P1 5lr2405 CF 5lr1865

By: Senators Charles, Jackson, Augustine, Waldstreicher, Muse, Benson, Rosapepe, Watson, and Kagan

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2025

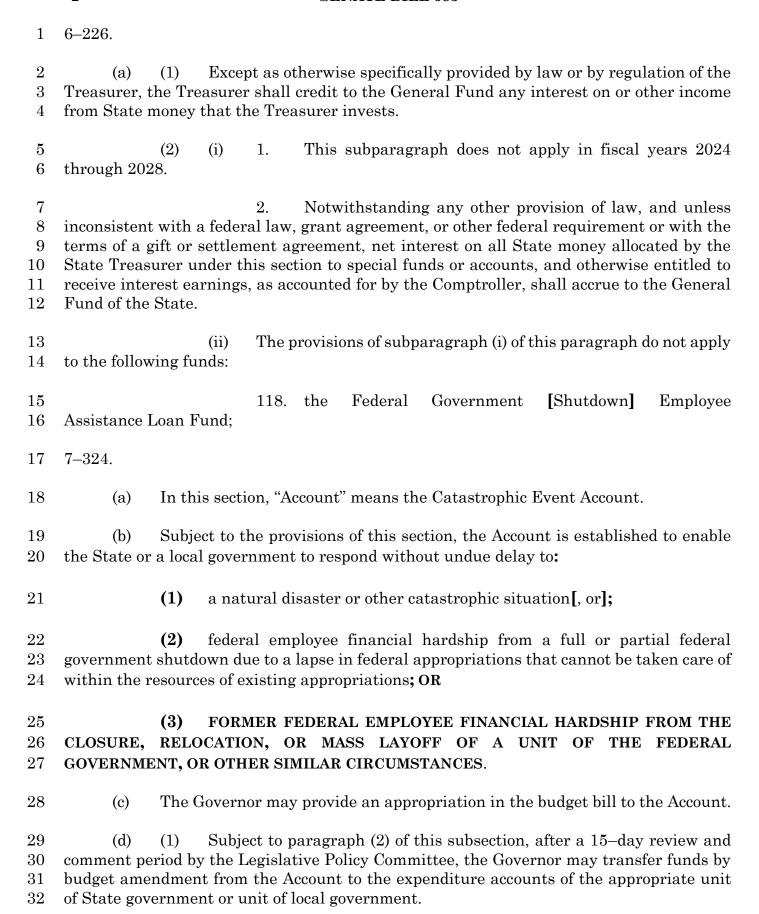
Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1	AN ACT concerning		
2	Catastrophic Event Account and Federal Government Shutdown Employee		
3	Assistance Loan Fund – Alterations		
4	(Protect Our Federal Workers Act)		
5	FOR the purpose of renaming the Federal Government Shutdown Employee Assistance		
6	Loan Fund to be the Federal Government Employee Assistance Loan Fund;		
7	authorizing funds appropriated to the Catastrophic Event Account to be expended to		
8	assist in funding costs in connection with a closure, relocation, or mass layoff of a		
9	unit of the federal government, or other similar circumstances; altering the purpose		
10	of the Fund and the eligibility criteria to receive loans from the Fund; and generally		
11	relating to the Catastrophic Event Account and the Federal Government Employee		
12	Assistance Loan Fund.		
13	BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,		
14	Article – State Finance and Procurement		
15	Section 6–226(a)(1) and (2)(i)		
16	Annotated Code of Maryland		
17	(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)		
18	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,		
19	Article – State Finance and Procurement		
20	Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)118., 7–324, and 7–327		
21	Annotated Code of Maryland		
22	(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)		
23	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,		
24	That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:		
25	Article – State Finance and Procurement		

Article - State Finance and Procurement





- 1 If the federal government is in a full or partial shutdown due to a lapse (2)2in appropriations, after a 2-day review and comment period by the Legislative Policy 3 Committee, the Governor may transfer funds by budget amendment from the Account to 4 the Federal Government [Shutdown] Employee Assistance Loan Fund established under § 7–327 of this subtitle. 5 6 (e) Funds appropriated to the Catastrophic Event Account: 7 may not be used to offset operating deficiencies in regular programs of (1)8 State government; but 9 may be expended to assist a unit of State government or unit of local 10 government in funding costs in connection with: 11 a natural disaster[,]; (I)12 (II)a catastrophic situation[, or]; 13 a full or partial federal government shutdown due to a lapse in 14 appropriations; OR 15 (IV) A CLOSURE, RELOCATION, OR MASS LAYOFF OF A UNIT OF 16 THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. 17 The Account is a continuing, nonlapsing fund which is not subject to § (1) 18 7–302 of this subtitle. 19 (2)The Treasurer shall separately hold, and the Comptroller shall account 20 for, the Account. 21The Account shall be invested and reinvested in the same manner as (3)22 other State funds. 23 **(4)** Any investment earnings shall be subject to § 7–311(d) of this subtitle. Money appropriated to the Account does not revert to the Revenue 24 Stabilization Account. 25
- 27 (a) In this section, "Fund" means the Federal Government [Shutdown] Employee 28 Assistance Loan Fund.

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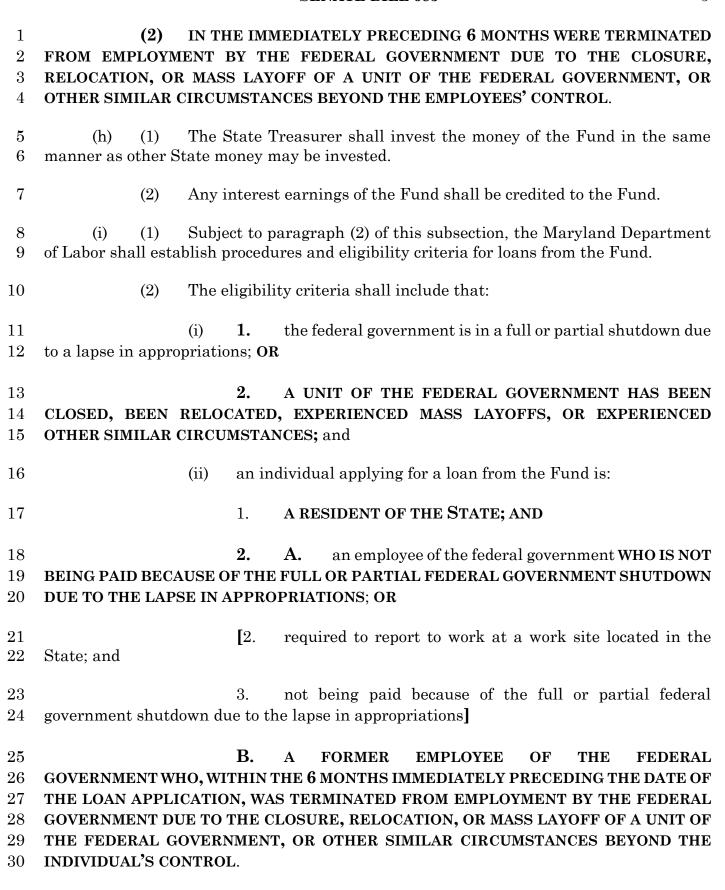
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29 (b) There is a Federal Government [Shutdown] Employee Assistance Loan Fund.

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appropriations; OR

1 The purpose of the Fund is to provide loans to [employees of the federal (c) 2 government] STATE RESIDENTS who [are]: 3 Irequired to report to work at a work site located in the State; and (1) ARE EMPLOYEES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WHO ARE not 4 **(2)** being paid because of a full or partial federal government shutdown due to a lapse in 5 6 appropriations: OR 7 **(2)** IN THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 6 MONTHS WERE TERMINATED 8 FROM EMPLOYMENT BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DUE TO THE CLOSURE, RELOCATION, OR MASS LAYOFF OF A UNIT OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, OR 9 OTHER SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND THE EMPLOYEES' CONTROL. 10 11 (d) The Maryland Department of Labor shall administer the Fund. 12 (e) (1)The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7–302 of this subtitle that shall be available in perpetuity for the purpose of providing loans in 13 14 accordance with the provisions of this section. 15 The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the 16 Comptroller shall account for the Fund. 17 (f) The Fund consists of: 18 (1) money appropriated in the State budget to the Fund; 19 (2) any interest earnings of the Fund; 20 money transferred from the Catastrophic Event Account in accordance 21with § 7–324 of this subtitle; 22 repayments on loans made from the Fund; and **(4)** 23any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the (5)Fund. 2425The Fund shall be used only to provide no-interest loans to [employees of the federal government] STATE RESIDENTS who [are]: 26 27 (1) required to report to work at a work site located in the State; and 28 ARE EMPLOYEES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WHO ARE not being paid because of a full or partial federal government shutdown due to a lapse in 29



(3) The procedures shall include:

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1	(i)	application procedures;
2	(ii)	payment procedures from the Fund; and
3 4	(iii) repay a loan from the Fu	repayment procedures, including timelines, for an individual to nd.
5	SECTION 2. AND	BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July