

HOUSE BILL 546

F2, K3, C8

3lr0133
CF SB 551

By: **The Speaker (By Request – Administration) and Delegates Rosenberg, Addison, Allen, Alston, Amprey, Anderton, Attar, Bagnall, Bhandari, Boaf, Boyce, Cardin, Charkoudian, Charles, Conaway, Crosby, Crutchfield, Cullison, Davis, Ebersole, Edelson, Feldmark, Fennell, Foley, Fraser-Hidalgo, Grossman, Guyton, Harris, Healey, Henson, Holmes, Hornberger, D. Jones, Kaiser, Kaufman, Kelly, Kerr, J. Long, Lopez, Love, McCaskill, McComas, Mireku-North, Moon, Palakovich Carr, Pasteur, Patterson, Phillips, Queen, Reznik, Ruth, Sample-Hughes, Shetty, Simmons, Simpson, Smith, Solomon, Stewart, Taveras, Toles, Turner, Valderrama, Vogel, Watson, Wells, Wilkins, Williams, Woods, Wu, Young, and Ziegler**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2023

Assigned to: Appropriations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: March 5, 2023

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~**Education – Service Year Option Program – Establishment**~~
3 ~~**(Serving Every Region Through Vocational Exploration Act of 2023)**~~

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the ~~Service Year Option~~ Maryland Corps Program;
5 requiring the Department of Service and Civic Innovation to administer and provide
6 staff for the Program; requiring a Program participant to work at least a certain
7 number of hours per week and partner with an on-site mentor while working in a
8 service placement; requiring a participating employer to pay a Program participant
9 a certain wage and provide health insurance benefits to a Program participant;
10 authorizing a participating employer to provide wraparound services to a Program
11 participant; authorizing the Department to disburse a stipend of up to a certain
12 amount and a higher education award of a certain amount to a Program participant
13 who completes a service placement; requiring a Program participant to perform
14 certain duties and participate in certain training and activities as part of a service
15 placement; establishing the ~~Service Year Option~~ Maryland Corps Program Fund as

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.



a special, nonlapsing fund; requiring interest earnings of the Fund to be credited to the Fund; requiring the Department to procure the services of a third-party entity to conduct an independent study and assessment of the Program and submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; requiring the Department, on or before a certain date, to publish an online dashboard of key performance indicators shown in the report; repealing the provisions of law relating to the Maryland Corps Program; altering the use of specifying that certain funding appropriated to the Dedicated Purpose Account in the fiscal year 2023 budget bill from shall be used for the Maryland Corps Program to the Service Year Option Program in the Department of Service and Civic Innovation; and generally relating to the establishment of the Service Year Option Maryland Corps Program and the repeal of the Maryland Corps Program.

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 24–11A–01 through 24–11A–07 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 11A. ~~Service Year Option~~ Maryland Corps Program”

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – State Finance and Procurement

Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – State Finance and Procurement

Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)170. and 171.

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – State Finance and Procurement

Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)172.

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

BY repealing

Article – State Government

Section 9–2811 through 9–2820 and the part “Part II. Maryland Corps Program”

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)
(As enacted by Chapter 1 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2023)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Chapter 484 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2022

Supplemental Budget No. 5, Item 14(16)

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

Article – Education

SUBTITLE 11A. ~~SERVICE YEAR OPTION~~ MARYLAND CORPS PROGRAM.

24-11A-01.

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

(B) “DEPARTMENT” MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF SERVICE AND CIVIC
INNOVATION.

(C) “FUND” MEANS THE ~~SERVICE YEAR OPTION~~ MARYLAND CORPS
PROGRAM FUND.

(D) “PARTICIPATING EMPLOYER” MEANS A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ENTITY
PARTICIPATING AS AN EMPLOYER UNDER THE PROGRAM.

(E) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE ~~SERVICE YEAR OPTION~~ MARYLAND CORPS
PROGRAM.

(F) “PROGRAM PARTICIPANT” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

(1) ~~HAS RECEIVED A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA, GED, OR COMPARABLE~~
~~PROOF OF EQUIVALENT EDUCATIONAL LEVEL~~ WITHIN 2 YEARS BEFORE APPLYING
FOR A SERVICE PLACEMENT UNDER THE PROGRAM:

(i) A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA, GED, OR COMPARABLE PROOF
OF EDUCATIONAL LEVEL; OR

(ii) A MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION;
OR

(2) QUALIFIES FOR A SERVICE PLACEMENT UNDER ALTERNATIVE
CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY.

(G) “SECRETARY” MEANS THE SECRETARY OF SERVICE AND CIVIC
INNOVATION.

(H) "SERVICE PLACEMENT" MEANS THE JOB ASSIGNMENT DESIGNATED TO AN INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

(I) "WRAPAROUND SERVICES" INCLUDES:

(1) CHILD CARE;

(2) TRANSPORTATION;

(3) HOUSING;

(4) MENTAL HEALTH;

(5) CRISIS INTERVENTION;

(6) SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION OR TREATMENT;

(7) LEGAL AID;

(8) FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAMMING;

(9) JOB SEARCH AND APPLICATION SUPPORT; AND

(10) COLLEGE APPLICATION SUPPORT.

24-11A-02.

(A) THERE IS A ~~SERVICE YEAR OPTION~~ MARYLAND CORPS PROGRAM IN THE STATE.

(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO:

(1) PROVIDE SERVICE PLACEMENTS TO RECENT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS WITH SIMILAR LEVELS OF EDUCATION AS AN ADDITIONAL OPTION TO PURSUING CAREER AND TECHNICAL TRAINING OR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION;

(2) EQUIP PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WITH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, MENTORING, JOB TRAINING, AND OTHER SUPPORT WHILE WORKING IN HIGH-IMPACT SERVICE PLACEMENTS;

(3) HELP ADDRESS THE STATE'S GREATEST CHALLENGES BY CHANNELING THE NEXT GENERATION INTO PUBLIC IMPACT WORK; ~~AND~~

1 (4) STRENGTHEN A PIPELINE OF TALENT INTO STATE AND LOCAL
2 GOVERNMENTS TO FILL PRESENT AND FUTURE STAFFING NEEDS;

3 (5) EQUIP PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WITH THE SKILLS THAT WILL
4 ENABLE THEM TO SUCCESSFULLY MAKE THE TRANSITION FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO
5 AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION OR TO THE WORKFORCE; AND

6 (6) PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE
7 COMPLETED THE PROGRAM TO BE USED AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
8 TOWARD VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATES, ASSOCIATE'S DEGREES, OR BACHELOR'S
9 DEGREES.

10 (C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

11 (1) ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM; AND

12 (2) PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE PROGRAM AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE
13 BUDGET.

14 24-11A-03.

15 (A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

16 (1) DESIGN THE PROGRAM;

17 (2) IDENTIFY AND WORK WITH NONPROFIT ENTITIES WHO MAY
18 RECEIVE GRANTS TO SERVE AS REGIONAL PROGRAM LEADERS ACROSS THE STATE;

19 (3) CREATE A STATEWIDE NETWORK FOR ALL PROGRAM
20 PARTICIPANTS ACROSS THE STATE;

21 (4) PROMOTE AND COMMUNICATE PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES TO
22 HIGH SCHOOLS, RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, AND
23 POTENTIAL PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS ACROSS THE STATE;

24 (5) (I) DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A CENTRAL APPLICATION
25 PROCESS; AND

26 (II) ASSIST APPLICANTS WITH THE APPLICATION PROCESS;

27 (6) BUILD AND MAINTAIN AN ACCURATE AND UP-TO-DATE ONLINE
28 PORTAL TO MANAGE OPENINGS FOR SERVICE PLACEMENTS;

(7) IDENTIFY PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS WHO CAN PROVIDE A WIDE ARRAY OF BENEFITS, INCLUDING MENTORING AND CAREER AND COLLEGE COACHING;

(8) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, SELECT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS THAT REFLECT THE GENDER, RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF THE STATE; AND

(9) EVALUATE THE OVERALL OPERATIONS OF THE PROGRAM IN COLLABORATION WITH AN INDEPENDENT ENTITY.

(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SET TARGETS FOR PROGRAM PARTICIPATION, INCLUDING:

(1) 200 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS IN THE FIRST YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION; AND

(2) 2000 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS IN THE FOURTH YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION.

(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP PROGRAM FOCUS AREAS TO ADDRESS PRIORITY ISSUES, INCLUDING:

(1) CLIMATE;

(2) EDUCATION; ~~AND~~

(3) HEALTH; AND

(4) POSITIONS IN STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FACING PERSISTENT RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION CHALLENGES.

24-11A-04.

(A) (1) WHILE WORKING IN A SERVICE PLACEMENT, A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT SHALL:

(I) WORK AT LEAST 30 HOURS PER WEEK, UNLESS OTHERWISE APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT; AND

(II) PARTNER WITH AN ON-SITE MENTOR WHO PROVIDES:

1. JOB TRAINING;

1 2. CAREER AND POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
2 COUNSELING;

3 3. FINANCIAL LITERACY SKILLS; AND

4 4. ANY OTHER SUPPORT NEEDED.

5 (2) A PARTICIPATING EMPLOYER SHALL ~~PAY~~;

6 (I) PAY A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT \$15 PER HOUR; AND

7 (II) PROVIDE HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS TO A PROGRAM
8 PARTICIPANT.

9 (3) A PARTICIPATING EMPLOYER MAY PROVIDE WRAPAROUND
10 SERVICES TO A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT.

11 (B) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTIONS (C) AND (D) OF THIS SECTION, THE
12 DEPARTMENT MAY DISBURSE ~~A STIPEND OF UP TO \$3,000~~ TO A PROGRAM
13 PARTICIPANT WHO COMPLETES A SERVICE PLACEMENT:

14 (1) A STIPEND OF UP TO \$6,000; AND

15 (2) AN EDUCATION AWARD OF \$6,000, WHICH SHALL BE DEPOSITED
16 INTO A TAX-EXEMPT MARYLAND 529 ACCOUNT ESTABLISHED UNDER TITLE 18,
17 SUBTITLE 19 OF THIS ARTICLE AND MAY BE USED ONLY FOR QUALIFIED HIGHER
18 EDUCATION EXPENSES, AS DEFINED IN § 18-1901 OF THIS ARTICLE.

19 (C) A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT SHALL:

20 (1) PERFORM THE DUTIES OF THE SERVICE PLACEMENT TO THE
21 SATISFACTION OF THE PARTICIPATING EMPLOYER AND THE DEPARTMENT;

22 (2) PARTICIPATE IN ALL TRAINING RELATED TO THE SERVICE
23 PLACEMENT AND FUTURE CAREERS OR EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS; AND

24 (3) PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAM-WIDE EVENTS TO:

25 (I) EXPAND THE PARTICIPANT'S PROFESSIONAL NETWORK;

26 (II) MAKE CONNECTIONS WITHIN THE PROGRAM; AND

27 (III) TAKE ADVANTAGE OF STATE RESOURCES.

(D) AS NEEDED, THE DEPARTMENT MAY DISBURSE A PRORATED STIPEND AMOUNT ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

24-11A-05.

(A) THERE IS A ~~SERVICE YEAR OPTION~~ MARYLAND CORPS PROGRAM FUND.

(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO:

(1) PROVIDE STIPENDS TO PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS; ~~AND~~

(2) PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE PROGRAM TO BE USED AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE TOWARD VOCATIONAL CERTIFICATES, ASSOCIATE'S DEGREES, AND BACHELOR'S DEGREES; AND

~~(2)~~ (3) PAY THE COSTS TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.

(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

(D) THE FUND IS A CONTINUING, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

(E) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY AND SHALL INVEST THE MONEY IN THE FUND IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.

(2) ANY INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO THE FUND.

(F) THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

(G) THE DEPARTMENT:

(1) MAY ACCEPT ANY GIFT OR GRANT FROM ANY PERSON FOR THE FUND;

(2) SHALL USE ANY GIFT OR GRANT THAT IT RECEIVES FOR THE PURPOSES LISTED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION; AND

(3) SHALL DEPOSIT WITH THE STATE TREASURER ANY GIFT OR GRANT THAT IT RECEIVES FOR THE FUND.

(H) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

(1) MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE PROGRAM IN THE STATE BUDGET;

(2) GIFTS OR GRANTS RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE FUND;

(3) FEDERAL FUNDS;

~~(3)~~ (4) INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE FUND; AND

~~(4)~~ (5) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.

(I) ANY UNSPENT PORTION OF THE FUND MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED OR REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE BUT SHALL REMAIN IN THE FUND TO BE USED FOR THE PURPOSES SPECIFIED IN THIS SUBTITLE.

(J) THE FUND IS SUBJECT TO AUDIT BY THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITS IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1220 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

24-11A-06.

(A) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROCURE THE SERVICES OF A THIRD-PARTY ENTITY TO CONDUCT AN INDEPENDENT STUDY AND ASSESSMENT OF THE PROGRAM.

(2) THE STUDY SHALL EMPLOY:

(I) RANDOM ASSIGNMENT, IF FEASIBLE AND ETHICAL; OR

(II) OTHER RESEARCH METHODS THAT ALLOW FOR THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE CAUSAL INFERENCES, IF RANDOM ASSIGNMENT IS NOT FEASIBLE AND ETHICAL IN THIS INSTANCE.

(B) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2028, THE THIRD-PARTY ENTITY SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT ON ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

(C) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2028, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PUBLISH AN ONLINE DASHBOARD OF KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS SHOWN IN THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.

1 24-11A-07.

2 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT
3 THIS SUBTITLE, INCLUDING REGULATIONS ON:

4 (1) THE APPLICATION PROCESS;

5 (2) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS;

6 (3) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS; AND

7 (4) THE DISBURSEMENT OF STIPENDS.

8 Article – State Finance and Procurement

9 6-226.

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

16 (ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply
17 to the following funds:

18 170. the Cannabis Public Health Fund; [and]

19 171. the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund; AND

20 172. THE ~~SERVICE YEAR OPTION~~ MARYLAND CORPS
21 PROGRAM FUND.

22 Article – State Government

23 [Part II. Maryland Corps Program.]

24 [9-2811.

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

26 (b) “Board” means the Board of Directors of the Program.

27 (c) “Corps participant” means an individual who participates in the Program.

(d) “Fund” means the Maryland Corps Program Fund.

(e) “Participating organization” means a nonprofit organization or government agency that:

(1) has a focus on community or other service, service learning, volunteerism, or other activities or experiences with a similar mission;

(2) hosts a program participant in a service role; and

(3) complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, and Title 20, Subtitle 6 of this article.

(f) “Program” means the Maryland Corps Program.

(g) “Wraparound services” includes:

(1) child care;

(2) transportation;

(3) housing;

(4) mental health;

(5) crisis intervention;

(6) substance abuse prevention or treatment;

(7) legal aid;

(8) financial literacy programming;

(9) job search and application support; and

(10) college application support.]

[9–2812.

(a) There is a Maryland Corps Program in the State administered and managed by the Board.

(b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Program is exempt from Division II of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

(2) The Program is subject to Title 14, Subtitle 3 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

(c) The purpose of the Program is to:

(1) provide meaningful service opportunities to participants that will address the social needs of the community;

(2) equip corps participants with the skills that will enable them to successfully make the transition from high school to an institution of higher education or to the workforce; and

(3) provide scholarships to corps participants who have completed the Program to be used at institutions of higher education toward vocational certificates, associate's degrees, or bachelor's degrees.

(d) The Program is subject to review under § 2-1220 of this article.]

[9-2813.

(a) (1) A Board of Directors shall administer and manage the Program.

(2) The Board is a body politic and corporate and is an instrumentality of the State.

(b) The Board consists of the following members:

(1) a Board Chair, jointly appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House;

(2) two members jointly appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House:

(i) one of whom must represent a service organization in the State;
and

(ii) one of whom shall be:

1. a current participant in a public service program; or

2. a former participant in a public service program whose participation ended during the preceding 3 years;

(3) one member appointed by the President of the Senate;

(4) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

1 (5) two members appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be a
2 representative from the Governor's Office of Service and Volunteerism.

3 (c) In making appointments to the Board, the President, Speaker, and Governor
4 shall consider:

5 (1) the professional or personal experience of the individual in community
6 or other service, nonprofit management, civic engagement, or volunteerism; and

7 (2) the cultural, geographic, racial, ethnic, and gender diversity of the
8 State.

9 (d) A member of the Board:

10 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Board; but

11 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
12 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

13 (e) (1) The term of a member of the Board is 4 years.

14 (2) The terms of the members are staggered as required by the terms
15 provided for members on June 1, 2022.

16 (3) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is
17 appointed and qualifies.

18 (f) (1) A member appointed by the President may be removed by the President
19 for the reasons stated in paragraph (5) of this subsection.

20 (2) A member appointed by the Speaker may be removed by the Speaker
21 for the reasons stated in paragraph (5) of this subsection.

22 (3) A member appointed by the Governor may be removed by the Governor
23 for the reasons stated in paragraph (5) of this subsection.

24 (4) The Board Chair may be removed jointly by the President and the
25 Speaker for the reasons stated in paragraph (5) of this subsection.

26 (5) A member of the Board may be removed for:

27 (i) incompetence;

28 (ii) misconduct;

29 (iii) immorality; or

(iv) failure to perform the duties of the position.

(g) Board members are subject to the requirements of Title 5 of the General Provisions Article.

(h) (1) The Board shall meet at least once every 2 months.

(2) Board meetings are subject to the requirements of Title 3 of the General Provisions Article.]

[9-2814.

(a) (1) The Board shall appoint an Executive Director.

(2) The Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the Board.

(3) The Board shall determine the salary of the Executive Director.

(b) (1) The Executive Director is the chief administrative officer of the Program.

(2) The Executive Director shall manage the administrative affairs and technical activities of the Program in accordance with the policies and procedures that the Board establishes.

(c) (1) The Board may employ a staff in accordance with its budget.

(2) Staff employed under this section are State employees who:

(i) are subject to the requirements of Title 5 of the General Provisions Article; and

(ii) may participate in the State Retirement and Pension System under Division II of the State Personnel and Pensions Article.]

[9-2815.

(a) The Board is responsible for expanding service opportunities in the State with the following goals:

(1) creating a strong annual cohort bond of unity for Program participants from urban, rural, and suburban areas of the State;

(2) subject to subsection (d) of this section, ensuring all Marylanders have equitable access to participate in the Program regardless of gender, race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, geography, or protected veteran status;

1 (3) helping Program participants develop the critical job skills necessary
2 for creating a more equitable society as they serve their communities across the State, using
3 the lens of environmental, social, racial, and economic justice; and

4 (4) ensuring each district of the State can communicate its unique
5 community needs and choose the appropriate solutions.

6 **(b) The Board shall adopt regulations regarding:**

7 (1) selection criteria for regional operating partners with a global view of
8 the needs of the communities in which the regional operating partner works, who will
9 identify and implement placement priorities in consultation with local community partners
10 to expand capacity and create new service programs as needed;

11 (2) eligibility requirements for participating organizations, classified by
12 the Board based on the number of service members the organization's grant will support,
13 as:

14 (i) community employers; or

15 (ii) large-scale employers;

16 (3) prioritizing the placement of Program participants with large-scale
17 employers based on the organization's demonstrated need for Program participants who
18 will transition to full-time employment following completion of the Program;

19 (4) a centralized process to facilitate efficient screening and placement of
20 Program participants as well as effective measurement and evaluation of the participant's
21 service experience;

22 (5) stipends for participants, including:

23 (i) monetary payment of at least \$15 per hour, health insurance
24 benefits, and the potential for wraparound services; and

25 (ii) requirements for large-scale employers to provide matching
26 funds;

27 (6) an education award of \$6,000 for participants that complete at least 9
28 months of service, which shall be deposited into a tax-exempt Maryland 529 account
29 established under Title 18, Subtitle 19 of the Education Article and may only be used for
30 qualified higher education expenses, as defined in § 18-1901 of the Education Article;

31 (7) workforce development training and wraparound services provided to
32 Program participants by participating organizations;

1 (8) additional training and support services provided to Program
2 participants after the completion of the participant's service;

3 (9) ongoing evaluation of opportunities to expand service in the State to
4 address the State's workforce development needs, including opportunities within State
5 agencies for the creation and expansion of service opportunities within the agencies; and

6 (10) ongoing evaluation of the Program to ensure access and effectiveness,
7 including:

8 (i) demographics of corps participants, including race, ethnicity,
9 age, education, and geography;

10 (ii) post-Program trajectories of corps participants; and

11 (iii) an evaluation of the needs served in the community by the
12 Program.

13 (c) The Board may:

14 (1) sue and be sued;

15 (2) adopt a seal;

16 (3) acquire, hold, and dispose of property for its corporate purposes;

17 (4) sell, lease, or otherwise convey, in any manner that the Board considers
18 appropriate, any property it owns to accomplish the purposes of this subtitle;

19 (5) enter into contracts and leases and execute any instrument necessary
20 or convenient, on the terms and for any corporate purpose that the Board considers
21 advisable;

22 (6) use any other money available under this subtitle or any grant or money
23 from the State or federal government or any of their units or instrumentalities to
24 accomplish the purposes of this subtitle;

25 (7) borrow money for a corporate purpose and mortgage or otherwise
26 encumber its property as security for the loan;

27 (8) accept gifts, contributions, or loans of money, supplies, goods, and
28 services, and accept appropriations, allotments, and loans of money from the State or
29 federal government, a federal corporation, a unit or instrumentality of the federal
30 government, or a political subdivision or instrumentality of the State;

31 (9) exercise a power usually possessed by a private corporation in
32 performing similar functions unless to do so would conflict with State law; and

1 (10) do all things necessary or convenient to carry out the powers expressly
2 granted by this subtitle.

3 (d) The Board shall prioritize for participation in the Program individuals
4 historically underrepresented in:

5 (1) higher education enrollment or completion; or

6 (2) employment by:

7 (i) large-scale and community employers; or

8 (ii) participating organizations.]

9 [9-2816.

10 (a) The Board shall act as an intermediary with the AmeriCorps Program to
11 secure federal funding and alleviate the administrative burden on State organizations
12 seeking to participate in AmeriCorps programming.

13 (b) In working with the AmeriCorps Program under subsection (a) of this section,
14 the Board shall focus on expanding the service opportunities in State and local parks and
15 in the public health sector.]

16 [9-2817.

17 (a) There is a Maryland Corps Program Fund.

18 (b) The purpose of the Fund is to:

19 (1) provide stipends to corps participants;

20 (2) provide scholarships to corps participants who have completed the
21 Program to be used at institutions of higher education in the State toward vocational
22 certificates, associate's degrees, and bachelor's degrees;

23 (3) cover expenses incurred by the Board, including expenses incurred to
24 study the potential use of the Program as a workforce development tool in the State;

25 (4) cover expenses incurred to study how alumni of the Program could be
26 better positioned to meet the current and future needs of employers in the State; and

27 (5) provide funding for the Program to match gifts or grants received by
28 the Board for the Fund.

29 (c) The Board shall administer the Fund.

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

3 (e) (1) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately and shall invest the
4 money in the Fund in the same manner as other State money may be invested.

5 (2) Any investment earnings of the Fund shall be credited to the Fund.

6 (f) The Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

7 (g) The Board:

8 (1) may accept any gift or grant from any person for the Fund;

9 (2) shall use any gift or grant that it receives for the reasons stated under
10 subsection (b) of this section; and

11 (3) shall deposit any gift or grant that it receives for the Fund with the
12 State Treasurer.

13 (h) The Fund consists of:

14 (1) money appropriated under § 9–2818 of this subtitle;

15 (2) gifts or grants received by the Board for the Fund;

16 (3) investment earnings of the Fund; and

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

19 (i) The Fund may be used only for:

20 (1) providing stipends to corps participants;

21 (2) providing scholarships to corps participants who have completed the
22 Program to be used at institutions of higher education in the State toward vocational
23 certificates, associate's degrees, and bachelor's degrees;

24 (3) covering expenses incurred by the Board, including expenses incurred
25 to study the potential use of the Program as a workforce development tool in the State;

26 (4) covering expenses incurred to study how alumni of the Program could
27 be better positioned to meet the current and future needs of employers in the State; and

1 (5) providing funding for the Program to match gifts or grants received by
2 the Board for the Fund.

3 (j) Any unspent portion of the Fund may not be transferred or revert to the
4 General Fund of the State but shall remain in the Fund to be used for the purposes specified
5 in this subtitle.

6 (k) (1) Beginning with fiscal year 2018, at the end of the fiscal year, the Board
7 shall prepare an annual report of the Fund that includes an accounting of all financial
8 receipts and expenditures to and from the Fund.

9 (2) The Board shall submit a copy of the report to the General Assembly in
10 accordance with § 2-1257 of this article.

11 (l) The Fund may be subject to an audit by the Legislative Auditor.]
12 [9-2818.

13 (a) The Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation to the
14 Fund of:

15 (1) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

16 (2) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

17 (3) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2026; and

18 (4) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2027 and each fiscal year thereafter.

19 (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

20 (1) appropriations made under subsection (a) of this section are in addition
21 to any federal funding received for State service or volunteer programming; and

22 (2) any federal funding received by the State for service or volunteer
23 programming shall be deposited into the Fund for use by the Program.

24 (c) Appropriations made under subsection (a) of this section and other funding
25 received by the Board shall be used to:

26 (1) provide stipends to corps participants;

27 (2) provide scholarships to corps participants who have completed the
28 Program to be used at institutions of higher education in the State toward vocational
29 certificates, associate's degrees, and bachelor's degrees;

(3) cover expenses incurred by the Board, including expenses incurred in marketing and recruitment; and

(4) cover programmatic expenses to expand service opportunities throughout the State, including:

(i) in partnership with regional operating partners, creating and maintaining an online platform through which individuals and corps participants can search and apply for service opportunities throughout the State;

(ii) expanding the Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program, as provided under §§ 8–1913 through 8–1924 of the Natural Resources Article;

(iii) creating a Maryland Civilian Climate Corps to conserve and restore State and local parks and engage in other climate or environmental projects;

(iv) creating a Maryland Historic Trades Corps to place young adults and young veterans in regionally based work crews tasked with rehabilitation of State historic resources;

(v) expanding the Maryland Conservation Corps to engage in projects that manage natural resources and conserve parks; and

(vi) providing staff for the Program.

(d) Marketing and recruitment conducted by the Program under subsection (c)(3) of this section shall prioritize:

(1) historically black colleges and universities, as defined in § 3–207 of the State Finance and Procurement Article;

(2) community colleges;

(3) high schools with low rates of matriculation to 2– and 4–year institutions of higher education;

(4) trade schools; and

(5) youth who are disconnected from school or work.】

【9–2819.

The Board shall explore the possibility of:

(1) accessing federal or other grant funding for the Program; and

(2) awarding corps participants with academic credit for their service.】

1 [9-2820.

2 On or before December 1 each year, the Board shall report to the Governor and, in
 3 accordance with § 2-1257 of this article, the General Assembly regarding:

4 (1) the number and amount of stipends awarded under the Program;

5 (2) the nonprofit or government agencies with which corps participants are
 6 placed;

7 (3) the institutions, if any, that award academic credit for a corps
 8 participant's service;

9 (4) the number and amount of scholarships awarded under the Program;
 10 and

11 (5) at which institutions corps participants use their scholarships.]

12 **Chapter 484 of the Acts of 2022**
 13 **Supplemental Budget No. 5**

14 14. Y01A02.01 Dedicated Purpose Account

15 In addition to the appropriation shown on page 135 of the printed bill (first reading
 16 file bill), to provide funding to support legislative operating budget priorities. Following
 17 Legislative Policy Committee review, the Department of Budget and Management shall
 18 process a budget amendment effective July 1, 2022 transferring most of the funds listed
 19 below to the appropriate budgeted programs.

20 (16) D15A05.05 Expand ~~[Maryland Corps]~~ ~~SERVICE YEAR OPTION~~
 21 Program IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SERVICE AND CIVIC
 22 INNOVATION.....5,000,000

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~July~~
 24 June 1, 2023.