

The Commission consists of twelve members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Members serve for six years and have overlapping tenure of office. Two represent the Eastern Shore; two, Central Maryland; two, Southern Maryland; two, Western Maryland; two, Baltimore City; and two, the State at large. Members serve without compensation and may be reappointed. The chairman is chosen by the Governor and serves at his pleasure. The Commission selects and the Governor appoints the Director of the Department.

The Department assembles and disseminates information in the interest of economic, industrial, and tourist development; conducts studies to determine areas of special economic opportunity for the State and ways of exploiting such opportunities for the maximum benefit of the State and its residents; enters into contracts; and is empowered to utilize all existing State agencies, boards, commissions, and institutions as sources of information, except in such cases as are provided by law to be confidential and secret.

The programs of the Department are carried out through its three Divisions:

The Business and Industrial Development Division promotes and publicizes Maryland's advantages and opportunities for the location of new business and industries and the expansion of existing enterprises, and works with prospects and communities toward these ends. It initiates and maintains contacts with business and industrial prospects, answers their requests for information, and informs them about all Maryland locations which might meet their requirements. It assists, encourages, and cooperates with community, regional, and area development efforts, both public and private, including working with community groups in the preparation of Community Economic Inventories and other business and industrial reference and promotional publications.

The Research Division is responsible for the accumulation, analysis, and presentation of state-wide and regional economic data for the Department and for the conduct of studies to determine areas of special economic opportunity for the State and ways of exploiting such opportunities for the maximum benefit of the State and its residents. Insofar as is practicable the Division assembles, classifies, and makes readily available all data pertaining to Maryland's economic resources and problems; it analyzes that data and translates it into accurate and concise answers to authentic inquiries; makes special studies in response to unusual or important demands; and systematically explores Maryland's economy in search of special advantages for any particular industry, tourist or recreational facility or activity, or other beneficial economic opportunity.

The Tourist Development and Publicity Division promotes and publicizes Maryland's tourist and recreational advantages. The Division actively cooperates with and assists local, regional, and state-wide travel, historical, and recreational groups in fostering and implementing activities and programs which will increase tourist travel and vacationing in Maryland. This includes the preparation and distribution of literature on Maryland's recreational, scenic, and historical assets, and publicizing and advertising the tourist and recreational appeals of the State. The Division also answers travel and tourist inquiries from publications, tourists, vacationers, residents, students, and public and private agencies. This involves mailing out hundreds of thousands of pieces of literature yearly and preparing many special reports and articles as well as radio and TV scripts and advertising copy.

In addition, the Commission may appoint boards and committees representing economic groups within the State to advise and assist in the accomplishment of the aims and fulfillment of the duties of the Commission (Code 1957, 1962 Supp., Art. 41, secs. 257-266).