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(a) (1) There is an Apprenticeship and Training Council as part of the Department. The Council consists of 12 members all of whom shall be appointed by the Governor of Maryland, with the advice of the Secretary and with the advice and consent of the Senate of Maryland.

(2) Four of the members shall be representatives of employee organizations; 1 shall be an employee; 5 shall be representatives of employers and 2 shall be appointed from the general public.

(3) The membership of the Council shall include representation by black, female, and handicapped persons. Consultants to the Council shall include representation by black, female, and handicapped persons.

(4) In advising the Governor, the Secretary shall give consideration to a balanced geographic representation from all of Maryland and a representative sampling and mix of Maryland industry.

(5) One member shall be appointed as Chairman by the Governor, with the advice of the Secretary, and serve as Chairman at the pleasure of the Governor. The Assistant State Superintendent, Career and Technology Education, and the Maryland State Director of the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, U.S. Department of Labor, shall serve as consultants to the Council without vote.

(6) The Governor, with the advice of the Secretary may appoint up to 3 additional consultants to the Council from the public at large.

(b) All appointments as members of the Council shall be for terms of 4 years.

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The members of the Council shall receive per diem compensation as provided in the State budget for each day actually engaged in the discharge of their official duties as well as reimbursement for expenses in accordance with the Standard State Travel Regulations. The Director of Apprenticeship and Training shall act as secretary.

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(a) The duties of the Council shall be to:

(1) determine the apprenticeability of trades in the State of Maryland;

(2) encourage the establishment of local apprenticeship committees where such committees are needed and approve their programs;

(3) formulate and adopt standards of apprenticeship which safeguard the welfare of apprentices, being guided, but not controlled, by the standards of apprenticeship recommended by the federal committee on apprenticeship and provide guidance and counsel on the establishment of other forms of on-the-job training;

(4) formulate policies for the overall apprenticeship program;