

Commissioners shall have but one vote among them, to be cast by the President of the Board of County Commissioners or his designee. Additionally,] ; ~~9~~ 3 members from each county to include the ~~nine~~ THREE County Commissioners, provided that in lieu of three County Commissioners from any County hereafter adopting a County Charter, the three members from such county shall be appointed by the Executive of such county with the advice and consent of the County Council. Additionally, the Economic Development Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission of each county shall have the right to appoint one non-voting member to the Council, and the County Commissioners from each county shall recommend the appointment of one voting member-at-large from each county subject to the concurrence of the State Senator(s) and Delegates from each county, this right of appointment may be exercised by the Senators, Delegates, and County Commissioners only with respect to the member-at-large from the county or counties from which they have been elected or represent, and the Maryland Department of Economic and Community Development and the Maryland Department of Economic Development and the Maryland State Planning Department shall each be represented on the Council by one non-voting member.

The members who hold membership by virtue of their elected or appointed position shall hold office only during their term of office. The members at large MEMBERS-AT-LARGE shall serve at the pleasure of elected and otherwise appointed membership of each county.

Vacancies on the Council by reason of death, resignation, change of residence or other cause shall be ~~filed~~ FILLED for the duration of the unexpired term in the same manner as is provided for the original appointment.

Members of the Council shall serve without compensation.

(2) STATUS.—The Tri-County Council shall be a tax-exempt public body corporate and politic, and shall operate as a cooperative planning and development agency within the representative counties to foster the physical, economic and social development of the tri-county area and utilize effectively the assistance provided by the State. It shall initiate and coordinate plans and projects for the development of human and economic resources of the Southern Maryland region as a Southern Maryland planning and development agency.

The Council will cooperate with the State departments and agencies concerned, including, but not limited to the Department of State Planning, Department of Economic Development, [the State Office of Economic Opportunity, the State Roads Commission] THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, the State Department of Transportation and the Department of Natural Resources, and submit for approval plans and projects of the Council in which such departments or agencies have statutory functions and responsibilities. The Attorney General of Maryland shall serve as legal advisor to the Council in all matters pertaining to the Council's activities.