

The State Planning Department functions "as the Governor's Staff Agency in planning matters," and prepares and keeps up-to-date a program for the development and effective employment of all State resources, known as the State Development Plan. To this end the Department studies "the resources of the State and . . . existing and emerging problems of agriculture, commerce, transportation, population, housing, public service, local government" and other matters that affect the development of Maryland. It also "prepares the State's capital program in collaboration with the Department of Budget and Procurement and . . . assists in the preparation of the annual capital budget." In addition, it acts "as an advisory . . . and coordinating agency," harmonizing its planning activities with those of State or local government agencies and providing these agencies with planning assistance. It also attempts to stimulate "public interest and participation in the development of the State". The State Planning Department, through its Director and Staff, represents the State on River Basin Planning Projects conducted by Federal Government agencies in the Susquehanna, Potomac and Ohio River Basins. The Director is also the State representative on multi-State Advisory Committees on the Susquehanna and Potomac River Basins, and serves as liaison with the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, U. S. Department of Interior, on developing open space and recreation plans to implement provisions of the "Land and Water Conservation Fund Act". The Director is also Chairman of a special Advisory Council to the Board of Public Works on Administering the Federal Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963, whose function is further explained elsewhere. The Director of the State Planning Department is appointed by the Governor and serves at his pleasure.

The law provides for a State Planning Commission within the State Planning Department to advise and assist the Director. The Commission consists of nine members: Seven are appointed by the Governor for four-year terms; the other two represent the House of Delegates and the State Senate and are appointed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate respectively.

The Commission may establish subcommittees to which it may delegate any of its functions. It is also to (1) "study and report from time to time upon the effectiveness of planning in the State;" (2) "evaluate the effectiveness of this Article, and . . . urge its revision or amendment whenever necessary;" (3) "receive and approve, disapprove, or resubmit to the Director of State Planning recommendations concerning the establishment of regional or metropolitan areas;" (4) "hold public and private hearings and sponsor public forums in any part of the State" (Code 1957, 1965 Supp., Art. 88C).

Appropriations	1965	1966
General Funds .....	\$311,396.88	\$308,131
Staff: 1965, 24; Staff: 1966, 27.		

**REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

Chairman: J. Jefferson Miller, Member-at-Large

Vice Chairman: James J. O'Donnell, Director,

State Planning Department

Ex officio members: J. Joseph Curran, Jr., State Senate; William B. Dulany, House of Delegates; John B. Funk, Chairman-Director, State Roads Commission; Philip H. Sachs, Chairman, Metropolitan Transit Authority; Edward S. Corcoran, Vice Chairman, Maryland Port Authority.