

# SENATE BILL 472

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CF 4lr4609

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By: **The President (By Request – Administration) and Senators Bailey, Beidle, Brooks, Carozza, Carter, Charles, Corderman, Elfreth, Ferguson, Folden, Gile, Hershey, Hester, Hettleman, James, Lam, Mautz, McKay, Ready, Rosapepe, Salling, Waldstreicher, West, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

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”  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – State Government**

21 **8–506.**

22 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 INDICATED.

2 (2) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS A PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT  
3 ESTABLISHED UNDER § 8-201 OF THIS TITLE.

4 (3) "INDEPENDENT UNIT" MEANS A UNIT IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH  
5 OF STATE GOVERNMENT THAT IS NOT A DEPARTMENT.

6 (B) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2024, EACH DEPARTMENT AND  
7 INDEPENDENT UNIT SHALL:

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

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

12 (C) A CATALOG CREATED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION SHALL  
13 INCLUDE:

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

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

17 (3) THE STATUTORY AND REGULATORY AUTHORITY THAT:

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

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

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

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

28 (I) REVIEW AN APPLICATION FOR INITIAL COMPLETION; AND

1 (II) MAKE A FINAL DETERMINATION FOR A COMPLETED  
2 APPLICATION;

3 (6) THE APPLICATION FEE CHARGED FOR EACH PERMIT, LICENSE, OR  
4 CERTIFICATE AND HOW THE REVENUE COLLECTED FROM APPLICATION FEES IS  
5 ALLOCATED;

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

9 (8) AN ANALYSIS AND ANY RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT  
10 OR INDEPENDENT UNIT ON THE APPROPRIATE LENGTH OF TIME TO PROMPTLY  
11 PROCESS COMPLETED APPLICATIONS FOR EACH PERMIT, LICENSE, OR CERTIFICATE  
12 AND FACTORS IMPEDING THE TIMELY PROCESSING OF EACH PERMIT, LICENSE, OR  
13 CERTIFICATE; AND

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

16 (D) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2024, AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER,  
17 EACH DEPARTMENT AND INDEPENDENT UNIT SHALL POST ON ITS WEBSITE A  
18 DESCRIPTION OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR EACH PERMIT, LICENSE, OR  
19 CERTIFICATE IT ISSUES, INCLUDING:

20 (1) ANY UPDATES TO THE APPLICATION PROCESS IN THE PRECEDING  
21 12-MONTH PERIOD; AND

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

23 SUBTITLE 38. GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY COMMISSION.

24 9-3801.

25 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
26 INDICATED.

27 (B) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY COMMISSION.

28 (C) "DEPARTMENT" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 8-506 OF THIS  
29 ARTICLE.

30 (D) "INDEPENDENT UNIT" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 8-506 OF THIS

1 ARTICLE.

2 9-3802.

3 (A) (1) THERE IS A GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY COMMISSION.

4 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION IS TO ENHANCE  
5 GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS BY MONITORING  
6 EFFICIENCY IN THE PROCESSING OF PERMITS, LICENSES, AND CERTIFICATES.

7 (B) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

8 (1) ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF  
9 THE SENATE;

10 (2) ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE  
11 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

12 (3) THE SECRETARY OF PLANNING, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

13 (4) THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT,  
14 OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

15 (5) THE SECRETARY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, OR THE SECRETARY'S  
16 DESIGNEE;

17 (6) THE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION,  
18 OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;

19 (7) THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, OR THE SECRETARY'S  
20 DESIGNEE;

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

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

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

25 (11) THE CHIEF PERFORMANCE OFFICER; AND

26 (12) TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY,  
27 APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

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

2 (D) THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE  
3 COMMISSION.

4 (E) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION:

5 (1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE  
6 COMMISSION; BUT

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

9 (F) THE COMMISSION SHALL:

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

12 (2) REVIEW STATUTORY AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS THAT MAY  
13 IMPACT THE EFFICIENCY OF PROCESSING PERMITS, LICENSES, AND CERTIFICATES;  
14 AND

15 (3) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON:

16 (I) ANY FACTORS IMPEDING PROMPT AND FAIR PROCESSING  
17 OF PERMITS, LICENSES, AND CERTIFICATES;

18 (II) STRATEGIES FOR HOW DEPARTMENTS AND INDEPENDENT  
19 UNITS CAN IMPROVE PERMITTING AND LICENSING EFFICIENCY; AND

20 (III) REMOVING BARRIERS THAT HINDER INDIVIDUALS AND  
21 BUSINESSES FROM RECEIVING PERMITS, LICENSES, AND CERTIFICATES.

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

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
27 1, 2024.