

HOUSE BILL 1221

M5, E4
HB 1100/23 – ENT & ECM

4lr2752
CF SB 788

By: **Delegates Jacobs, Anderton, Arentz, Buckel, Chisholm, Foley, Griffith, Guyton, Hartman, Holmes, Hornberger, Hutchinson, Kipke, Mangione, McComas, T. Morgan, Otto, Rose, Schmidt, and Tomlinson**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation and Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Battery Storage and Solar Arrays Safety Training Grant Program and Fund**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Battery Storage and Solar Arrays Safety Training
4 Grant Program in the Maryland Energy Administration to provide grants to the
5 Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute to train local fire departments on certain safety
6 aspects associated with lithium-ion battery storage systems installed with solar
7 arrays; requiring the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute to consult with certain
8 entities in determining how to meet the purpose of the Program with the grants
9 awarded under the Program; establishing the Battery Storage and Solar Arrays
10 Safety Training Grant Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; and generally relating to
11 lithium-ion battery storage systems and solar arrays.

12 BY adding to
13 Article – State Government
14 Section 9–20B–05(f)(13)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
18 Article – State Government
19 Section 9–20B–05(a)
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

22 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
23 Article – State Government
24 Section 9–20B–05(f)(12) and (13)
25 Annotated Code of Maryland
26 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

Article – State Government

9–2016.

**(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
INDICATED.**

**(2) “FUND” MEANS THE BATTERY STORAGE AND SOLAR ARRAYS
SAFETY TRAINING GRANT FUND.**

**(3) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE BATTERY STORAGE AND SOLAR ARRAYS
SAFETY TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM.**

(4) “SOLAR ARRAY” MEANS A SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING FACILITY.

**(B) THERE IS A BATTERY STORAGE AND SOLAR ARRAYS SAFETY TRAINING
GRANT PROGRAM IN THE ADMINISTRATION.**

**(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO THE
MARYLAND FIRE AND RESCUE INSTITUTE TO TRAIN LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS ON:**

**(1) THE DANGERS AND HAZARDS OF LITHIUM–ION BATTERY STORAGE
SYSTEMS INSTALLED WITH SOLAR ARRAYS; AND**

**(2) HOW TO RESPOND TO EMERGENCIES INVOLVING LITHIUM–ION
BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEMS INSTALLED WITH SOLAR ARRAYS.**

(D) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL:

(1) ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM;

(2) ESTABLISH APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR THE PROGRAM; AND

(3) AWARD GRANTS UNDER THE PROGRAM.

**(E) IN DETERMINING HOW TO MEET THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM WITH
THE GRANTS AWARDED UNDER THE PROGRAM, THE MARYLAND FIRE AND RESCUE
INSTITUTE SHALL CONSULT WITH:**

(1) THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT;

1 **(2) THE MARYLAND FIRE-RESCUE EDUCATION AND TRAINING**
2 **COMMISSION;**

3 **(3) THE MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION;**

4 **(4) THE MARYLAND FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION;**

5 **(5) THE METROPOLITAN FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION; AND**

6 **(6) INDIVIDUALS WITH EXPERTISE IN LITHIUM-ION BATTERY**
7 **STORAGE SAFETY, INCLUDING EXPERTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND**
8 **COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT OF FIRE PROTECTION.**

9 **(F) (1) THERE IS A BATTERY STORAGE AND SOLAR ARRAYS SAFETY**
10 **TRAINING GRANT FUND.**

11 **(2) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.**

12 **(3) (I) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT**
13 **SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.**

14 **(II) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND**
15 **SEPARATELY, AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.**

16 **(4) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:**

17 **(I) FUNDS DISTRIBUTED TO THE FUND UNDER § 9-20B-05 OF**
18 **THIS TITLE;**

19 **(II) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE**
20 **FUND; AND**

21 **(III) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED**
22 **FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.**

23 **(5) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY FOR:**

24 **(I) PROVIDING GRANTS UNDER THE PROGRAM TO THE**
25 **MARYLAND FIRE AND RESCUE INSTITUTE TO DEVELOP AND PROVIDE TRAINING**
26 **COURSES THAT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROGRAM; AND**

27 **(II) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF THE PROGRAM.**

1 **(6) (I) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE**
2 **FUND IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.**

3 **(II) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE**
4 **CREDITED TO THE GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE.**

5 **(G) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS**
6 **SECTION.**

7 9–20B–05.

8 (a) There is a Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund.

9 (f) The Administration shall use the Fund:

10 (12) to provide at least \$500,000 each year to the Resiliency Hub Grant
11 Program Fund under § 9–2011 of this title; [and]

12 **(13) TO PROVIDE AT LEAST \$1,000,000 TO THE BATTERY STORAGE**
13 **AND SOLAR ARRAYS SAFETY TRAINING GRANT FUND UNDER § 9–2016 OF THIS**
14 **TITLE; AND**

15 **[(13)] (14)** to pay the expenses of the Program.

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