

13-235.

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

(b) "Enterprise" means a business entity, including a sole proprietorship, a partnership, a limited partnership, a corporation, or a joint venture proposing to carry on a business within the State and meeting the requirements of § 13-231 of this subtitle.

(c) "Equity participation financing" means any financial assistance provided under the Program including investment or guaranty of investment in an enterprise.

(D) "EXISTING BUSINESS" MEANS A BUSINESS WHOSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OR OWNERS APPROVE THE SALE OF THE BUSINESS TO AN ENTERPRISE RECEIVING EQUITY PARTICIPATION FINANCING.

[(d)](E) "Franchise" means a contract or agreement and has the meaning used in Article 56, § 345 of the Annotated Code. "Franchise" includes only those franchise offerings that are registered or exempt under the Maryland Franchise Investment Law, Article 56, §§ 345 through 365D, of the Annotated Code.

[(e)](F) "Program" means the Equity Participation Investment Program in the Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority.

[(f)](G) "Qualified security" means:

(1) Any note, bond, debenture, or other evidence of indebtedness;

(2) Any stock or other form of equity participation;

(3) Any certificate of interest or participation in a profit sharing agreement;

(4) Any investment contract;

(5) Any certificate of deposit for a security;

(6) Any certificate of interest [of] OR participation in a patent or patent application or in royalty or other payments under a patent or patent application; or

(7) Any interest or instrument commonly known as a "security" or any certificate for, receipt for, guarantee of, or option, warrant, or right to subscribe to or purchase any qualified security.

13-236.