

CHAPTER 434**(House Bill 497)**

AN ACT concerning

Business and Economic Development - Maryland Economic Development Assistance Fund and Maryland Competitive Advantage Financing Fund

FOR the purpose of expanding the allowable uses of funds from the Maryland Economic Development Assistance Fund (MEDAF) to include expenditures for certain projects in certain federal disaster areas; expanding the list of industry sectors eligible to receive MEDAF funds; providing for the eligibility of certain applicants for funding from the Maryland Competitive Advantage Financing Fund; and generally relating to financial assistance from the Maryland Economic Development Assistance Fund and the Maryland Competitive Advantage Financing Fund.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 83A - Department of Business and Economic Development

Section 5-1303, 5-1405(b), and 5-1410(e)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1998 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

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

Article 83A - Department of Business and Economic Development

5-1303.

(a) The Department may use moneys in the Fund to:

(1) Provide financial assistance to eligible applicants; and

(2) Pay expenses for administrative, actuarial, legal, and technical services for the Fund.

(b) Subject to the restrictions of this subtitle, the Department may provide financial assistance from the Fund to a business that:

(1) Is a small business;

(2) Has made reasonable efforts to obtain financial assistance on reasonable terms from other sources, OR IS LOCATED IN AN AREA DECLARED TO BE A FEDERAL DISASTER AREA, PROVIDED THAT THE BUSINESS APPLIES TO THE FUND WITHIN 1 YEAR OF THE FEDERAL DECLARATION; and

(3) Meets the qualifications required by this subtitle.

(c) To apply for financial assistance, an applicant shall submit an application to the Department on the form that the Department requires.