

**APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION****Maryland Representatives:**

Spiro T. Agnew, Governor  
 Robert Garner, State Member  
 William A. Pate, Alternate

**Officers of the Commission:**

Federal Co-Chairman: Joe W. Fleming II  
 State's Regional Representative: John D. Whisman  
 Executive Director: Ralph R. Widner

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By Chapter 415, Acts of 1965, the Governor and the Board of Public Works were authorized to appoint a State member and an alternate to the Appalachian Regional Commission to implement the Federal Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965. In addition to the State's representatives and alternate, Maryland also has an elected regional representative selected by the majority of the thirteen states (Code 1957, 1965 Repl. Vol., Art. 78A, sec. 13A).

The Commission was created by the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-4) to plan and coordinate projects and programs authorized by the Act for the development of the 13-State Appalachian Region, which includes the Western Maryland counties of Washington, Allegany, and Garrett. The Commission consists of a Federal Co-Chairman appointed by the President and one member from each participating state, who may be the Governor or his designee. A State Co-Chairman is elected periodically by the Governors.

Programs for Appalachian development authorized by the Act include the construction of a developmental highway system, access roads, health centers, vocational educational schools and sewage treatment works; the development of land, timber and water resources, the rehabilitation of areas damaged by strip and surface mining; and the establishment of local development districts to support economic development efforts at the local level. The Act authorizes the appropriations of \$1,092,400,000 to cover the Federal share of the cost of these programs, of which \$840,000,000 is earmarked for the construction of 2,350 miles of development highways and 1,000 miles of access roads over 5-year period. The Commission has approved the construction of a total of 78.1 miles of development highways in Maryland.

The Commission is not an operating agency. Its major function is the planning and coordination of programs and projects to be carried out under the Act by the appropriate Federal and State departments and agencies. The Commission can act only on those programs and projects which are submitted to it by State members. Its decisions require the affirmative vote of the Federal Co-Chairman and of a majority of State members.

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