

CHAPTER 119

(House Bill 842)

AN ACT concerning

Forum for Rural Maryland

FOR the purpose of establishing the Forum for Rural Maryland, a rural development council, as an independent unit in the executive branch of State government; specifying the membership of the Forum; requiring the Forum to elect a chairman, adopt certain bylaws, and establish an executive board; specifying the membership of the executive board; authorizing the Forum to expand the membership or the membership of the executive board; requiring the executive board to take certain actions; authorizing certain subcommittees; requiring that the Forum hire an executive director; specifying the duties of the executive director; exempting the Forum from certain provisions of State law; providing that the Forum shall receive funding through an appropriation in the State budget; requiring that the Forum's budget be included in the budget of the Department of Economic and Employment Development (DEED); requiring DEED to provide the Forum with certain staff and resources; providing that the Attorney General shall serve as legal advisor to the Forum; requiring that units in the executive branch work with the Forum on certain matters; requiring the Forum to publish an annual report; granting the Forum certain powers; providing for the disposition of certain assets should the Forum be dissolved; transferring the Maryland membership unit of the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Appalachian Regional Development Program, other than the Maryland State Appalachian Housing Fund, from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to DEED; providing that the Governor shall be a member of the federal Appalachian Regional Commission; authorizing the Governor to appoint certain individuals as an alternate member to the Commission; authorizing the Governor to replace the alternate member; making conforming changes; transferring certain personnel affected by this Act with certain rights; specifying legislative intent concerning the transfers; clarifying certain references; providing for the application of this Act; making provisions of this Act severable; and generally relating to the establishment and operation of the Forum for Rural Maryland and the transfer of certain responsibilities from DHCD to DEED.

BY adding to

Article 41 – Governor – Executive and Administrative Departments

Section 15-101 through 15-110, inclusive, to be under the new title “Title 15. Forum for Rural Maryland”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1993 Replacement Volume and 1994 Supplement).

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – State Finance and Procurement

Section 11-203(a)(1) and (b)(2)