

Part D from EXECUTIVE ORDER 01.01.2024.39, December 19, 2024

Strengthening Maryland's Business Climate to Bolster Economic Competitiveness

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D. Maryland Coordinated Permitting Review Council.

1. Establishment. No later than July 1, 2025, the Maryland Coordinated Permitting Review Council ("Council") shall be established. The Council shall be housed under the Maryland Department of Planning.
2. Purpose. The purpose of the Council is to facilitate interagency coordination and efficient processing of approvals required to advance priority infrastructure and place-based projects within the State to bolster transparency, ensure predictability, and foster interagency coordination to grow Maryland's economy while safeguarding the health and safety of residents.
3. Authority. To achieve this purpose, the Council shall:
 - a. Establish eligibility criteria and application processes for projects that may be designated as covered projects.
 - b. Coordinate interagency plan review and permitting of covered projects through a working group of permitting leads from each state agency represented on the Council.

The activity of the permitting working group shall include:

 - i. developing a coordinated project plan for each covered project;
 - ii. developing timetables for completion of required plan reviews and responses, and permit approvals for Projects;
 - iii. providing accountability and oversight of the execution of each coordinated project plan and timetable; and
 - iv. when applicable, engaging federal and local government agencies that have jurisdiction over critical areas of review and permit approvals identified in the project plan for covered projects.
 - c. Develop an online internal intake system and a public facing dashboard for tracking project plan reviews and permitting processes to improve efficiency, transparency, and accountability for the timely response and determination of plans and permits.
 - d. Ensure that necessary processes are established to facilitate interagency information sharing, communication, and cooperation necessary for the working group to be successful.

4. Membership. The Permitting Council shall be comprised of the deputy secretary or the equivalent of the following executive departments and state agencies:
 - a. The Department of Agriculture;
 - b. The Department of Commerce;
 - c. The Department of the Environment;
 - d. The Department of Housing and Community Development;
 - e. The Department of Information Technology;
 - f. The Department of Natural Resources;
 - g. The Department of Planning;
 - h. The State Highway Administration;
 - i. The Maryland Economic Development Corporation;
 - j. The Maryland Department of State Police Office of the State Fire Marshall;
 - k. Maryland Energy Administration.
 - l. The following members, appointed by the Governor:
 - i. one representative of an urban county;
 - ii. one representative of a rural county;
 - iii. one representative of an urban municipality; and
 - iv. one representative of a rural municipality.
 - m. In addition to those named in this Order, the Council may engage members of the design, construction and development industry to deepen its understanding of the user permitting experience.
5. The Secretary of Planning shall serve as Chair of the Council.
6. Administrative Support for the Council.
 - a. The Department of Planning shall provide administrative support for the Council that will include:
 - i. coordination and management of Council meetings and communications;
 - ii. facilitation of the permitting working groups to ensure project plans and timelines are being met, issues are identified and progress reports are made to the Council;
 - iii. development and maintenance of an internal intake system and a public facing dashboard outlining projects, associated timetable, milestones, and progress; and
 - iv. preparation of required reports on Council progress and findings to the Governor.

7. Pilot Initiative.

- a. The Council shall develop a set of criteria to be used in selection of an initial set of high impact projects to serve as proofs of concept.
- b. Selection criteria for initial projects shall include a representation of project scales based on cost and complexity, types, and geographic location and consider the stage of project design and development.
- c. The pilot project selection criteria will result in a manageable portfolio of projects that will be subject to the processes set by the Council by Section D.3 of this Executive Order.

8. Reporting.

- a. The Council will provide regular updates of not less than quarterly to the Governor with a comprehensive report on preliminary findings and outcomes by July 1, 2026.