

HOUSE BILL 1077

P1, M3

4lr3294

By: **Delegates Ruth, Allen, and Terrasa**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2024

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs – Small Business Climate**
3 **Change Coordinator – Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Small Business Climate Change Coordinator in the
5 Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs in the Executive Department;
6 and generally relating to the Small Business Climate Change Coordinator.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article – State Government
9 Section 9–301(a), (d), and (e)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

12 BY adding to
13 Article – State Government
14 Section 9–303.4
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – State Government**

20 9–301.

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

22 (d) “Office” means the Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(e) “Special Secretary” means the Special Secretary for the Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs.

9-303.4.

(A) THERE IS A SMALL BUSINESS CLIMATE CHANGE COORDINATOR IN THE OFFICE.

(B) THE SMALL BUSINESS CLIMATE CHANGE COORDINATOR SHALL SUPPORT THE STATE’S SMALL, MINORITY, AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS COMMUNITY ON MATTERS RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE, INCLUDING:

(1) PREVENTING AND MITIGATING THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, INCLUDING:

(I) FLOODING;

(II) EXTREME HEAT;

(III) STORM DAMAGE; AND

(IV) SALTWATER INTRUSION AFFECTING AGRICULTURE;

(2) TRANSITIONING TO ADVANCED CLEAN ENERGY; AND

(3) PARTICIPATING IN NEW BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES CREATED BY THE TRANSITION TO ADVANCED CLEAN ENERGY.

(C) THE SMALL BUSINESS CLIMATE CHANGE COORDINATOR MAY:

(1) CONDUCT SURVEYS, FOCUS GROUPS, OR ANY OTHER RESEARCH TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF SMALL, MINORITY, AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE;

(2) COORDINATE WITH OTHER STATE AGENCIES ABOUT THE NEEDS OF SMALL, MINORITY, AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE;

(3) DEVELOP INFORMATION RESOURCES FOR SMALL, MINORITY, AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES ON:

(I) FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

1 AND OTHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SOURCES TO ASSIST WITH PREVENTING AND
2 MITIGATING THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE;

3 (II) FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM
4 FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
5 AND OTHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SOURCES TO ASSIST WITH TRANSITIONING AN
6 EXISTING BUSINESS TO ADVANCED CLEAN ENERGY, INCLUDING ELECTRIC
7 VEHICLES, ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUPPLY EQUIPMENT, CLEAN POWER GENERATION,
8 AND CLEAN ENERGY HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING;

9 (III) BEST PRACTICES FOR PREVENTING AND MITIGATING THE
10 IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE;

11 (IV) NEW BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES CREATED BY THE
12 TRANSITION TO ADVANCED CLEAN ENERGY; AND

13 (V) COMPLYING WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS,
14 REGULATIONS, AND REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO A TRANSITION TO ADVANCED
15 CLEAN ENERGY; AND

16 (4) DISTRIBUTE INFORMATION RESOURCES ELECTRONICALLY OR IN
17 PRINT DIRECTLY TO SMALL, MINORITY, AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES OR
18 THROUGH ASSOCIATIONS, CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, SMALL BUSINESS CENTERS,
19 OR ANY OTHER MEANS OF REACHING SMALL, MINORITY, AND WOMEN-OWNED
20 BUSINESSES.

21 (D) ON REQUEST, THE COORDINATOR SHALL ADVISE THE GOVERNOR, THE
22 SPECIAL SECRETARY, AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON MATTERS RELATING TO
23 THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON SMALL BUSINESSES AND THE EFFECT OF A
24 TRANSITION TO ADVANCED CLEAN ENERGY ON SMALL BUSINESSES IN THE STATE.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That a Position Identification
26 Number (PIN) shall be created in the Governor's Office of Small, Minority, and Women
27 Business Affairs for the Small Business Climate Change Coordinator established under §
28 9-303.4 of the State Government Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act.

29 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 October 1, 2024.