

22102776D

**HOUSE BILL NO. 324**

Offered January 12, 2022

Prefiled January 11, 2022

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 59.1-284.39 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Shipping and Logistics Headquarters Grant Program.*

Patrons—Williams Graves and Sullivan

Referred to Committee on Appropriations

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That § 59.1-284.39 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 59.1-284.39. Shipping and Logistics Headquarters Grant Program.**

A. As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Capital investment" means an expenditure within an eligible locality, by or on behalf of a qualified company on or after January 1, 2021, in real property, tangible personal property, or both, at one of the facilities within an eligible locality that has been capitalized or is subject to being capitalized. "Capital investment" may include (i) the purchase of land and buildings and the cost of infrastructure development and land improvements; (ii) a capital expenditure related to a leasehold interest in real property; and (iii) the purchase or lease of furniture, fixtures, machinery, and equipment, including under an operating lease.

"Eligible locality" means ~~the City of Chesapeake~~, the City of Norfolk, or the County of Arlington.

"Facilities" means the buildings, group of buildings, or campus, including any related furniture, fixtures, equipment, and business personal property, in an eligible locality that is owned, leased, licensed, occupied, or otherwise operated by or on behalf of a qualified company for use as a headquarters facility, a customer care center, or a research and development innovation center in the furtherance of its shipping and logistics business.

"Fund" means the Shipping and Logistics Headquarters Grant Fund.

"Grant" means a grant from the Fund awarded to a qualified company in an aggregate amount of up to ~~\$9.5 million~~ \$9,042,875. Grant proceeds are intended to be used by the qualified company to pay or reimburse costs associated with constructing, renovating, acquiring, and staffing the facilities.

"Memorandum of understanding" means a performance agreement or related document entered into on or before August 1, ~~2021~~ 2022, between a qualified company and the Commonwealth that sets forth the requirements for capital investment and the creation of new jobs for the qualified company.

"New job" means full-time employment at or associated with any of the facilities measured at any time after January 1, 2021, for which the annual average wage is at least \$56,713 for a position in the City of Norfolk ~~or the City of Chesapeake~~ or at least \$99,385 for a position in the County of Arlington, that requires a minimum of 38 hours of an employee's time per week for the entire normal year, consisting of at least 48 weeks, of the qualified company's operations. Seasonal or temporary positions and positions created when a job function is shifted from an existing location in the Commonwealth shall not qualify as new jobs. Any new job shall be in addition to the baseline number of existing full-time positions at the qualified company's facilities, to be set forth in the memorandum of understanding.

"Qualified company" means a shipping and logistics company, and its affiliates, that between January 1, 2021, and ~~December 31~~ September 30, 2030, is expected to (i) retain its North American headquarters operations in the City of Norfolk; (ii) make or cause to be made a capital investment at one or more of the facilities of at least \$36 million; (iii) create and maintain at least 415 new jobs at or associated with the facilities related to, or supportive of, its shipping and logistics business functions; and (iv) establish and operate a research and development innovation center.

"Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce and Trade or his designee.

B. There is hereby created in the state treasury a nonreverting fund to be known as the Shipping and Logistics Headquarters Grant Fund. The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. All funds appropriated to the Fund shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for the purpose to pay grant installments pursuant to this chapter. Payment of such grant installments shall be made by check issued by the State Treasurer on warrant of the Comptroller. The Comptroller shall not draw any warrants to issue checks for grant installments under this section without a specific appropriation for the same.

INTRODUCED

HB324

59 C. Subject to appropriation by the General Assembly, a qualified company shall be eligible to receive  
60 grant installments of \$6.33 million in fiscal year 2022 and \$3.17 million in fiscal year 2023. Such grant  
61 installments shall be paid to the qualified company from the Fund during each such fiscal year,  
62 contingent upon the qualified company's meeting the requirements set forth in the memorandum of  
63 understanding to provide security for any potential repayment of the grant, including a cash escrow the  
64 aggregate amount of grants payable under this section to a qualified company shall not exceed  
65 \$9,042,875. Grants shall be paid in nine annual installments, calculated in accordance with the  
66 memorandum of understanding, with grants that may be awarded in a particular fiscal year not to  
67 exceed the following:

- 68 1. \$1,359,500 for the Commonwealth's fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022;
- 69 2. \$2,514,000, less the total amount of grants previously awarded pursuant to this subsection, for the  
70 Commonwealth's fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023;
- 71 3. \$3,468,500, less the total amount of grants previously awarded pursuant to this subsection, for the  
72 Commonwealth's fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024;
- 73 4. \$4,423,000, less the total amount of grants previously awarded pursuant to this subsection, for the  
74 Commonwealth's fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025;
- 75 5. \$5,377,500, less the total amount of grants previously awarded pursuant to this subsection, for the  
76 Commonwealth's fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026;
- 77 6. \$6,332,000, less the total amount of grants previously awarded pursuant to this subsection, for the  
78 Commonwealth's fiscal year beginning July 1, 2027;
- 79 7. \$7,286,500, less the total amount of grants previously awarded pursuant to this subsection, for the  
80 Commonwealth's fiscal year beginning July 1, 2028;
- 81 8. \$8,241,000, less the total amount of grants previously awarded pursuant to this subsection, for the  
82 Commonwealth's fiscal year beginning July 1, 2029; and
- 83 9. \$9,042,875, less the total amount of grants previously awarded pursuant to this subsection, for the  
84 Commonwealth's fiscal year beginning July 1, 2030.

85 D. A qualified company receiving a grant installment pursuant to this section shall provide evidence,  
86 satisfactory to the Secretary, annually of, for each facility: (i) the aggregate number of new jobs created  
87 and maintained as of the last day of the ~~calendar~~ prior grant year as determined in the memorandum of  
88 understanding, the payroll paid by the qualified company during the ~~calendar~~ grant year, and the  
89 average annual wage of the new jobs in the ~~calendar~~ grant year and (ii) the aggregate amount of the  
90 capital investment made during the ~~calendar~~ grant year, including the extent to which such capital  
91 investment was or was not subject to the Virginia Retail Sales and Use Tax Act (§ 58.1-600 et seq.).  
92 The report and evidence shall be filed with the Secretary in person, by mail, or as otherwise agreed  
93 upon in the memorandum of understanding, by no later than ~~April 1~~ each year 90 days following the  
94 end of the prior ~~calendar~~ grant year upon which the evidence is based.

95 E. The memorandum of understanding shall provide that if any annual report and evidence provided  
96 pursuant to subsection D indicates that the qualified company failed to meet certain targets for capital  
97 investment that is or is not subject to the Virginia Retail Sales and Use Tax Act (§ 58.1-600 et seq.), the  
98 average annual wage for new jobs, or the number of new jobs, the qualified company may be required  
99 to repay the Commonwealth a portion of the grant qualify for a reduced grant installment for the grant  
100 year in an amount that reflects the value of the shortfall in the applicable target.

101 F. As a condition of receipt and retention of the grant, a qualified company shall make available to  
102 the Secretary for inspection all documents relevant and applicable to determining whether the qualified  
103 company has met the requirements for the receipt and retention of the grant as set forth herein and  
104 subject to the memorandum of understanding. All such documents appropriately identified by the  
105 qualified company shall be considered confidential and proprietary, and shall not be subject to disclosure  
106 pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (§ 2.2-3700 et seq.).