
By: Washington County Delegation

Introduced and read first time: February 23, 1996
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Washington County - Economic Development Commission**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Board of County Commissioners of Washington
4 County to provide, by ordinance, for the establishment, membership, procedures,
5 powers, and duties of an economic development commission; repealing provisions of
6 law relating to the Hagerstown-Washington County Economic Development
7 Commission; making part of this Act subject to a certain contingency; and generally
8 relating to an economic development commission in Washington County.

9 BY repealing

10 The Public Local Laws of Washington County
11 Section 9-101 through 9-106, inclusive, and the title "Title 9. Economic
12 Development Commission"
13 Article 22 - Public Local Laws of Maryland
14 (1991 Edition and August 1994 Supplement, as amended)

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

17 **Article 22 - Washington County**

18 [Title 9. Economic Development Commission.]

19 [Subtitle 1. Economic Development Commission]

20 [9-101.

21 (a) There is a Hagerstown-Washington County Economic Development
22 Commission.

23 (b) The purpose of the Commission is to:

24 (1) Advance the general welfare of the people through programs and
25 activities to develop Washington County's natural resources and economic opportunities
26 pertaining to commerce, agriculture, forestry, mineral extraction and processing,
27 transportation, travel, tourism, and recreation;

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1 (2) Cooperate and offer assistance to and encourage the retention and
2 expansion of existing industries and businesses in Washington County;

3 (3) Promote and encourage the establishing and locating of new industries
4 and businesses in Washington County; and

5 (4) Undertake other activities intended to foster and develop gainful
6 employment and the quality of life of all who are residents of Washington County.]

7 [9-102.

8 (a) (1) The Commission consists of not more than 25 members.

9 (2) Of the members:

10 (i) The Mayor and City Council of Hagerstown may appoint not more
11 than 10 members; and

12 (ii) The Washington County Commissioners may appoint not more
13 than 15 members.

14 (3) (i) The members shall represent a cross-section of the economic
15 composition of Washington County and shall be selected because of their known interest
16 and expertise in economic development.

17 (ii) It is advisable to select members that represent commerce,
18 industry, health services, agriculture, banking, construction, labor, real estate, retailing,
19 transportation, utilities, service industries, and the professions.

20 (b) (1) The Commission shall establish a nominating Committee to fill vacancies
21 on the Commission.

22 (2) The nominating Committee shall forward to the Commission the names
23 of at least 2 nominees to fill a vacancy on the Commission.

24 (3) The Commission may approve or disapprove the recommendations of
25 the nominating Committee.

26 (4) If the Commission approves the qualifications of the candidates, the
27 Commission shall submit a list of nominees to the County Commissioners and a separate
28 list of nominees to the Mayor and City Council for approval or disapproval by the
29 appropriate appointing authority.

30 (c) In appointing a member to fill a vacancy, the appropriate appointing
31 authority, either the County Commissioners or the Mayor and City Council shall give
32 reasonable and fair consideration to the nominations submitted by the Commission.]

33 [9-103.

34 (a) (1) The term of a member is 4 years.

35 (2) (i) A member may be appointed to 1 additional term of 4 years.

36 (ii) After serving two 4-year terms, a member may not be reappointed
37 until at least 1 year has elapsed.

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1 (3) The terms of the members are staggered as determined by each
2 appointing authority.

3 (b) Each member shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for
4 necessary travel and other expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

5 (c) (1) The Commission shall select from its own membership a chairman and a
6 vice-chairman to serve a term of 1 year.

7 (2) (i) The chairman and vice-chairman may be appointed to 1 additional
8 term of 1 year.

9 (ii) After serving 2 1-year terms as chairman or vice-chairman, a
10 member may not be reappointed to that office until at least 1 year has elapsed.

11 (d) The Commission may establish standing committees as necessary to conduct
12 the business of the Commission.

13 (e) (1) There is an executive committee of the Commission.

14 (2) The members of the executive committee are:

15 (i) The chairman of the Commission;

16 (ii) The vice-chairman of the Commission; and

17 (iii) Any chairman of a standing committee.

18 (3) The executive director of the Commission is an ex officio member of the
19 executive committee.

20 (f) Upon the death, disability, resignation, or removal of any member of the
21 Commission, the County Commissioners, or the Mayor and City Council shall appoint a
22 person in accordance with the nomination and appointment procedures set forth in §
23 9-102 of this subtitle to serve for the unexpired term.

24 (g) The following individuals are nonvoting ex officio members of the
25 Commission:

26 (1) The resident State Senator;

27 (2) The chairman of the Washington County delegation of the House of
28 Delegates;

29 (3) The President of the County Commissioners;

30 (4) 1 member of the County Commissioners;

31 (5) The Mayor of Hagerstown; and

32 (6) 1 member of the City Council.]

33 [9-104.

34 (a) The Commission shall meet at least 10 times each year and shall hold special
35 meetings at the call of the chairman or of any 3 members of the Commission.

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1 (b) The Commission shall adopt regulations necessary to govern its procedure and
2 business.

3 (c) (1) A simple majority constitutes a quorum.

4 (2) All actions of the Commission shall be approved by a majority of the
5 members present and authorized to vote.

6 (d) (1) The Commission shall submit for review to the County Commissioners
7 and Mayor and City Council an annual operating budget for the fiscal year, with final
8 approval by the County Commissioners.

9 (2) The funding of the Commission shall be as agreed upon by the County
10 Commissioners and Mayor and City Council.

11 (e) (1) The Commission shall employ an executive director and may employ
12 other employees as its business may require within the limits of its appropriation.

13 (2) The Executive Director and other employees of the Commission are
14 employees of the County Commissioners.]

15 [9-105.

16 (a) The Commission shall file annual reports with the County Commissioners and
17 Mayor and City Council. The reports shall be available to the public.

18 (b) The annual report shall include subjects and recommendations for the
19 improvement and advancement of the economic welfare of the people of Washington
20 County.]

21 [9-106.

22 The Commission may:

23 (1) Investigate and assemble information and statistics pertinent to the
24 economic resources and industrial opportunities of the county;

25 (2) Encourage location of new industrial and business enterprises in the
26 county and the retention and expansion of present enterprises;

27 (3) Encourage development of recreational areas and encourage tourist
28 business in the county, making the public aware of the county's historical background and
29 progress;

30 (4) Disseminate information in the interest of industrial and business
31 development by publication, advertising, and other means;

32 (5) Cooperate with any federal, State, local agency, board, or commission,
33 including the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development, in the
34 furtherance of its purposes;

35 (6) Cooperate with any interested private concern, civic organization, or
36 subdivision thereof in furtherance of its purposes; and

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1 (7) Establish and appoint Advisory Groups and Committees to assist in its
2 program of activity, the membership of which is not restricted to members of the
3 Commission.]

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Board of County
5 Commissioners of Washington County may provide, by ordinance, for the establishment,
6 membership, procedures, powers, and duties of an economic development commission.

7 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act shall
8 take effect October 1, 1996, contingent on the enactment of an ordinance by the Board of
9 County Commissioners of Washington County that provides for the establishment,
10 membership, procedures, powers, and duties of an economic development commission,
11 and if the Board of County Commissioners does not enact an ordinance that so provides,
12 Section 1 of this Act shall be null and void without the necessity of further action by the
13 General Assembly.

14 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall
15 take effect October 1, 1996.