

[15-101.] 15-101.1.

There is a [Forvm for] Rural Maryland COUNCIL.

15-102.

(A) The [Forvm is a rural development council] COUNCIL IS DESIGNATED AS A STATE RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL THAT BRINGS TOGETHER CITIZENS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF PUBLIC SECTOR ENTITIES AND PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS TO COLLABORATIVELY ADDRESS PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES FACING RURAL COMMUNITIES IN MARYLAND.

(B) The [Forvm] COUNCIL may undertake any activity that addresses issues and concerns of the citizens of rural Maryland as long as the activity is not inconsistent with the [Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Governor and the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture concerning the operation of the Forvm] PROVISIONS OF THE FARM SECURITY AND RURAL INVESTMENT ACT OF 2002 (P.L. 107-171, SECTION 6021) REGARDING THE NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP AND STATE RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS.

15-103.

(a) The membership of the [Forvm] COUNCIL is open to any citizen of Maryland who [subscribes to the goals of the Forvm and who] has an interest in IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN rural Maryland.

(b) The [Forvm] COUNCIL shall include:

(1) The Governor or the Governor's designee;

(2) As nonvoting members, three members of the Maryland State Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate, one each from the three rural regions of the State;

(3) As nonvoting members, three members of the Maryland House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, one each from the three rural regions of the State;

(4) AS A NONVOTING MEMBER, ONE MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND STATE SENATE OR MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES REPRESENTING HARFORD COUNTY SELECTED JOINTLY BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES;

[(4)] (5) As determined under the bylaws of the [Forvm] COUNCIL:

(i) Representatives from LOCAL, STATE, AND federal agencies that serve rural interests; and

(ii) Representatives from private sector organizations, including rural-based for-profit and nonprofit organizations and rural client groups; and

[(5)] (6) Any other individual who elects to join the [Forvm] COUNCIL and who qualifies under subsection (a) of this section.