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**By: Senators Dorman, Kelley, Boozer, and Sfikas**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 1996

Assigned to: Finance

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Partnership Policy Council on Block Grants**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Partnership Policy Council on Block Grants; specifying  
4 the membership, duties, and responsibilities of the Council; providing for the staff  
5 for the Council; requiring the Council to establish certain subcommittees; requiring  
6 the Council to submit certain reports to certain persons; and generally relating to  
7 establishing a Partnership Policy Council on Block Grants.

8 BY adding to

9 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments  
10 Section 18-310  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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

15 **Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments**

16 18-310.

17 (A) (1) THERE IS A PARTNERSHIP POLICY COUNCIL ON BLOCK GRANTS.

18 (2) THE COUNCIL SHALL BE A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP.

19 (3) THE COUNCIL SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

20 (I) GUIDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES  
21 RELATING TO FEDERAL BLOCK GRANTS; AND

22 (II) MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BLOCK GRANTS ON  
23 AN ONGOING BASIS.

24 (B) THE COUNCIL SHALL BE COMPOSED OF:

25 (1) TWO MEMBERS FROM THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY  
26 THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

27 (2) TWO MEMBERS FROM THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY  
28 THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE; AND

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1 (3) TWENTY-FIVE MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH THE  
2 ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND AS FOLLOWS:

3 (I) EIGHT MEMBERS SELECTED FROM A LIST OF NOMINEES  
4 SUBMITTED BY THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS;

5 (II) ONE MEMBER SELECTED FROM A LIST OF NOMINEES  
6 SUBMITTED BY THE MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE;

7 (III) ONE MEMBER SELECTED FROM A LIST OF NOMINEES  
8 SUBMITTED BY THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES;

9 (IV) ONE MEMBER SELECTED FROM THE BOARD OR STAFF  
10 LEADERSHIP OF PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS BASED IN MARYLAND;

11 (V) TWO MEMBERS SELECTED FROM THE BOARD OR STAFF  
12 LEADERSHIP OF THE VARIOUS UNITED WAYS IN MARYLAND;

13 (VI) TWO MEMBERS SELECTED FROM THE BOARD OR STAFF  
14 LEADERSHIP OF RELIGIOUSLY AFFILIATED SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS;

15 (VII) ONE MEMBER SELECTED FROM A LIST OF NOMINEES  
16 SUBMITTED BY THE MARYLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE;

17 (VIII) ONE MEMBER EACH DESIGNATED BY THE SECRETARIES OR  
18 HEADS OF THE FOLLOWING STATE AGENCIES:

19 1. THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES;

20 2. THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE;

21 3. THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY  
22 DEVELOPMENT;

23 4. THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING, AND  
24 REGULATION;

25 5. THE OFFICE ON AGING; AND

26 6. THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES; AND

27 (IX) THREE MEMBERS WHO ARE CONSUMERS OF SERVICES  
28 AFFECTED BY THE BLOCK GRANTS.

29 (C) IN APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE COUNCIL UNDER SUBSECTION (B)(3) OF  
30 THIS SECTION, THE GOVERNOR SHALL ENSURE THAT THE COUNCIL IS COMPOSED  
31 OF MEMBERS FROM THROUGHOUT THE STATE SUCH THAT ALL JURISDICTIONS OF  
32 THE STATE ARE REPRESENTED BASED ON THE POPULATION OF THE DIFFERENT  
33 JURISDICTIONS.

34 (D) THE COUNCIL SHALL:

35 (1) REVIEW AND ANALYZE THE EXISTING, PROPOSED, OR ADOPTED  
36 FEDERAL BLOCK GRANTS AND RELATED IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION,  
37 REGULATIONS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS;

1 (2) EXPLORE ALTERNATIVE METHODS OR MODELS FOR  
2 IMPLEMENTING FEDERAL BLOCK GRANTS, INCLUDING BEST PRACTICES FROM  
3 OTHER JURISDICTIONS;

4 (3) ESTABLISH PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE BLOCK GRANT POLICY  
5 DEVELOPMENT;

6 (4) CREATE MECHANISMS BY WHICH THE PUBLIC CAN CONTRIBUTE TO  
7 THE POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS, INCLUDING HOLDING REGIONAL PUBLIC  
8 FORUMS AND PUBLISHING PROPOSED BLOCK GRANT IMPLEMENTATION PLANS  
9 WITH NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT;

10 (5) OBTAIN THE VIEWS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS, SERVICE PROVIDERS,  
11 EXPERTS, AND RELEVANT OTHERS REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY  
12 RELATING TO FEDERAL BLOCK GRANTS;

13 (6) DETERMINE HOW TO MOST EFFICIENTLY PASS FUNDS FROM  
14 FEDERAL BLOCK GRANTS TO RECIPIENTS, MINIMIZE ADMINISTRATION COSTS, AND  
15 MAXIMIZE SERVICE DELIVERY;

16 (7) DEFINE THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF STATE, LOCAL,  
17 PUBLIC, AND PRIVATE ENTITIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF  
18 FEDERAL BLOCK GRANTS;

19 (8) ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR SHIFTING BLOCK GRANT MONEY FROM  
20 ONE BLOCK GRANT TO ANOTHER;

21 (9) CREATE A TRANSITION PLAN FOR EACH BLOCK GRANT AND FOR  
22 THE INTEGRATION OF RELATED BLOCK GRANTS;

23 (10) CREATE AN OPEN, ONGOING MECHANISM TO MONITOR FUNDING OF  
24 BLOCK GRANTED PROGRAMS;

25 (11) MAINTAIN ONGOING AND GOOD COMMUNICATION WITH THE  
26 PUBLIC;

27 (12) SERVE AS A RESOURCE TO OTHER STATE AGENCIES AND GROUPS  
28 INVOLVED IN WORKING ON DEFINING A SAFETY NET AND DETERMINING  
29 LONG-TERM FISCAL STRATEGIES FOR INVESTING IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN  
30 MARYLAND; AND

31 (13) ASSURE THAT THE VARIOUS AGENCIES OF STATE GOVERNMENT  
32 ARE COORDINATED AND CONSISTENT IN THEIR PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION  
33 OF BLOCK GRANTS.

34 (E) THE GOVERNOR SHALL DESIGNATE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL.

35 (F) MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL SHALL SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION, BUT  
36 ARE ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE  
37 TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

38 (G) (1) THE COUNCIL SHALL APPOINT AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WHO  
39 SHALL SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE COUNCIL.

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1                   (2) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAY APPOINT SUCH ADDITIONAL STAFF  
2 AS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL, SUBJECT TO  
3 APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

4                   (H) (1) THE COUNCIL SHALL ESTABLISH SUBCOMMITTEES AS NEEDED TO  
5 EFFECTIVELY EXERCISE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS SECTION WITH RESPECT  
6 TO BOTH EXISTING AND NEW FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT PROGRAMS.

7                   (2) THE COUNCIL SHALL INCLUDE IN THE FORMATION OF ANY  
8 SUBCOMMITTEE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF STATEWIDE  
9 ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS AND SUBSECTOR ASSOCIATIONS INVOLVED IN THE  
10 PARTICULAR SUBJECT AREA RELATED TO THE BLOCK GRANT.

11                  (I) (1) ON DECEMBER 1, 1996, AND ON DECEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR  
12 THEREAFTER, THE COUNCIL SHALL SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO §  
13 2-1312 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY A REPORT  
14 ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FEDERAL BLOCK GRANTS.

15                  (2) THE COUNCIL SHALL MAKE THE REPORT AVAILABLE TO THE  
16 GENERAL PUBLIC.

17                  (3) THE REPORT SHALL:

18                         (I) DESCRIBE THE NATURE AND EFFECT OF THE FEDERAL BLOCK  
19 GRANTS ON THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN MARYLAND;

20                         (II) SET FORTH AND ANALYZE ALTERNATIVE MEANS AVAILABLE  
21 TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT FEDERAL BLOCK GRANTS;

22                         (III) RECOMMEND CHANGES IN THE HUMAN SERVICES DELIVERY  
23 SYSTEM, INCLUDING PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF  
24 STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THAT WILL MORE  
25 EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT FEDERAL BLOCK GRANTS; AND

26                         (IV) MAKE ANY OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS THAT THE COUNCIL  
27 CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE.

28                  SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
29 October 1, 1996.