

including the initiation of new programs or strategies to enhance the development of international trade opportunities for Maryland citizens;

(2) Foster coordination and communication between public entities and the private sector involved in international trade;

(3) Sponsor an annual conference to facilitate the discussion of issues and exchange of information on international trade;

(4) Evaluate the effectiveness of State and local programs designed primarily to promote or assist in international trade and make recommendations for their continued improvement; and

(5) Assess, and make appropriate recommendations, concerning changes in federal programs designed to promote or assist in international trade.

(b) The Council shall consist of 25 members as follows:

(1) The following shall be voting ex officio members of the Council:

(i) 1 member of the Governor's cabinet, other than a member specifically identified in this subsection, who shall serve as chairman of the Council;

(ii) The Secretary of Transportation;

(iii) The Secretary of Agriculture;

(iv) The Secretary [of Economic and Community Development];

(v) The President of the University of Maryland;

(vi) A representative of the Baltimore office of the United States Department of Commerce selected by the head of that office; and

(vii) 2 members of the General Assembly, 1 of whom shall be nominated by the President of the Senate of Maryland and the other of whom shall be nominated by the Speaker of the House of Delegates of Maryland.

(2) Subject to subsection (c) of this section, the Governor shall appoint members of the Council as follows: