

DEPARTMENT 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; Chapter 695, Acts of 1972; Chapter 291, Acts of 1974; and Chapters 309, 683, and 746, Acts of 1980. The Department is successor to the State Planning Department established by Chapter 543, Acts of 1959, which replaced the Maryland State Planning Commission, established by Chapter 39, Acts of the Special Session of 1933.

The Department of State Planning is the Governor's staff agency on planning matters. Its major functions are first, to plan for State government itself, primarily through the capital program and through assistance to State agencies, and second, to plan for overall State growth and development, conservation and preservation of resources, and coordination of economic, environmental, and social policies and programs.

The Office of the Secretary provides direction to the Department and performs other specific duties. Among these duties is participation on many boards, commissions, and committees mandated by the Legislature or by appointment of the Governor. In 1980 two new groups were formed—the State Development Council and the Patuxent River Commission. Created by Executive Order, the Development Council is chaired by the Secretary of State Planning. The Council members include the Secretaries of Economic and Community Development, Health and Mental Hygiene, Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Transportation, and the Lieutenant Governor. The Council is mandated to propose policies guiding the allocation of State physical and economic resources. A Task Force of legislative, local government, and citizen members will review and hold hearings on proposals of the Council.

The Patuxent River Commission was created by Chapter 746, Acts of 1980. The Commission, which is appointed by the Governor, is composed of ten members, one from each of the seven counties within the watershed and three ex officio members from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Natural Resources, and State Planning. The duties of the Commission are to review the operation of the State and local agencies in regard to the Patuxent River; to provide a clearinghouse for watershed information; to review plans and comment on reports relevant to the river; to conduct public hearings; to prepare an annual report; and to assist State Planning in the preparation of the Patuxent River Policy Plan.

Other activities of the Secretary's office are legislative analysis, public communication, and various interagency and intergovernmental coordination functions. Planning workshops and conferences are promoted by this Office.

The major functions of the Department are met through two principal operating divisions—Capital Program Planning and Comprehensive Policy Planning.