

HOUSE BILL 581

P1

4lr4609
CF SB 472

By: **The Speaker (By Request – Administration) and Delegates Allen, Amprey, Anderton, Bagnall, Bhandari, Boafu, Bouchat, Boyce, Buckel, Conaway, Crutchfield, Davis, Ebersole, Edelson, Fennell, Foley, Forbes, Fraser-Hidalgo, Grossman, Guyton, Guzzone, Harris, Harrison, Henson, Hill, Hornberger, Jackson, A. Johnson, S. Johnson, Kaiser, Kaufman, J. Long, Lopez, Love, Munoz, Pasteur, Patterson, Phillips, Pruski, Qi, Roberson, Roberts, Rose, Ruff, Ruth, Simmons, Simpson, Solomon, Spiegel, Stewart, Taveras, Taylor, Toles, Tomlinson, Turner, Watson, Williams, ~~and Ziegler~~ Ziegler, Alston, Chisholm, Cullison, Kerr, Kipke, R. Lewis, Martinez, Pena-Melnyk, Rosenberg, White Holland, and Woods**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 26, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Permits, Licenses, and Certificates – Processing**
3 **(Transparent Government Act of 2024)**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring each principal department and independent unit to create a
5 certain catalog of information relating to permits, licenses, and certificates issued by
6 the department or independent unit and submit the catalog to the Governor on or
7 before a certain date; requiring each principal department and independent unit to
8 post certain information relating to permits, licenses, and certificates on the website
9 of the department or independent unit on or before a certain date; establishing the
10 Government Efficiency Commission; and generally relating to the processing of State
11 permits, licenses, and certificates.

12 BY adding to

13 Article – State Government

14 Section 8–506; and 9–3801 and 9–3802 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 38.
15 Government Efficiency Commission”

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Annotated Code of Maryland
2 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

3 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
4 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

5 **Article – State Government**

6 **8–506.**

7 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
8 INDICATED.

9 (2) “DEPARTMENT” MEANS A PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT
10 ESTABLISHED UNDER § 8–201 OF THIS TITLE.

11 (3) “INDEPENDENT UNIT” MEANS A UNIT IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH
12 OF STATE GOVERNMENT THAT IS NOT A DEPARTMENT.

13 (B) ON OR BEFORE ~~SEPTEMBER~~ OCTOBER 1, 2024, EACH DEPARTMENT AND
14 INDEPENDENT UNIT SHALL:

15 (1) CREATE A CATALOG OF EACH TYPE OF PERMIT, LICENSE, OR
16 CERTIFICATE THAT IT ISSUES; AND

17 (2) SUBMIT THE CATALOG REQUIRED UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS
18 SUBSECTION TO THE GOVERNOR.

19 (C) A CATALOG CREATED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION SHALL
20 INCLUDE:

21 (1) A DESCRIPTION OF EACH PERMIT, LICENSE, OR CERTIFICATE;

22 (2) THE TERM FOR WHICH EACH ISSUED PERMIT, LICENSE, OR
23 CERTIFICATE IS VALID;

24 (3) THE STATUTORY AND REGULATORY AUTHORITY THAT:

25 (I) AUTHORIZES OR REQUIRES THE DEPARTMENT OR
26 INDEPENDENT UNIT TO ISSUE THE PERMIT, LICENSE, OR CERTIFICATE; AND

27 (II) ESTABLISHES A TIMELINE WITHIN WHICH A DEPARTMENT
28 OR INDEPENDENT UNIT MUST PROCESS AND ISSUE THE PERMIT, LICENSE, OR
29 CERTIFICATE, IF ANY;

1 (4) THE METHOD AND PROCESS USED BY THE DEPARTMENT OR
2 INDEPENDENT UNIT TO ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR EACH PERMIT, LICENSE, OR
3 CERTIFICATE, INCLUDING A LIST OF PRIOR SIGNIFICANT UPDATES TO THE METHOD
4 AND PROCESS;

5 (5) AN ESTIMATE OF THE LENGTH OF TIME TO:

6 (I) ~~REVIEW AN APPLICATION FOR INITIAL COMPLETION~~
7 DETERMINE IF AN APPLICATION IS COMPLETE; AND

8 (II) MAKE A FINAL DETERMINATION ~~FOR A COMPLETED~~
9 APPLICATION TO ISSUE, WAIVE, OR DENY THE PERMIT, LICENSE, OR CERTIFICATE;

10 (6) THE APPLICATION FEE CHARGED FOR EACH PERMIT, LICENSE, OR
11 CERTIFICATE AND HOW THE REVENUE COLLECTED FROM APPLICATION FEES IS
12 ALLOCATED;

13 (7) ANY STATUTORY OR REGULATORY AUTHORITY THAT MAY IMPACT
14 AN APPLICANT'S ABILITY TO RECEIVE A PERMIT, LICENSE, OR CERTIFICATE BASED
15 ON THE CRIMINAL HISTORY OF THE APPLICANT;

16 (8) AN ANALYSIS AND ANY RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT
17 OR INDEPENDENT UNIT ON THE APPROPRIATE LENGTH OF TIME TO PROMPTLY
18 PROCESS COMPLETED APPLICATIONS FOR EACH PERMIT, LICENSE, OR CERTIFICATE
19 AND FACTORS IMPEDING THE TIMELY PROCESSING OF EACH PERMIT, LICENSE, OR
20 CERTIFICATE; AND

21 (9) STATUTORY OR REGULATORY CHANGES AND RESOURCES THAT
22 COULD EXPEDITE THE PROCESSING TIMELINE.

23 (D) ~~ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2024, AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER,~~
24 EACH DEPARTMENT AND INDEPENDENT UNIT SHALL POST ON ITS WEBSITE ~~A~~
25 DESCRIPTION OF AN INTERIM DESCRIPTION, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, OF THE
26 APPLICATION PROCESS FOR EACH PERMIT, LICENSE, OR CERTIFICATE IT ISSUES,
27 INCLUDING:

28 (1) ANY UPDATES TO THE APPLICATION PROCESS IN THE PRECEDING
29 12-MONTH PERIOD; AND

30 (2) THE TIME TO PROCESS EACH APPLICATION TYPE.

31 (E) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2025, AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, EACH
32 DEPARTMENT AND INDEPENDENT UNIT SHALL POST ON ITS WEBSITE A COMPLETED

1 UPDATE OF THE INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION
2 APPLICABLE TO THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 12-MONTH PERIOD.

3 **SUBTITLE 38. GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY COMMISSION.**

4 **9-3801.**

5 **(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
6 **INDICATED.**

7 **(B) “COMMISSION” MEANS THE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY COMMISSION.**

8 **(C) “DEPARTMENT” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 8-506 OF THIS**
9 **ARTICLE.**

10 **(D) “INDEPENDENT UNIT” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 8-506 OF THIS**
11 **ARTICLE.**

12 **9-3802.**

13 **(A) (1) THERE IS A GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY COMMISSION.**

14 **(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION IS TO ENHANCE**
15 **GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS BY MONITORING**
16 **EFFICIENCY IN THE PROCESSING OF PERMITS, LICENSES, AND CERTIFICATES.**

17 **(B) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

18 **(1) ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF**
19 **THE SENATE;**

20 **(2) ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE**
21 **SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;**

22 **(3) THE SECRETARY OF PLANNING, OR THE SECRETARY’S DESIGNEE;**

23 **(4) THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT,**
24 **OR THE SECRETARY’S DESIGNEE;**

25 **(5) THE SECRETARY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, OR THE SECRETARY’S**
26 **DESIGNEE;**

1 ~~(6) THE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION,~~
2 ~~OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;~~

3 (6) THE SPECIAL SECRETARY OF SMALL, MINORITY, AND WOMEN
4 BUSINESS AFFAIRS, OR THE SPECIAL SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

5 (7) THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, OR THE SECRETARY'S
6 DESIGNEE;

7 (8) THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, OR THE SECRETARY'S
8 DESIGNEE;

9 (9) THE SECRETARY OF LABOR, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

10 (10) THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

11 (11) THE SECRETARY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, OR THE
12 SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

13 ~~(11)~~ (12) THE CHIEF PERFORMANCE OFFICER; AND

14 ~~(12)~~ (13) ~~TWO~~ THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE'S BUSINESS
15 COMMUNITY, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

16 (C) THE GOVERNOR SHALL DESIGNATE THE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION.

17 (D) THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE
18 COMMISSION.

19 (E) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION:

20 (1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE
21 COMMISSION; BUT

22 (2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE
23 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

24 (F) THE COMMISSION SHALL:

25 (1) COMPILE AND INDEX THE REPORTS SUBMITTED UNDER § 8-506
26 OF THIS ARTICLE;

1 **(2) REVIEW STATUTORY AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS THAT MAY**
2 **IMPACT THE EFFICIENCY OF PROCESSING PERMITS, LICENSES, AND CERTIFICATES;**
3 **AND**

4 **(3) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON:**

5 **(I) ANY FACTORS IMPEDING PROMPT AND FAIR PROCESSING**
6 **OF PERMITS, LICENSES, AND CERTIFICATES;**

7 **(II) STRATEGIES FOR HOW DEPARTMENTS AND INDEPENDENT**
8 **UNITS CAN IMPROVE PERMITTING AND LICENSING EFFICIENCY; AND**

9 **(III) REMOVING BARRIERS THAT HINDER INDIVIDUALS AND**
10 **BUSINESSES FROM RECEIVING PERMITS, LICENSES, AND CERTIFICATES.**

11 **(G) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2024, AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE**
12 **COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT ON ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**
13 **TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE**
14 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
16 1, 2024.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.