

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

**Article – State Personnel and Pensions**

8-203.

(a) In this section, "innovative idea" means an invention, innovative suggestion, or any other innovative idea.

(b) There is an innovative idea ~~award~~ awards program for employees.

(c) (1) An innovative idea award may be awarded for an innovative idea that, if implemented, would:

- (i) increase revenue to this State;
- (ii) save money for this State;
- (iii) improve the quality of services delivered to the public; or
- (iv) otherwise significantly benefit this State.

(2) Except under exceptional circumstances, an award may not be made for an innovative idea that is under active study or continual review by a unit of State government.

(g) (1) The head of a principal unit shall submit to the Governor's Award Panel each innovative idea for which an award is made under subsection (e) of this section, with a recommendation for any additional award by the Governor.

(2) The Governor's Award Panel shall:

(i) review each innovative idea submitted to it; [and]

(ii) at least once a year, make a recommendation to the Governor about additional [cash] awards for the innovative ideas; AND

(III) RECOMMEND TO THE GOVERNOR EITHER MONETARY OR NONMONETARY AWARDS FOR THE EMPLOYEES' INNOVATIVE IDEAS.

(h) (1) The Governor may make an additional cash award for an innovative idea.

(2) The [additional] CASH award may not exceed \$20,000.

(3) THE GOVERNOR MAY GRANT PAID ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE, NOT EXCEEDING 20 WORKDAYS.

8-204.

(a) There is an incentive performance awards program for employees.

(b) (1) An incentive performance award for extraordinary service may be awarded for extraordinary performance in the public interest in connection with an employee's State employment.