

The State Advisory Council on Arthritis and Related Diseases started as the State Commission on Arthritis and Related Diseases in 1985 (Chapter 250, Acts of 1985). In 1992, the Council received its present name and was placed under the Local and Family Health Administration (Chapter 71, Acts of 1992). The Council coordinates the activities of public and private agencies, medical schools, and related professional groups to improve the quality of life for arthritic individuals and their families. The Council makes recommendations to limit costs associated with arthritis prevention and treatment, and vocational training, as well as to improve services. The Council also develops and coordinates programs in vocational rehabilitation and industry to help arthritic individuals remain productive in the work force.

Through studies and proposals, the Council seeks to form an integrated State program of education and applied research in gerontology and geriatrics. The development of a strategic plan of patient education throughout Maryland is coordinated by the Council. The plan involves State and local health departments, private agencies, pharmaceutical companies, medical schools, and professional organizations.

The Council's fifteen members are appointed by the Governor, who designates the chair. Members serve four-year terms (Code Health—General Article, secs. 13-501 through 13-506).

**STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON  
HEREDITARY & CONGENITAL DISORDERS**

Peter B. Hirtle, *Chair*, 1998  
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The State Advisory Council on Hereditary and Congenital Disorders formed in 1973 as the Commission on Hereditary Disorders (Chapter 695, Acts of 1973). In 1986, it was renamed the State Commission on Hereditary and Congenital Disorders (Chapter 740, Acts of 1986). In 1992, it received its present name and was placed under the Local and Family Health Administration (Chapter 71, Acts of 1992).

The Council gathers and disseminates information on the treatment of hereditary and congenital disorders in the State. It also establishes and promulgates rules, regulations, and standards for the detection and management of these disorders. On a continuous basis, it evaluates the need for and efficiency of relevant State programs. For the public and providers of health services, the Council also institutes and supervises educational programs and counseling on hereditary and congenital disorders, their treatment and prevention.

The Council is composed of eleven voting members and five nonvoting members. Those voting serve four-year terms. They include nine members appointed by the Governor, one senator appointed

by the Senate President, and one delegate appointed by the House Speaker. The nonvoting members are appointed by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene (Code Health—General Article, secs. 13-103 through 13-109).

**STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON  
HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE & RELATED  
CARDIOVASCULAR RISK FACTORS**

Elijah Saunders, M.D., *Chair*, 1998  
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The State Advisory Council on High Blood Pressure and Related Cardiovascular Risk Factors originated as the Commission on High Blood Pressure in 1976 (Chapter 792, Acts of 1976). It became the State Commission on High Blood Pressure and Related Cardiovascular Risk Factors in 1986 (Chapter 486, Acts of 1986). In 1992, it was reorganized under its present name and placed under the Local and Family Health Administration (Chapter 71, Acts of 1992).

The Council establishes guidelines to manage and treat high blood pressure and related cardiovascular risk factors. The Council also develops and promotes educational programs to prevent and treat these conditions.

The Council's sixteen members are appointed by the Governor for terms of four years. Consumer members are appointed with Senate advice and consent (Code Health—General Article, secs. 13-201 through 13-206).

**STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON PHYSICAL FITNESS**

Vacancy, *Chair*  
Carol V. Friedman, *Executive Director*  
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The State Advisory Council on Physical Fitness began as the State Commission on Physical Fitness in 1963 (Chapter 606, Acts of 1963). The Council was reorganized in 1992 by its present name under the Local and Family Health Administration (Chapter 71, Acts of 1992). The Council works to protect and improve the physical fitness of Marylanders. It disseminates information about physical fitness, and collects and assembles information from State departments and agencies. To further its work, the Council maintains liaison with the State Department of Education, local boards of education, private and parochial schools, and local physical fitness commissions.

The Council consists of twenty-five members appointed by the Governor with the advice of the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene. Members serve four-year terms. The Governor names the chair. The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene appoints the executive director.

In each county and Baltimore City, the Governor appoints a local advisory council of from fifteen to twenty-five members. The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene names each chair (Code Health—General Article, secs. 13-401 through 13-412).