

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2026, Legislative Day No. 15

Bill No. 77-26

Mr. Michael Ertel, Councilman

By the County Council, August 3, 2026

A BILL
ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Baltimore County Business Development and Retention Corporation

FOR the purpose of designating a nonprofit corporation as a Business Development and Retention Corporation for Baltimore County; requiring coordination between the Department of Economic Workforce and Development and a designated corporation; establishing the legislative purpose of designating a corporation for economic development and business retention; defining certain terms; establishing a legislative process for designating or renewing, suspending, or revoking a designation of a corporation; requiring certain provisions be included in articles of incorporation and bylaws of a designated corporation; establishing a board of directors for a designated corporation, including method of selection and appointment, terms, qualifications, and voting power; establishing the general powers and duties of a designated corporation; establishing certain conflict of

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from bill.
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

interest and ethics rules for the board, officers, and employees of a designated corporation; requiring a designated corporation to make certain recommendations to the County regarding economic development and business retention; requiring certain County agencies to provide support or data to a designated corporation; requiring a designated corporation to publish certain data and share certain data with the County upon request; requiring a designated corporation to annually report on its finances and meet with certain County officials; establishing a business development and retention strategic plan for Baltimore County; providing a process for drafting, reviewing, and approving the plan; requiring certain contents in the plan; providing for updates and reporting on the plan; requiring certain County agencies to report to the Council by a certain date on the implementation of this Act; requiring certain County agencies to report to the County Council on certain employee rules before certain actions regarding the corporation may be taken; and generally relating to business development and retention.

BY repealing and re-enacting, without amendments

Sections 3-2-401 through 3-2-402

Article 3 – Administration

Title 2 – The Administrative Services

Subtitle 4 – Department of Economic and Workforce Development

Baltimore County Code, 2015

BY repealing and re-enacting, with amendments

Section 3-2-403

Article 3 – Administration

Title 2 – The Administrative Services

Subtitle 4 – Department of Economic and Workforce Development

Baltimore County Code, 2015

BY adding

Section 3-2-404
Article 3 – Administration
Title 2 – The Administrative Services
Subtitle 4 – Department of Economic and Workforce Development
Baltimore County Code, 2015

BY re-naming

Article 26 – Redevelopment and Revitalization
To be
Article 26 – Business Retention, Economic Development, Revitalization, and
Redevelopment
Baltimore County Code, 2015

BY adding

Sections 26-3-101 through 26-3-102
Article 26 – Redevelopment and Revitalization
Title 3 – Business and Economic Development and Retention
Subtitle 1 – In General
Baltimore County Code, 2015

BY adding

Sections 26-3-201 through 26-3-209
Article 26 – Redevelopment and Revitalization
Title 3 – Business and Economic Development and Retention
Subtitle 2 – Baltimore County Business Development and Retention Corporation
Baltimore County Code, 2015

BY adding

Sections 26-3-301 through 26-3-303
Article 26 – Redevelopment and Revitalization
Title 3 – Business and Economic Development and Retention
Subtitle 3 – Business Development and Retention Strategic Plan
Baltimore County Code, 2015

WHEREAS, Baltimore County is home to unprecedented economic assets including its strategic location, industry diversity, educational institutions, and its AAA bond rating; and

WHEREAS, Baltimore County is an attractive place for employers to locate and grow as well as create jobs and economic opportunity for Baltimore County residents; and

WHEREAS, while there is significant competition among similar jurisdictions for employers, Baltimore County has historically under-invested in resourcing its business development function to grow the local economy compared to other similar jurisdictions in Maryland and nationally, and currently utilizes an outdated structure for its business development and retention activities; and

WHEREAS, Baltimore County could substantially benefit from increasing its tax base by improving its business development and retention functions, and to work with employers to create additional jobs in the County; and

WHEREAS, multiple advisory groups within Baltimore County, including the current Economic Development Advisory Board and the 2022 Baltimore County Efficiency Review have recommended creating a nonprofit corporation to lead business development and retention activities, similar to peer Maryland jurisdictions such as Baltimore City, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Howard County, and Anne Arundel County; and

WHEREAS, a nonprofit corporation would have: more private sector engagement; more flexibility in areas such as marketing; and more speed to retain employers and attract new employers to Baltimore County; and

WHEREAS, a nonprofit corporation would complement, not replace, the work of the Baltimore County Department of Economic and Workforce Development (DEWD) by focusing on more business development and retention activities and funneling innovative ideas and programs from the private sector to the County's elected leaders, allowing DEWD to continue performing certain economic development and workforce functions; and

WHEREAS, in order to become a competitive county for economic growth, Baltimore County desires to create a nonprofit corporation for business development and retention like its peer jurisdictions in Maryland and the U.S.; now, therefore

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Laws of Baltimore County read as follows:

Article 3 – Administration

Title 2 – The Administrative Services

Subtitle 4 – Department of Economic and Workforce Development

§ 3-2-401. Established.

There is a Department of Economic and Workforce Development.

§ 3-2-402. Administration.

The Director of Economic and Workforce Development, appointed in accordance with § 402 of the Charter, shall administer the Department of Economic and Workforce Development.

§ 3-2-403. Powers and duties of the department.

(a) The Department of Economic and Workforce Development may appoint and convene advisory committees to aid and advise the Department in performing its duties under this subtitle.

(b) The Department shall:

1 (1) Adopt a progressive program to promote the economic development of the
2 county by attracting additional industry and commerce;

3 (2) Gather, maintain, and disseminate information concerning plant industrial
4 sites throughout the county and the advantages of locating industries within the county;

5 (3) Act as the county's official GOVERNMENT liaison agency with persons
6 interested in locating business firms in the county;

7 (4) Enlist the cooperation of industry, city, state, national, and private agencies
8 and national publications in promoting the purposes of the Department;

9 (5) Administer the Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund;

10 (6) Administer job training programs for the purpose of providing employment
11 opportunities for adults and youth facing barriers to employment;

12 (7) Administer and operate initiatives that promote economic development
13 through provision of responsive workforce development services for job seekers and the business
14 community; [and]

15 (8) ADMINISTER THE COUNTY'S TOURISM PROGRAM WITH THE
16 GOAL OF INCREASING REVENUE FROM TOURISM ACTIVITIES AND PROMOTION
17 OF COUNTY ASSETS, INSTITUTIONS, AND CULTURE THAT WOULD BE
18 ATTRACTIVE TO COUNTY VISITORS;

19 (9) COMMUNICATE AND COORDINATE ITS ACTIVITIES WITH ANY
20 CORPORATION DESIGNATED UNDER TITLE 3, ARTICLE 26 OF THE CODE, AS SET
21 FORTH IN § 3-2-404 OF THIS TITLE; AND

22 [(8)] (10) Submit an annual report of its work to the County Executive.
23

1 § 3-2-404. COORDINATION WITH THE BALTIMORE COUNTY BUSINESS
2 DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION CORPORATION.

3 (A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN REGULAR
4 COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION OF ITS FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES WITH
5 THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, AND EMPLOYEES OF ANY CORPORATION
6 DESIGNATED UNDER TITLE 3, ARTICLE 26 OF THE CODE.

7 (B) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER SUBJECT MATTERS, THE DEPARTMENT
8 SHALL SPECIFICALLY ENGAGE IN REGULAR COMMUNICATION AND
9 COORDINATION WITH ANY CORPORATION DESIGNATED UNDER TITLE 3,
10 ARTICLE 26 OF THE CODE ON STRATEGIES THAT ENCOURAGE JOB READINESS,
11 EMPLOYMENT, AND DIVERSE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES THAT COULD INCREASE
12 REVENUES.

13
14 ARTICLE 26 – BUSINESS RETENTION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
15 REDEVELOPMENT, AND REVITALIZATION

16 TITLE 3 – BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION

17 SUBTITLE 1 – IN GENERAL
18

19 § 26-3-101. LEGISLATIVE PURPOSE.

20 (A) (1) THE PURPOSE OF THIS TITLE IS TO IMPROVE THE AVAILABILITY
21 OF RESOURCES FOR THE EDUCATION, INFRASTRUCTURE, PUBLIC SAFETY,
22 PUBLIC WELFARE, AND QUALITY OF LIFE OF CURRENT AND FUTURE BALTIMORE
23 COUNTY RESIDENTS BY MODERNIZING THE COUNTY’S PLANS, PROGRAMS,

1 STRATEGIES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC
2 DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION.

3 (2) THE FUTURE SUCCESS OF BALTIMORE COUNTY MUST BE BUILT
4 ON A DIVERSE, VIBRANT, AND GROWING ECONOMY THAT LOOKS TO THE
5 COUNTY'S CURRENT AND FUTURE INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESSES TO PROVIDE
6 WELL-PAYING AND SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT FOR COUNTY RESIDENTS.

7 (3) THE COUNTY MUST FOSTER A LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY
8 ENVIRONMENT WHICH ENCOURAGES, PROMOTES, AND INCENTIVIZES BUSINESS
9 SUCCESS.

10 (B) (1) BALTIMORE COUNTY DESIRES TO CREATE A NONPROFIT
11 CORPORATION AS THE BALTIMORE COUNTY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND
12 RETENTION CORPORATION TO IMPLEMENT AND SUPPLEMENT THE COUNTY'S
13 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION PROGRAMS.

14 (2) BALTIMORE COUNTY DESIRES TO MAINTAIN ITS CURRENT
15 DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TO PROMOTE
16 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, MARKET THE COUNTY
17 AS A TOURISM DESTINATION, AND PROMOTE THE COUNTY'S ARTS AND
18 SCIENCES ORGANIZATIONS.

19
20 § 26-3-102. DEFINITIONS.

21 IN THIS TITLE, THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

1 (1) "BOARD" MEANS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF A CORPORATION
2 DESIGNATED UNDER § 26-3-201 OF THIS TITLE AS A BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
3 AND RETENTION CORPORATION FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY.

4 (2) "CORPORATION" MEANS A CORPORATION DESIGNATED UNDER §
5 26-3-201 OF THIS TITLE AS A BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION
6 CORPORATION FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY.

7 (3) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE BALTIMORE COUNTY DEPARTMENT
8 OF ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

9 (4) "MEMBER" MEANS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD.

10
11 SUBTITLE 2 – BALTIMORE COUNTY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION
12 CORPORATION
13

14 § 26-3-201. DESIGNATION.

15 (A) THE COUNTY MAY DESIGNATE, RENEW, SUSPEND, OR REVOKE A
16 DESIGNATION OF A NONPROFIT CORPORATION AS A BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
17 AND RETENTION CORPORATION FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY IN ACCORDANCE
18 WITH THIS SECTION.

19 (B) (1) A CORPORATION SHALL BE DESIGNATED, OR A DESIGNATION
20 SHALL BE RENEWED, BY A RESOLUTION THAT IS ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY
21 COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE.

22 (2) THE RESOLUTION SHALL BE POSTED ON THE COUNTY
23 COUNCIL'S WEBSITE FOR AT LEAST 14 DAYS PRIOR TO ITS ADOPTION.

1 (3) UPON THE COUNTY COUNCIL’S ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION
2 FOLLOWED BY PRESENTMENT TO THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE WITHIN 2 DAYS, THE
3 COUNTY EXECUTIVE SHALL HAVE 10 DAYS TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE THE
4 RESOLUTION.

5 (4) IF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE DISAPPROVES THE RESOLUTION,
6 THE COUNTY COUNCIL MAY OVERRIDE THE DISAPPROVAL BY AN AFFIRMATIVE
7 VOTE OF A MAJORITY PLUS ONE OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF COUNCILMEMBERS
8 ESTABLISHED IN THE CHARTER AT THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED
9 MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

10 (C) UNLESS RENEWED, A DESIGNATION UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL
11 EXPIRE ON JULY 1 IN THE YEAR FOLLOWING THE ELECTION OF A COUNTY
12 EXECUTIVE.

13 (D) A RESOLUTION TO RENEW THE DESIGNATION OF A CORPORATION
14 SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENTS:

15 (1) A BUSINESS CLIMATE SURVEY OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
16 PRODUCED JOINTLY BY THE DEPARTMENT AND THE CORPORATION; AND

17 (2) A REPORT BY THE DEPARTMENT ON THE GENERAL OPERATIONS
18 AND PERFORMANCE OF THE CORPORATION, INCLUDING A SUMMARY OF THE
19 CORPORATE STRUCTURE AND MAJOR CHANGES TO THE CORPORATION’S
20 ORGANIZATION, OFFICERS, AND PERSONNEL SINCE THE INITIAL DESIGNATION
21 OR PREVIOUS RENEWAL OF THE DESIGNATION.

1 (E) (1) AT ANY TIME, THE COUNTY MAY SUSPEND OR REVOKE THE
2 DESIGNATION OF A CORPORATION AS A BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND
3 RETENTION CORPORATION FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY.

4 (2) THE SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF A DESIGNATION SHALL BE
5 ADOPTED AND APPROVED IN THE SAME MANNER AS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION
6 (B) OF THIS SECTION.

7
8 § 26-3-202. INCORPORATION; BYLAWS.

9 (A) IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR AND MAINTAIN ITS DESIGNATION UNDER
10 THIS TITLE, THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS OF A
11 CORPORATION DESIGNATED UNDER THIS TITLE SHALL COMPLY WITH ALL
12 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS TITLE AT ALL TIMES.

13 (B) THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION SHALL PROVIDE THAT THE
14 CORPORATION IS:

15 (1) A MARYLAND NONPROFIT, NON-STOCK CORPORATION THE
16 PURPOSES AND ACTIVITIES OF WHICH ARE LIMITED TO THOSE THAT ARE
17 PERMITTED TO BE PROMOTED OR PERFORMED BY A CORPORATION THAT IS
18 RECOGNIZED AS EXEMPT FROM FEDERAL INCOME TAX UNDER 26 U.S.C. § 501;

19 (2) NOT AN INSTRUMENTALITY OF THE COUNTY;

20 (3) ORGANIZED AND OPERATED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF
21 MARYLAND;

22 (4) HEADQUARTERED IN THE COUNTY; AND

23 (5) INCORPORATED FOR THE PURPOSE OF:

1 (I) SERVING AS A BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION
2 CORPORATION FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY;

3 (II) ASSISTING AND COORDINATING WITH THE DEPARTMENT
4 IN ITS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION ACTIVITIES AND OTHER
5 RELEVANT TASKS; AND

6 (III) IMPLEMENTING THE COUNTY'S BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
7 AND RETENTION STRATEGIC PLAN, ADOPTED UNDER § 26-3-301 OF THIS TITLE,
8 AND RELATED PROGRAMS.

9 (C) (1) THE BYLAWS SHALL REQUIRE THAT:

10 (I) THE FISCAL YEAR OF THE CORPORATION TO BE FROM
11 JULY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30; AND

12 (II) THE CORPORATION TO COMPLY WITH THE MARYLAND
13 OPEN MEETINGS ACT.

14 (2) THE CORPORATION'S BYLAWS MAY CONTAIN ANY PROVISIONS
15 NECESSARY TO GOVERN AND MANAGE THE CORPORATION THAT DO NOT
16 CONFLICT WITH THIS TITLE.

17
18 § 26-3-203. BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

19 (A) IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR AND MAINTAIN ITS DESIGNATION UNDER
20 THIS TITLE, THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS OF A
21 CORPORATION DESIGNATED UNDER THIS TITLE SHALL PROVIDE FOR THE
22 APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF ITS BOARD AS SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION.

23 (B) THE BOARD SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

1 (1) 13 VOTING MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
2 AND CONFIRMED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL;

3 (2) A NON-VOTING MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY
4 EXECUTIVE;

5 (3) A NON-VOTING MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL;

6 (4) A NON-VOTING MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE
7 MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE OR, IF THE SECRETARY DECLINES TO
8 APPOINT A MEMBER, A PERSON WITH SPECIAL OR PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE
9 OR EXPERIENCE WITH THE ECONOMY OF THE BALTIMORE REGION WHO IS
10 APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND CONFIRMED BY THE COUNTY
11 COUNCIL; AND

12 (5) AS EX OFFICIO, NON-VOTING MEMBERS, THE IMMEDIATE PAST
13 CHAIR OF THE BOARD AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT.

14 (C) (1) EACH VOTING MEMBER SHALL BE EITHER:

15 (I) A RESIDENT OF THE COUNTY; OR

16 (II) A SENIOR MANAGER IN A FOR-PROFIT OR NONPROFIT
17 ENTITY THAT HAS A SIGNIFICANT PRESENCE IN THE COUNTY.

18 (2) TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE, THE BACKGROUNDS,
19 EXPERTISE, AND PROFESSIONS OF THE VOTING MEMBERS SHOULD ENCOMPASS
20 A DIVERSE RANGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN BALTIMORE
21 COUNTY, INCLUDING THE MAJOR SECTORS OF THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND
22 SECTORS FOR THE MOST POTENTIAL OF LOCAL OR REGIONAL ECONOMIC
23 GROWTH.

1 (D) (1) EXCEPT FOR EX OFFICIO MEMBERS, THE TERM OF A MEMBER IS 3
2 YEARS AND BEGINS ON JULY 1.

3 (2) THE TERMS OF MEMBERS ARE STAGGERED SO THAT NOT MORE
4 THAN 3 MEMBERS' TERMS SHALL EXPIRE IN ANY ONE YEAR.

5 (3) INITIALLY, 4 MEMBERS SHALL SERVE FOR A TERM OF 1 YEAR, 4
6 MEMBERS SHALL SERVE FOR A TERM OF 2 YEARS, AND 5 MEMBERS SHALL
7 SERVE FOR A TERM OF 3 YEARS.

8 (4) A MEMBER MAY NOT SERVE MORE THAN 2 SUCCESSIVE FULL
9 TERMS.

10 (5) THE INAUGURAL ONE-YEAR AND TWO-YEAR TERMS ARE
11 CONSIDERED PARTIAL TERMS AND DO NOT COUNT TOWARDS THE TWO-TERM
12 LIMIT.

13 (6) AT THE END OF A TERM, A MEMBER MAY CONTINUE TO SERVE
14 UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.

15 (7) A VOTING MEMBER APPOINTED TO FILL A VACANCY SHALL
16 SERVE THE REMAINDER OF THE UNEXPIRED TERM.

17 (E) A MEMBER MAY NOT BE PAID FOR SERVICE ON THE BOARD BUT MAY
18 BE REIMBURSED FOR NECESSARY TRAVEL EXPENSES.

19
20 § 26-3-204. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST; ETHICS.

21 (A) IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR AND MAINTAIN ITS DESIGNATION UNDER
22 THIS TITLE, THE BYLAWS OF A CORPORATION DESIGNATED UNDER THIS TITLE
23 SHALL CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING TO PROTECT AGAINST CONFLICTS OF

1 INTEREST OR SIMILAR IMPROPRIETY BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, THE
2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OR ANY OTHER OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE OF THE
3 CORPORATION:

4 (1) A PROHIBITION AGAINST SELF-DEALING AND COLLUSIVE
5 PRACTICES;

6 (2) A PROVISION FOR THE DISCLOSURE OF A FINANCIAL OR SIMILAR
7 INTEREST OF ANY PERSON IN ANY MATTER BEFORE THE CORPORATION THAT
8 WOULD CREATE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST;

9 (3) A PROVISION ESTABLISHING CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH A
10 PERSON IS DISQUALIFIED FROM PARTICIPATING IN DECISIONS OR OTHER
11 ACTIONS IN WHICH THERE IS A CONFLICT BETWEEN THE PERSON'S OFFICIAL
12 DUTIES AND PRIVATE INTERESTS;

13 (4) APPROPRIATE REMEDIES FOR A VIOLATION OF THE BYLAWS,
14 INCLUDING REMOVAL FROM THE BOARD OR TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT;
15 AND

16 (5) A POLICY TO PROTECT WHISTLEBLOWERS.

17 (B) A MEMBER IS NOT SUBJECT TO SUBTITLE 3 OF ARTICLE 7, TITLE 1 OF
18 THE CODE DUE TO SERVING ON THE BOARD.

19 (C) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THE CODE, A MEMBER
20 OF THE BOARD, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OR AN EMPLOYEE OF THE
21 CORPORATION WHO ENGAGES IN LEGISLATIVE, ADMINISTRATIVE, OR
22 EXECUTIVE ADVOCACY AS PART OF THAT PERSON'S DUTIES FOR THE

CORPORATION IS NOT REQUIRED TO REGISTER AS A LOBBYIST UNDER SUBTITLE
5 OF ARTICLE 7, TITLE 1 OF THE CODE BECAUSE OF THAT ADVOCACY.

§ 26-3-205. POWERS AND DUTIES.

(A) THE BOARD SHALL DIRECT THE FINANCES, MANAGEMENT, AND
PROGRAMS OF A CORPORATION DESIGNATED UNDER THIS TITLE.

(B) A CORPORATION DESIGNATED UNDER THIS TITLE MAY EXERCISE ALL
POWERS AND IS SUBJECT TO ALL REQUIREMENTS WHICH APPLY TO NON-STOCK
CORPORATIONS UNDER THE CORPORATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS ARTICLE OF
THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND.

(C) A CORPORATION DESIGNATED UNDER THIS TITLE MAY RAISE PUBLIC
AND PRIVATE FUNDS AND MAY ACCEPT SERVICES FROM ANY SOURCE
CONSISTENT WITH ITS PURPOSES.

§ 26-3-206. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION ACTIVITIES, POLICY
OBJECTIVES, AND PROGRAMS.

(A) A CORPORATION DESIGNATED UNDER THIS TITLE SHALL RECOMMEND
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION PROGRAMS AND ASSOCIATED
PERFORMANCE MEASURES TO THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNTY
COUNCIL TO ADVANCE THE POLICY OBJECTIVES AND PERFORM THE ACTIVITIES
IN THIS SECTION THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSE OF THIS TITLE.

(B) THESE ACTIVITIES, POLICY OBJECTIVES, AND PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

(1) ATTRACTING AND RETAINING BUSINESSES;

1 (2) FACILITATING ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL, AND COMMERCIAL
2 DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTY;

3 (3) ENCOURAGING INVESTMENT IN COMMERCE, INDUSTRIES, AND
4 BUSINESSES IN THE COUNTY;

5 (4) PROMOTING JOB GROWTH AND TALENT ATTRACTION IN
6 COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT;

7 (5) ADVISING AND INFORMING COUNTY OFFICIALS AND THE
8 DEPARTMENT ON BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION MATTERS;

9 (6) PROVIDING SERVICES TO RESIDENT BUSINESSES IN THE
10 COUNTY, INCLUDING BUSINESS RETENTION, COUNSELING, BUSINESS PLANNING,
11 AND OTHER SERVICES TO MAINTAIN AND GROW THE EXISTING ECONOMIC
12 BASE;

13 (7) STIMULATING AND NURTURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW
14 BUSINESS;

15 (8) SUPPORTING MINORITY, FEMALE, DISABLED, AND VETERAN
16 OWNED BUSINESSES, INCLUDING ASSISTING MINORITY, FEMALE, DISABLED,
17 AND VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES TO GAIN ACCESS TO CAPITAL; AND

18 (9) PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A VITAL AND BALANCED
19 ECONOMY.

20 (C) THE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION PROGRAMS OF A
21 CORPORATION DESIGNATED UNDER THIS TITLE MAY INCLUDE A PLAN FOR
22 SPONSORSHIP OF PRIVATE INVESTMENT, MARKETING, AND ADVOCACY
23 INITIATIVES.

1 (D) IN ITS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION ACTIVITIES AND
2 PROGRAMS, A CORPORATION DESIGNATED UNDER THIS TITLE SHALL
3 COLLABORATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT TO ADVANCE THE COUNTY’S BUSINESS
4 DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION STRATEGIC PLAN ADOPTED UNDER § 26-3-301
5 OF THIS TITLE.

6
7 § 26-3-207. SUPPORT FROM COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

8 (A) IF REQUESTED BY THE BOARD, THE DEPARTMENT, THE OFFICE OF
9 BUDGET AND FINANCE, AND ANY OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE,
10 BOARD, COMMISSION, OR COUNTY-FUNDED AGENCY, SHALL PROVIDE
11 RELEVANT ECONOMIC DATA TO THE CORPORATION.

12 (B) THE DEPARTMENTS OF PLANNING AND PERMITS, APPROVALS, AND
13 INSPECTIONS SHALL PROVIDE RESEARCH SUPPORT TO THE CORPORATION TO
14 THE EXTENT REQUESTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

15
16 § 26-3-208. DATA SHARING BY CORPORATION.

17 A CORPORATION DESIGNATED UNDER THIS TITLE SHALL:

18 (1) MAKE PUBLIC DATA SETS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET TO:

19 (I) IMPROVE PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE OF THE CORPORATION AND
20 ITS OPERATIONS;

21 (II) FURTHER ITS MISSION; AND

22 (III) INCREASE THE CORPORATION’S ACCOUNTABILITY AND
23 RESPONSIVENESS; AND

1 (2) UPON REQUEST, PROVIDE THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND
2 COUNTY COUNCIL ALL NON-CONFIDENTIAL DATA PRODUCED AND RECEIVED
3 BY THE CORPORATION, INCLUDING RESEARCH, ECONOMIC DATA, AND MINUTES
4 OF BOARD MEETINGS.

5
6 § 26-3-209. ANNUAL REPORTING AND MEETING.

7 (A) (1) THE BOARD SHALL REPORT ANNUALLY ON THE ACTIVITIES AND
8 FINANCES OF THE CORPORATION AND PROVIDE AN AUDITED FINANCIAL
9 STATEMENT OF THE CORPORATION TO THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY
10 COUNCIL BY NOVEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR.

11 (2) THE ANNUAL REPORT SHALL INCLUDE THE CORPORATION'S
12 PLAN TO SOLICIT AND RECEIVE ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDING
13 FOR ITS OPERATIONS.

14 (B) AT LEAST ANNUALLY, THE BOARD, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND,
15 IF NECESSARY, THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CORPORATION SHALL MEET WITH THE
16 COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNTY COUNCIL REGARDING THE
17 CORPORATION'S ACTIVITIES AND FINANCES.

18
19 SUBTITLE 3 – BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION STRATEGIC PLAN
20

21 § 26-3-301. STRATEGIC PLAN.

22 (A) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2028 AND EVERY 4 YEARS THEREAFTER, A
23 CORPORATION DESIGNATED UNDER THIS TITLE SHALL SUBMIT A DRAFT

1 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION STRATEGIC PLAN TO THE COUNTY
2 EXECUTIVE.

3 (B) THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE SHALL REVIEW THE DRAFT BUSINESS
4 DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION STRATEGIC PLAN AND WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER
5 ITS RECEIPT, SUBMIT THE DRAFT PLAN TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL ALONG WITH
6 ANY RECOMMENDED REVISIONS.

7 (C) (1) WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THE DRAFT BUSINESS
8 DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION STRATEGIC PLAN FROM THE COUNTY
9 EXECUTIVE, THE COUNTY COUNCIL SHALL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE
10 DRAFT PLAN AND ANY RECOMMENDED REVISIONS.

11 (2) NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS AFTER THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE
12 DRAFT PLAN, THE COUNTY COUNCIL SHALL ADOPT, BY RESOLUTION, A FINAL
13 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION STRATEGIC PLAN, WHICH MAY
14 INCLUDE REVISIONS OR AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT PLAN.

15
16 § 26-3-302. PLAN CONTENTS.

17 (A) (1) (I) WHILE FORMULATING THE DRAFT BUSINESS
18 DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION STRATEGIC PLAN, THE CORPORATION SHALL
19 SOLICIT INPUT FROM PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS AND RELEVANT
20 STAKEHOLDERS, SUCH AS CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, REGIONAL BUSINESS OR
21 ECONOMIC COUNCILS, AND MAJOR EMPLOYERS IN THE COUNTY.

(II) THE DRAFT PLAN SHOULD INCLUDE AS MUCH INPUT FROM PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS AND RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS AS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE CONTEXT FOR THE CONTENTS OF THE DRAFT PLAN.

(2) (I) THE DRAFT PLAN SHALL INCLUDE THE DESIRED OUTCOMES OF THE DRAFT PLAN AND DESCRIBE HOW THE ELEMENTS OF THE DRAFT PLAN MAY LEAD TO THE DESIRED OUTCOMES.

(II) THE SCOPE OF THE DESIRED OUTCOMES MAY BE BROAD, SPECIFIC, OR A MIXTURE OF BOTH.

(III) EXAMPLES OF RELEVANT DESIRED OUTCOMES ARE A THRIVING AND DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY, GREATER INNOVATION, AND ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.

(3) THE DRAFT PLAN SHOULD INCLUDE RECOMMENDED RELEVANT BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION MEASURES AND METRICS FOR EACH YEAR OF THE PLAN.

(B) IN THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE’S REVIEW OF THE DRAFT BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION STRATEGIC PLAN, THE DEPARTMENT, IN COORDINATION WITH ANY OTHER RELEVANT COUNTY AGENCY, BOARD, OR COMMISSION, SHALL PROVIDE INPUT ON:

- (1) THE GENERAL CONTENTS OF THE DRAFT PLAN;
- (2) THE RECOMMENDED ANNUAL METRICS;
- (3) THE DESIRED OUTCOMES; AND
- (4) ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION.

1 (C) THE FINAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION STRATEGIC
2 PLAN APPROVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL SHALL INCLUDE:

3 (1) BROAD AND SPECIFIC ACTIONS THAT MAY BE TAKEN BY
4 COUNTY AGENCIES, THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, OR THE COUNTY COUNCIL, THAT
5 MAY LEAD TO SPECIFIED DESIRED OUTCOMES WITHIN THE LIFE OF THE PLAN OR
6 OVER A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME;

7 (2) ANNUAL AND LONG-TERM METRICS TO ASSESS THE ABILITY
8 AND ACTIONS OF THE COUNTY AND ITS PARTNERS TO ADDRESS RELEVANT
9 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION MEASURES INCLUDING:

10 (I) THE CREATION OF JOBS; GROWING WAGES; AND
11 IDENTIFYING AND SUPPORTING STRATEGIC INDUSTRIES;

12 (II) RETENTION OF EXISTING BUSINESSES AND ATTRACTION
13 OF NEW BUSINESSES;

14 (III) GROWING THE TAX BASE;

15 (IV) SUPPORTING AND INCREASING ENTREPRENEURIAL
16 ACTIVITY; AND

17 (V) FOSTERING THE CREATION, GROWTH, AND
18 INTERCONNECTION OF A NETWORK OF LOCAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS, SUCH
19 AS LOCAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE; AND

20 (3) OTHER ACTIONS NECESSARY TO PROMOTE BUSINESS
21 DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION IN THE COUNTY.

22
23 § 26-3-303. UPDATES; REPORTING.

1 (A) (1) AFTER A FINAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION
2 STRATEGIC PLAN HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL, THE
3 CORPORATION MAY SUBMIT AMENDMENTS TO THE FINAL PLAN.

4 (2) AMENDMENTS TO THE FINAL PLAN SHALL BE REVIEWED AND
5 APPROVED IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE DRAFT PLAN.

6 (B) UPON REQUEST, THE CORPORATION AND DEPARTMENT SHALL
7 JOINTLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
8 FINAL PLAN.

9
10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the Office of Budget and Finance,
11 in coordination with other County agencies, shall report to the County Council on or before
12 January 1, 2027 on the following in order to implement the provisions of this Act:

13 (1) The continuation of pensions for any existing employees of the Department
14 that desire to voluntarily transfer to the Corporation and the possibility of pensions for new
15 employees using the Baltimore County Revenue Authority as a possible model for the
16 Corporation and other details relating to pensions including any necessary changes to the Code;

17 (2) Whether health benefits and other County employee benefits could be offered
18 to employees of the Corporation similar to the Baltimore Revenue Authority model;

19 (3) Whether the County's Information Technology system should be available to
20 the Corporation;

21 (4) The creation of a grant program for a grant to the Corporation that requires
22 approvals in the budget and review and approval by the County Council;

23 (5) The possible purchase of insurance for the Corporation;

1 (6) Other changes to the Code that are necessary to carry out the intent of this
2 Act; and

3 (7) Any other details relating to the establishment of the Baltimore County
4 Development and Retention Corporation that arise after the adoption of this Act.

5
6 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that, no later than one year after the
7 adoption and approval of the first resolution designating a corporation under this Act, the Office
8 of Budget and Finance, in coordination with other County agencies, shall report to the County
9 Council the feasibility of a generalized set of rules and regulations allowing County agencies to
10 temporarily loan employees on a voluntary basis to quasi-governmental entities, such as revenue
11 authorities, redevelopment authorities, or economic development corporations.

12
13 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the provisions of Section 1 of this
14 Act that amend Subtitle 4 of Article 3, Title 2 of the Code shall not take effect unless and until a
15 resolution is adopted by the County Council and approved by the County Executive that
16 designates a corporation as a business development and retention corporation for Baltimore
17 County in accordance with this Act.

18
19 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this Act, having been passed by
20 the affirmative vote of five members of the County Council, shall take effect 14 days after its
21 enactment.