

DEPARTMENT OF STATE PLANNING

State Planning Commission

Chairman: Saul I. Stern, 1977

Ex Officio Members: James Clark, Jr., State Senate; John R. Hargreaves, House of Delegates

Appointed Members: Edward Cooney, 1977; Joseph B. Francus, 1977; Arnold M. Kronstadt, 1977; Carlton R. Sickles, 1977; Sidney M. Tinley, Jr., 1977; *Vacancy*, 1977

The Department

Vladimir A. Wahbe, Secretary of State Planning

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The Department of State Planning was created by Chapter 155, Acts of 1969 and amended by Chapter 596, Acts of 1971, and Chapter 695, Acts of 1972, as the successor to the State Planning Department established by Chapter 543, Acts of 1959. The predecessor agency had, in turn, replaced the Maryland State Planning Commission established by Chapter 39, Acts of the Special Session of 1933. The head of the Department is the Secretary of State Planning, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

The Department of State Planning functions as the Governor's staff agency in planning matters, and prepares, recommends and keeps up-to-date a balanced integrated program for the development and effective employment of the natural and other resources of the State, in order to promote the health, safety and general welfare of its citizens. The Department prepares the State's capital program and the annual capital budget. It also cooperates with, and provides planning assistance to county, municipal and other local governments, instrumentalities or planning agencies and serves as the applicant and supervisory agency for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Comprehensive Planning Assistance grants under Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954, as amended.

A research group has as its primary purpose the compilation of basic socio-economic and resources data relating to the State of Maryland and its political subdivisions on a common basis useful to all State agencies.

By Chapter 155, Acts of 1969, the Department acquired added responsibilities. These include the coordination of plans and programs of all State departments, agencies and instrumentalities; the coordination of State programs with those of the Federal government; the comprehensive analysis and evaluation of capital plans and programs of the State departments, agencies, commissions, and instrumentalities; and the review and analysis of all Federal grants, loans, or services of any type whatsoever available to the State, including an analysis of the impact on the State of existing and proposed future Federal programs. The Department also advises the Governor as to the means available to coordinate the plans and programs of Federal, State, local, regional, metropolitan, county and municipal governments in order to avoid duplication and conflict.

The State Intergovernmental Assistance Clearinghouse is responsible for coordinating the review of 101 Federal grants-in-aid programs, direct Federal Development projects in the State and draft Environmental Impact Statements pursuant to the provisions of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1968 as implemented by Office