

SENATE BILL 788

M5, E4

4lr2755
CF 4lr2752

By: **Senator McKay**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2024

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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 9–2016 and 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.