
11 bill or capital budget bill an appropriation of \$28,500,000 from general funds or the
12 proceeds from the sale of State general obligation bonds to the Fund, which shall be
13 allocated as follows:

14 (i) \$25,000,000 for projects in Baltimore City; and

15 (ii) \$3,500,000 for projects throughout the State.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
17 1, 2024.