

**MARYLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**(MEDC)**

**Maryland State Code, Economic Development Article, secs. 2-201 through 2-207**

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## **MARYLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION.**

### **§ 2–201. Definition.**

In this subtitle, “Commission” means the Maryland Economic Development Commission.

### **§ 2–202. Commission Created.**

(a) There is a Maryland Economic Development Commission in the Department.

(b) The purpose of the Commission is to establish economic development policy in the State and oversee the Department’s efforts to support the creation of, attract, and retain businesses and jobs.

### **§ 2–203. Composition of Commission.**

(a) (1) (i) The Commission consists of not more than 25 voting members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(ii) The Secretary is a nonvoting ex officio member of the Commission.

(2) The geographic representation of the Commission shall cover the entire State and shall include at least one representative from:

(i) the upper Eastern Shore;

(ii) the lower Eastern Shore;

(iii) Calvert County, Charles County, or St. Mary’s County;

(iv) Allegany County or Garrett County; and

(v) Carroll County, Frederick County, or Washington County.

(3) When appointing Commission members, the Governor shall consider geographic and industry representation.

(4) The members appointed shall reflect the racial and gender diversity of the population of the State.

(b) The appointed members of the Commission shall have substantial interest or experience in business or knowledge of business and economic development.

(c) The Commission and its members are subject to the Maryland Public Ethics Law.

(d) (1) The term of an appointed member is 3 years.

(2) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

(3) A member appointed after a term has begun serves only for the remainder of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

(4) The terms of the members are staggered as required by the terms provided for members of the Commission on October 1, 2008. **[See § 13 of Ch. 306, Acts of 2008. The terms of the appointed members serving on October 1, 2008, end as follows: (1) five on July 1, 2009; (2) six on July 1, 2010; and (3) six on July 1, 2011.]**

(5) A member may be removed by the Governor with or without cause.

**§ 2–204. Officers; Executive Committee.**

(a) The Governor shall designate a chair or co–chairs from the voting members of the Commission.

(b) The Commission may elect an executive committee from its members to exercise the powers and functions of the Commission between meetings of the Commission.

**§ 2–205. Meetings, Voting, and Compensation.**

(a) (1) The Commission shall meet as often as its duties require, but not less than quarterly.

(2) The chair or co–chairs shall designate a time and place for meetings of the Commission.

(b) A majority of the voting members of the Commission is a quorum.

(c) A voting member of the Commission:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement in accordance with the Standard State Travel Regulations as provided in the State budget.

(d) The Department shall provide staff support to the Commission.

**§ 2–206. Duties and Powers of Commission.**

(a) The Commission may:

(1) adopt bylaws for the conduct of its business;

(2) hire consultants; and

(3) do anything necessary or convenient to carry out its powers and the purposes of this subtitle.

(b) The Commission shall:

(1) develop and update an economic development strategic plan for the State;

(2) seek ideas and advice from each region of the State to develop the economic development strategic plan;

(3) incorporate into the economic development strategic plan the Maryland Port Administration strategic plan developed for the Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore;

(4) recommend to the Governor the program and spending priorities needed to implement the economic development strategic plan;

(5) review the allocation of financing incentives;

(6) participate in marketing the State and encouraging new businesses to locate in the State;

(7) seek contributions from the private sector to supplement economic development programs and financial incentives to business; and

(8) carry out other economic development activities that the Governor requests.

(c) The Commission may spend money raised under subsection (b) of this section only in accordance with the State budget.

(d) Departmental regulations that pertain to financing programs shall be approved by the Commission before adoption.

**§ 2-207. Reporting Requirements.**

(a) On or before January 15 of each year, the Commission shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on its activities during the previous year.

(b) The report shall include a review of initiatives taken by the Commission and the Department to implement the economic development strategic plan.

**MARYLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY AND FUND (MEDAAF).**

**§ 5-321. Eligible Industry Sectors.**

(a) (1) After consulting with the Department and the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, each year the Maryland Economic Development Commission shall:

(i) evaluate the potential employment and economic growth of Maryland's industry sectors; and

(ii) recommend eligible industry sectors to the Authority.

(2) Each year the Authority shall:

(i) consider the recommendation of the Maryland Economic Development Commission; and

(ii) establish a list of industry sectors that will be eligible for financial assistance from the Fund.

(3) In determining whether an applicant is engaged in an eligible industry sector, the Department shall consider the definitions set forth in the North American Industry Classification System.

(b) (1) For the purpose of providing financial assistance under this subtitle, the following are deemed to be in eligible industry sectors:

(i) animal waste technology projects;

(ii) aquaculture projects;

(iii) arts and entertainment enterprises;

(iv) arts and entertainment projects;

(v) redevelopment of qualified brownfields sites;

(vi) creation or expansion of child care facilities;

(vii) projects in areas that are declared to be federal disaster areas within 1 year before the Department receives an application for financial assistance under this subtitle; and

(viii) feasibility studies.

(2) The requirements specifically imposed on significant strategic economic development opportunities and local economic development opportunities under this subtitle do not apply to the items listed in paragraph (1) of this subsection.