

The Commission has been given, through bi-county enactments of the Maryland General Assembly, definite jurisdiction over the planning of the Maryland-Washington Regional District, which includes all of the suburban Prince George's and Montgomery Counties and a considerable portion of agricultural Montgomery County.

The Commission is composed of six members appointed by the Governor. Two members must be residents and taxpayers of that portion of the Maryland-Washington Metropolitan District within Montgomery County; one may be a resident of any part of Montgomery County; two must be residents and taxpayers of that portion of the District within Prince George's County; and one may be a resident of any part of Prince George's County. Members have six-year overlapping terms, the terms of two of the first appointees from each county having been for four years. The Commission appoints a Secretary-Treasurer and a General Counsel. Regional Offices are maintained in both counties.

Within the Maryland-Washington Metropolitan District, the Commission is empowered to acquire, develop, maintain, and operate a park system with recreational facilities, the expense of which is paid from a separate park tax levied within the District. A recreational program has been authorized in the parks and other public places, revenue for which may be obtained from a special recreation tax or county grants. The Commission is authorized to cooperate and negotiate with Federal agencies for financial assistance under the terms of the Capper-Cramton Act, and with other agencies in the park development program.

Within the Maryland-Washington Regional District, which includes and extends beyond the Metropolitan District, the Commission is empowered to make, adopt, and amend a general plan for the physical development of the District, including all factors of urban, suburban, rural, and regional planning. Plans and specifications for the construction of public works improvements and facilities are authorized to be prepared by the Commission. It is given specific sub-division control power, and jurisdiction over building inspection and permits, over street grades and locations, public buildings and utilities after the adoption of a major road plan, over street naming and house renumbering, and the Commission has advisory zoning powers. The zoning ordinances and amendments, however, are enacted by the respective Boards of County Commissioners sitting as a District Council for that portion of the District within each County. The Commission recommends land use or zoning ordinance building regulations and similar ordinance subject matters to the respective District Councils. The Building Inspector's departments of both counties function under the jurisdiction of this Commission. The administrative expenses of the Commission are paid from an administrative tax levied within the District. The taxes levied by the Commission which are collected by the County Treasurer in each of the two Counties are as follows:

Montgomery County:

Regional District:

Administrative Tax: 3¢/\$100

Metropolitan District:

Administrative tax: 3¢/\$100

Park Tax: 7¢/\$100

Recreation Tax: 5¢/\$100

Total: 15¢/\$100