

(h) The general economy will be helped by the increased employment caused by the implementation of artistic programs, by the construction of places of performance and exhibition of artistic programs, and by many visitors who will visit the State to witness these programs.

[6-502.] 4-602.

The General Assembly declares it to be the policy of the State to strive to create a nurturing climate for the arts in the State and to join with private patrons and with institutions and professional organizations concerned with the arts, to ensure that the role of the arts in the life of the citizens of the State will continue to grow and play an ever more significant part in their welfare and educational experience.

[6-503.] 4-603.

The General Assembly declares that all activities undertaken by the State, in carrying out the policy set forth in [§ 6-502] § 4-602 of this subtitle, shall be directed toward encouraging and assisting rather than in any way limiting the freedom of artistic expression which is essential for the well-being of the arts.

[6-504.] 4-604.

(a) There is a Maryland State Arts Council which shall be part of the Department.

(b) The Council consists of 17 members, 13 of whom shall be selected as provided in paragraph (1) of this subsection and 4 of whom shall be selected as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection:

(1) (i) 13 members of the Council shall be appointed by the Governor in consultation with the Secretary and with the advice and consent of the Senate, for terms of 3 years each. The terms of members are staggered as required by the terms provided for members of the Council on July 1, 1985.

(ii) Any member is eligible for reappointment, but after serving for 2 consecutive 3-year terms, no member may be reappointed until the expiration of at least 1 year after the termination of the member's previous tenure. Vacancies shall be filled immediately for the remainder of the unexpired portion of the term. A member shall hold office until a successor has been appointed.

(2) (i) 2 members of the Council shall be appointed by the President of the Senate of Maryland and 2 members of the Council shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates of Maryland.

(ii) 2 members of the Council at all times shall be members of the General Assembly of Maryland, 1 a member of the Senate of Maryland appointed by the President and the other a member of the House of Delegates of Maryland appointed by the Speaker.