

# HOUSE BILL 1553

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CF SB 821

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By: **Delegates Ramirez, Anderson, Barnes, Bobo, Cane, Glenn, Guzzone, Oaks, and Stukes**

Introduced and read first time: February 25, 2008

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Youth Entrepreneur Connection Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Youth Entrepreneur Connection  
4 Program in the Division of Workforce Development of the Department of Labor,  
5 Licensing, and Regulation; requiring the Program to offer certain employment  
6 and training opportunities to certain disadvantaged youth; requiring funds for  
7 the Program to be used for certain services; requiring the Director of Workforce  
8 Development in the Department to adopt regulations to implement the  
9 Program; authorizing the Director to make grants to local workforce investment  
10 areas; establishing certain services to be provided by the Program; establishing  
11 certain eligibility requirements for participation; requiring the Governor to  
12 include in the annual budget bill for certain fiscal years a certain amount for  
13 the Program; defining certain terms; and generally relating to establishing the  
14 Maryland Youth Entrepreneur Connection Program.

15 BY adding to

16 Article – Labor and Employment

17 Section 11–603

18 Annotated Code of Maryland

19 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Labor and Employment**

23 **11–603.**

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (2)    “LOCAL AREA” MEANS THE LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT  
2 AREAS ESTABLISHED IN THIS STATE UNDER THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE  
3 INVESTMENT ACT OF 1998.

4           (3)    “LOW INCOME” MEANS NOT MORE THAN 150% OF THE  
5 FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL.

6           (4)    “PROGRAM” MEANS THE MARYLAND YOUTH ENTREPRENEUR  
7 CONNECTION PROGRAM.

8           (B) (1)  THERE IS A MARYLAND YOUTH ENTREPRENEUR  
9 CONNECTION PROGRAM IN THE DIVISION.

10          (2) (I)  THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE  
11 ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH WHO ARE AT LEAST 16 YEARS  
12 OLD BUT UNDER THE AGE OF 19 YEARS.

13                   (II) THE PROGRAM PRIORITIES ARE TO PROVIDE JOBS FOR  
14 YOUTH WHO:

- 15                               1.    ARE FROM LOW-INCOME FAMILIES;  
16                               2.    HAVE A DISABILITY;  
17                               3.    HAVE A SPECIAL NEED; OR  
18                               4.    OTHERWISE ENCOUNTER BARRIERS IN THE  
19 LABOR MARKET.

20          (C)  THE DIRECTOR SHALL:

21                   (1)  MAKE GRANTS IN FURTHERANCE OF THE PROGRAM  
22 OBJECTIVES TO FISCAL AGENTS FOR LOCAL AREAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE  
23 ALLOCATION FORMULAS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE  
24 INVESTMENT ACT;

25                   (2)  ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE PROGRAM; AND

26                   (3)  EVALUATE THE PERFORMANCES OF THE LOCAL AREAS IN  
27 CARRYING OUT THE PURPOSES OF THE PROGRAM.

28          (D)  UNDER THE PROGRAM, THE LOCAL AREAS SHALL:

1           (1) DEVELOP MEANINGFUL AND WELL-SUPERVISED WORK  
2 EXPERIENCES WITH PRIVATE OR NONPROFIT EMPLOYERS THAT THE DIRECTOR  
3 HAS DEEMED TO BE ENTREPRENEURS;

4           (2) PROVIDE TRAINING TO ENHANCE JOB SKILLS, INCLUDING  
5 BASIC SKILLS, COMPUTER SKILLS, OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS, AND BASIC  
6 EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS;

7           (3) PROVIDE CAREER-EXPOSURE ACTIVITIES THAT FOCUS ON  
8 ENTREPRENEURIAL CAREER OPPORTUNITIES, INCLUDING FIELD TRIPS,  
9 CAREER COUNSELING, WORKSHOPS, GUEST SPEAKERS, JOB SHADOWING,  
10 APTITUDE AND INTEREST ASSESSMENT, AND COLLEGE FAIRS;

11           (4) PROVIDE SUFFICIENT OVERSIGHT AND MONITORING OF WORK  
12 SITES TO ENSURE A QUALITY EXPERIENCE FOR EACH PARTICIPANT;

13           (5) SUBMIT A PLAN TO THE DIRECTOR DETAILING THE LOCAL  
14 AREA'S PROGRAM; AND

15           (6) SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT.

16           (E) A LOCAL AREA'S ALLOWABLE PROGRAM COSTS MAY INCLUDE:

17           (1) WAGES PAID TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROGRAM;

18           (2) THE COSTS OF SUPERVISION;

19           (3) THE COSTS OF MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES RELATED TO THE  
20 WORK PROVIDED;

21           (4) REASONABLE TRANSPORTATION COSTS TO, FROM, AND  
22 AROUND THE WORK SITE;

23           (5) RELATED TRAINING COSTS; AND

24           (6) REASONABLE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT COSTS, NOT  
25 EXCEEDING 10% OF THE FUNDING GRANTED THE LOCAL AREA.

26           (F) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE  
27 GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION  
28 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$300,000 TO IMPLEMENT THE YOUTH ENTREPRENEUR  
29 CONNECTION PROGRAM.

1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2   June 1, 2008.