

The Interstate Mining Commission was created as the result of the Interstate Mining Compact initiated by the Council of State Governments. To date, thirteen states have ratified the instrument. Maryland ratified the Compact by Chapter 297, Acts of 1973. The Compact establishes a Commission with one representative and one alternate from each state. Its function is to study mining operations and their effect upon the land, water, air, and recreation patterns of community or regional development. All of the Commission's powers are of a study, recommendatory, or consultative nature. The Commission is financed by State appropriations based upon a formula allocation utilizing the value of minerals and ores in the party states.

The same Act also created the Maryland Mining Council, which is composed of the Director of the Maryland Geological Survey and six appointed members. The Governor, with the advice of the Secretary of Natural Resources, appoints the members of the Council for four-year terms. Two of the appointed members must represent the mining industries and two must be public members with a demonstrated and continuing interest in conservation matters (Code Natural Resources Article, secs. 7-701 through 7-703).

### POTOMAC RIVER BASIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#### Maryland Representatives:

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The Potomac River Basin Advisory Committee, originally known as the Interstate Advisory Committee on the Potomac River Basin, was created as a result of a conference attended by the governors of Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Maryland, and the President of the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia, held in Washington, D.C., on April 19, 1965. The Committee was formed to coordinate and represent the genuine interests of the states in Potomac Basin planning activity and, most importantly, to advise the heads of government on the best possible permanent interstate organization to plan, develop, and manage the water and related resources of the Potomac River Basin.

The Advisory Committee, made up of three representatives from each of the five jurisdictions, has pursued its assignments and has completed and presented to the governors a proposal for an interstate-federal water resources Compact. After enactment by each of the Basin states and the U. S. Congress, the new Compact will become effective and the Potomac River Basin Commission will come into being to exercise the powers granted by the Compact.

Virginia ratified the Compact in 1970, while Maryland enacted it by Chapter 30, Acts of 1971 (Code Natural Resources Article, sec. 8-301).

The Advisory Committee maintains an office in Washington, D.C. Currently no funds are being requested from the states for support of the Committee.

### OHIO RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

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The Ohio River Basin Commission was established by Presidential Order in 1971 under the Water Resources Planning Act of 1965 to provide coordinated and comprehensive planning for the Basin. The Commission is composed of representatives from Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Maryland, as well as from the federal Departments of Agriculture, the Army, Commerce, Energy, Health, Education, and Welfare, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency. The federal government contributes fifty percent of the costs of the Commission with the member states paying the other half, except that Maryland pays only \$5,000 per year.

### COASTAL STATES ORGANIZATION

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The Coastal States Organization was formed in 1969 with twenty-two member states. In January 1970 Maryland became a member. Presently the Organization consists of delegates appointed by the governors of thirty-two coastal states and territories.