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This Council, established by Chapter 370, Acts of 1979, consists of twenty-five members appointed by the Governor from a list of persons recommended by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, one member of the Senate of Maryland appointed by the president of the Senate, and one member of the House of Delegates appointed by the speaker of the House.

Each person appointed to the Council shall be knowledgeable or have a serious interest in toxic and carcinogenic substances. The Council shall be comprised of representatives from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Natural Resources, Agriculture, Licensing and Regulation, Transportation, State Planning, Economic and Community Development, the State Fire Marshal, the State Police, the Maryland Civil Defense and Emergency Preparedness Agency, the AFL-CIO, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, The Johns Hopkins University Medical Institutions, the University of Maryland Medical Institutions, and any other private or governmental entity that the Governor deems appropriate.

The Council collects and evaluates all available data pertinent to toxic and carcinogenic substances, including asbestos in schools and public buildings, and advises the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene on short-range and long-range courses of action in dealing with such substances. The Council responds to requests from the Secretary for advice on specific problems, and assists appropriate State agencies and private individuals or organizations concerning the development of proposals for grants relating to toxic and carcinogenic substances. The Council is to evaluate the economic impact of various proposals relating to toxic and carcinogenic substances and develop an effective communication system for dealing with emergencies involving toxic and carcinogenic substances. The Secretary of the Department is to refer to the Council all significant issues involving toxic and carcinogenic substances.

The Council is to prepare and submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or

before the second Wednesday of January of each year. This report will describe the activities of the Council during the previous year and include any recommendations that would allow the Council to better fulfill its purposes.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

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All major environmental programs in Maryland have been reorganized pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 01.01.1980.04, approved by the 1980 session of the General Assembly, into the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene under the Assistant Secretariat for Environmental Programs. The mission of the Assistant Secretariat is to foster and protect the public health and well-being by providing an environment free of the uncontrolled release or disposal of toxic, hazardous, or undesirable substances or emissions, and by affording the consumer safe and wholesome food, drugs, and other consumable products. In order to pursue these goals, the Assistant Secretariat has been tentatively organized into three support units and four major programs. The three support units are: Administrative Services, Planning and Analysis, and Science and Health Advisory. The program organizations are as follows:

The Air Quality Control Program develops air resources management plans and program strategies. It develops and enforces regulations for control of emissions from stationary and other sources. It also maintains a comprehensive statewide air monitoring system to provide current knowledge of ambient pollutant levels in order to institute regular and emergency procedures for their control.

The Community Health Protection Program assures safe and wholesome products and protects the public health through regulation of the manufacture, distribution, and sale of milk, food, and other consumer products, and regulates controlled dangerous substances or drugs with an abuse potential. It also regulates the control of dangerous emissions through ionizing and non-ionizing radiation sources and protects the public from dangerous levels of noise pollution through regulation and inspection.