

(d) The [Forvm] COUNCIL may expand the membership of the Executive Board through the bylaws of the [Forvm] COUNCIL.

15-105.

(a) The Executive Board shall make recommendations on [policy] PROGRAMMATIC OR REGULATORY matters [to the Forvm and on implementation of policies that the Forvm adopts] OF CONCERN TO RURAL COMMUNITIES AFTER A CONSENSUS OF OPINION HAS EMERGED.

(b) With the consent of the Executive Board, the Chairman may establish subcommittees OR WORKING COMMITTEES consisting of members of the [Forvm] COUNCIL AND INTERESTED PARTIES to address or study specific issues.

15-106.

(a) The [Forvm] COUNCIL shall hire an Executive Director.

(b) The Executive Director shall:

(1) Be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the [Forvm] COUNCIL; and

(2) Assist in the development of policy recommendations for consideration by the [Forvm] COUNCIL or by the Executive Board.

(c) The Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the [Forvm] EXECUTIVE BOARD.

15-107.

(a) The [Forvm] COUNCIL is an independent unit in the Executive Branch of State government [and may not be placed by the Governor in any principal department] THAT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY PURPOSES SHALL BE PLACED UNDER THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

(b) The [Forvm] COUNCIL is exempt from the provisions of:

(1) Division I of the State Personnel and Pensions Article;

(2) Division II of the State Finance and Procurement Article except as otherwise provided in § 11-203(b) of that article; and

(3) Title 10, Subtitle 1 of the State Government Article.

(c) (1) The [Forvm] COUNCIL shall receive annual funding through an appropriation [in the State] INCLUDED AS PART OF THE budget OF THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

(2) The Secretary of [Business and Economic Development] AGRICULTURE shall include without revision the budget request of the [Forvm] COUNCIL THAT IS PROVIDED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT TOGETHER with the budget request of the MARYLAND Department of [Business and Economic Development] AGRICULTURE.