

HOUSE BILL 341

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2000 Regular Session  
0lr0958  
CF 0lr0746

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By: **Cecil County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2000

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Cecil County - Economic Development Commission**

3 FOR the purpose of altering certain provisions of law concerning the Cecil County  
4 Economic Development Commission; altering the composition and qualifications  
5 of the members of the Commission; altering the term of office of members of the  
6 Commission; altering the meeting schedule and the number of members needed  
7 to call a meeting of the Commission; requiring the Commission to file a certain  
8 annual report by a certain date; making stylistic changes; and generally relating  
9 to the Cecil County Economic Development Commission.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 The Public Local Laws of Cecil County  
12 Section 26-1 through 26-6, inclusive  
13 Article 8 - Public Local Laws of Maryland  
14 (1989 Edition and November 1999 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 8 - Cecil County**

18 26-1.

19 The Economic Development Commission of Cecil County is created for the  
20 purpose of advancing the general ECONOMIC welfare of the people through THE  
21 ESTABLISHMENT OF programs and activities [to develop Cecil County's natural  
22 resources and economic opportunities pertaining to commerce] THAT RESULT IN NEW  
23 ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, JOB GROWTH, AND EXPANSION OF THE LOCAL TAX BASE, AND  
24 THAT RELATE TO MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT,  
25 CORPORATE AND REGIONAL OFFICES, agriculture, [forestry, transportation, travel,]  
26 AND tourism [and recreation,]; and to cooperate WITH and offer assistance to existing  
27 industries and businesses IN ORDER TO FACILITATE ECONOMIC EXPANSION, and to  
28 promote and encourage the [establishing] ESTABLISHMENT and location of new  
29 industries and businesses in Cecil County; and [other matters] TO DEVELOP AND  
30 IMPLEMENT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES intended to foster and develop

1 gainful employment [and the pursuit of happiness of] OPPORTUNITIES FOR all who  
2 are now or may hereafter be residents of Cecil County.

3 26-2.

4 The Commission shall consist of not fewer than [nine (9)] TWENTY-THREE (23)  
5 nor more than [fifteen (15)] THIRTY-THREE (33) members, who shall be appointed by  
6 the Board of County Commissioners. [The members shall represent a cross-section of  
7 the economic composition of] MEMBERS SHOULD REASONABLY REPRESENT THE  
8 VARIOUS SECTORS WITHIN Cecil County and shall be selected because of their known  
9 experience and interest in the ECONOMIC development of Cecil County. [Those  
10 organizations representing the same categoric interest shall jointly send to the Board  
11 a list of not less than two (2) nor more than three (3) names of persons duly qualified  
12 and interested in serving on the Commission.] THE MEMBERSHIP SHALL INCLUDE  
13 ONE (1) REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH MUNICIPAL CORPORATION LOCATED IN THE  
14 COUNTY, WHO SHALL BE SELECTED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE MAYOR AND  
15 COMMISSIONERS. THE MEMBERSHIP SHALL ALSO INCLUDE TWO (2)  
16 REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE, WHO ARE INTERESTED IN  
17 THE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF CECIL COUNTY.

18 26-3.

19 The members of the Commission shall serve for [two (2)] THREE (3) years from  
20 the effective date of their appointment and are eligible for reappointment. They shall  
21 serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary travel and other  
22 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. The Commission shall select  
23 from its own membership a [Chairman, Vice Chairman] CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, and a  
24 Secretary-Treasurer to serve a term of one (1) year and to be eligible for re-election,  
25 provided that no one (1) person shall hold the position of [Chairman] CHAIR for more  
26 than three (3) consecutive terms. Upon the death, disability, resignation, or removal  
27 of any member of the Commission, the Board shall appoint a person representing  
28 GENERALLY the same [categoric] BUSINESS, MUNICIPAL, OR COMMUNITY interest to  
29 serve for the unexpired term. The Commission has the power to establish and appoint  
30 advisory groups and committees to assist in its program of activity [of which], WHICH  
31 membership is not restricted solely to members of the Commission.

32 26-4.

33 The Commission shall meet [monthly] REGULARLY and [shall] MAY hold  
34 special meetings at the call of the [Chairman] CHAIR or [of any three (3)] A  
35 MAJORITY OF THE members of the Commission. The Commission shall adopt such  
36 rules and regulations as it may deem necessary to govern its procedure and business.  
37 [Seven (7)] A MAJORITY OF THE members shall constitute a quorum. The  
38 Commission shall submit to the Board of County Commissioners of Cecil County an  
39 annual operating budget for [the] EACH fiscal year for the approval [of] BY the  
40 Board, and the Board shall provide such funds as it may approve. The Commission is  
41 empowered to employ such employees as its business may require, within the limits of  
42 its appropriation, provided that any newly created position or positions and salary  
43 pertinent thereto receive the PRIOR approval of the Board. This provision requires

1 that the title of the position or positions to be created be subject to the County  
2 Commissioners' approval, with the actual appointment of a person or persons to be  
3 within the powers of the Economic Development Commission.

4 26-5.

5 [Annual reports] AN ANNUAL REPORT shall be made BY THE ECONOMIC  
6 DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION and filed with the Board of County Commissioners of  
7 Cecil County WITHIN 90 DAYS OF THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR and made available  
8 to the public. The annual report shall include AN ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE OF  
9 THE COMMISSION AND THE STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AS  
10 WELL AS subjects and recommendations for the improvement and advancement of the  
11 economic welfare of the people of Cecil County.

12 26-6.

13 The Commission may:

14 A. Investigate and assemble information pertinent to the economic resources  
15 and industrial opportunities of the county.

16 B. Encourage [location of new industrial enterprises in the county and] the  
17 expansions of [present] EXISTING enterprises AND ENCOURAGE THE LOCATION OF  
18 NEW INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES IN THE COUNTY.

19 C. Encourage development of [recreational areas] AGRIBUSINESS and  
20 [encourage] PROMOTE tourist business in the county, making the public aware of the  
21 county's [historical background] HISTORY and [progress] CULTURE.

22 D. Disseminate information in the interest of industrial development by  
23 publication, advertising and other means.

24 E. [Cooperate] DEVELOP STRATEGIC ALLIANCES with [any] federal, state,  
25 REGIONAL, AND local [agency, board or commission] ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND  
26 BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS in the furtherance of its purposes.

27 F. Cooperate with any interested private [concern] ENTITY, civic  
28 organization or subdivisions thereof in furtherance of its purposes.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
30 October 1, 2000.