

1 Introduced by House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development  
2 Referred to Committee on  
3 Date:  
4 Subject: Commerce and trade; manufacturing; COVID-19  
5 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a  
6 COVID-19 Manufacturing Grant Program.

7 An act relating to creating a COVID-19 Manufacturing Grant Program

8 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

9 Sec. 1. COVID-19 MANUFACTURING GRANT PROGRAM

10 (a) Purpose.

11 (1) The purpose of this section is to establish a COVID-19  
12 Manufacturing Grant Program to assist Vermont manufacturing companies in  
13 quickly accelerating production of items necessary to respond to the COVID-  
14 19 outbreak.

15 (2) The Program shall provide grants to manufacturers to increase  
16 capacity in current operations and to pivot production to build and assemble  
17 critical need items, including:

18 (A) personal protection equipment, including N95 respirators,  
19 surgical masks, cloth masks, isolation gowns;

1           (B) respiratory care equipment, including ventilators;

2           (C) medical devices; and

3           (D) other items identified by the State Emergency Operations Center  
4 necessary for workplace and community safety.

5           (b) Eligible recipients. To be eligible for a grant an applicant shall meet  
6 the following criteria:

7           (1) the applicant has demonstrated manufacturing capacity;

8           (2) the facility where the applicant manufactures qualifying products is  
9 located in Vermont; and

10           (3) the applicant has 500 or fewer employees or otherwise meets a Small  
11 Business Administration classification of small business or small  
12 manufacturer.

13           (c) Eligible use of funds. A recipient may use grant funds for the  
14 following:

15           (1) purchase and set up of production equipment;

16           (2) expenses necessary to produce critical care items;

17           (3) prototyping expenses for complex medical devices; and

18           (4) training expenses to train employees in the new production process  
19 and equipment.

20           (d) Amount of grants. A grant shall be one-time and shall not exceed  
21 \$20,000 per recipient.

1           (e) Administration of grants.

2                   (1) The Agency of Commerce and Community Development shall  
3           administer the grants in coordination with the Vermont Manufacturing  
4           Extension Center.

5                   (2) The Agency, the Center, and regional development corporations  
6           shall publicize information about the Program and the application process.

7           (f) Reporting:

8                   (1) The Agency shall report to the General Assembly bi-weekly during  
9           the pandemic crisis on the number of grants awarded, the projected and actual  
10          production volumes, and the number of entities receiving the products being  
11          produced.

12                   (2) The Agency shall submit a final report on the Grant program on or  
13          before December 15, 2020.

14           (g) Funding. The Agency of Commerce and Community Development  
15          may use not more than \$500,000.00 to award grants pursuant to this act using  
16          funds appropriated to it for the New Remote Worker Grant Program created in  
17          2018 Acts and Resolves No. 197, Sec. 1, as amended by 2019 Acts and  
18          Resolves No. 80, Sec. 15.

19          Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

20           This act shall take effect on passage.