

DEPARTMENT OF STATE PLANNING

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Origins of the Department of State Planning date back to the formation of the State Planning Commission in 1933 (Chapter 39, Acts of Special Session of 1933). The Commission was replaced by the State Planning Department in 1959 (Chapter 543, Acts of 1959). This latter agency was superseded in 1969 by the present Department of State Planning (Chapter 155, Acts of 1969).

The Department of State Planning is the Governor's staff agency on planning matters. Its major functions are first, to plan for State government itself, primarily through the capital program and through assistance to State agencies, and second, to plan for overall State growth and development, conservation and preservation of resources, and coordination of economic, environmental, and social policies and programs.

The Department publishes numerous reports of plans, capital programs, and economic and demographic data. Publication inquiries should be directed to the Office of the Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Telephone: 383-7700

The Office of the Secretary provides direction to the Department and performs other specific duties. Among these duties is participation on many boards, commissions, and committees mandated by the Legislature or by appointment of the Governor.

The Secretary serves as chairperson of the State Development Council. Created by the Governor in 1980, the Council includes the Lieutenant Governor and the secretaries of the five other departments most closely associated with the physical development of the State. Based upon the recommendations of the Council, the Governor in May 1982 issued an executive order defining policies to guide State actions or the physical and economic development of Maryland. The Council examines issues where comprehensive and consistent State policies are required to guide the effective and efficient allocation of State resources.

The Secretary also chairs the Executive Management Board which oversees the planning and construction of State office space. In addition to the Baltimore and Annapolis State Office Complexes, the Board oversees the multi-service center program of regional offices for State agencies.

Other activities of the Secretary's office are legislative analysis, public communication, and various interagency and intergovernmental coordination functions. Planning workshops and conferences are promoted by this Office.

The major functions of the Department are met through two principal operating divisions—Capital Program Planning and Comprehensive Policy Planning.

CAPITAL PROGRAM PLANNING DIVISION

Telephone: 383-2270

The Capital Program Planning Division prepares the Governor's Annual Capital Budget (exclusive of most transportation and water and sewer facilities) and develops the Five-Year Capital Improvements Program. This division conducts site visits, holds public hearings, and prepares testimony for the Legislature on all capital projects. It coordinates the purchase of all capital equipment for State agencies. Planning for the construction of the State system of multi-service centers and district courts is also coordinated by this agency. The Division provides technical assistance to State agencies in preparing master plans and undertakes studies on the feasibility and need