
By: **Delegate Rosenberg**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2005

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government - Office of Community Initiatives**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Office of Community Initiatives; providing for
4 the Executive Director to be the head of the Office; requiring the Director to
5 represent the State in conducting business with certain organizations; requiring
6 the Director to represent the Governor on certain boards, forums, and councils;
7 requiring the Director to provide a report to the Governor on or before a certain
8 date; providing for a staff of the Office consisting of certain persons; providing
9 for certain duties of the Office; requiring all State departments, agencies,
10 commissions, and boards to cooperate with the Office; providing for the
11 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Office of Community
12 Initiatives.

13 BY adding to

14 Article - State Government

15 Section 9-2701 through 9-2706, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle
16 27. Office of Community Initiatives"

17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2004 Replacement Volume)

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

21 **Article - State Government**

22 **SUBTITLE 27. OFFICE OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES.**

23 9-2701.

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

26 (B) "DIRECTOR" MEANS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY
27 INITIATIVES.

1 (C) "OFFICE" MEANS THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES.

2 9-2702.

3 THERE IS AN OFFICE OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES.

4 9-2703.

5 (A) THE HEAD OF THE OFFICE IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY
6 INITIATIVES, WHO SHALL BE APPOINTED BY AND SERVES AT THE PLEASURE OF THE
7 GOVERNOR.

8 (B) (1) THE DIRECTOR IS RESPONSIBLE DIRECTLY TO THE GOVERNOR.

9 (2) THE DIRECTOR SHALL ADVISE THE GOVERNOR ON ALL MATTERS
10 ASSIGNED TO THE OFFICE AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CARRYING OUT THE
11 GOVERNOR'S POLICIES ON THOSE MATTERS.

12 (C) THE DIRECTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DIRECTING AND COORDINATING:

13 (1) THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ON SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM;

14 (2) THE VOLUNTEER MARYLAND PROGRAM; AND

15 (3) COMMUNITY INITIATIVES THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

16 (D) THE DIRECTOR SHALL REPRESENT THE STATE IN CONDUCTING BUSINESS
17 WITH RELATED LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND FEDERAL ORGANIZATIONS.

18 (E) THE DIRECTOR SHALL REPRESENT THE GOVERNOR ON BOARDS, FORUMS,
19 AND COUNCILS AS APPROPRIATE.

20 (F) THE DIRECTOR SHALL:

21 (1) DIRECT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES ACROSS STATE GOVERNMENT;

22 AND

23 (2) COORDINATE WITH FEDERAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, PRIVATE
24 SECTOR ENTITIES, ACADEMIA, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO STRENGTHEN
25 COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES.

26 (G) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE DIRECTOR SHALL
27 PROVIDE A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR ON THE STATUS OF COMMUNITY AND
28 VOLUNTEER INITIATIVES IN THE STATE.

29 9-2704.

30 (A) THE STAFF OF THE OFFICE SHALL CONSIST OF:

31 (1) LIMITED, PROFESSIONAL STAFF APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;

32 AND

1 (2) PROFESSIONAL STAFF LIAISONS FROM STATE AGENCIES.

2 (B) THE STAFF OF THE OFFICE SHALL PROVIDE, IF NECESSARY, ADDITIONAL
3 ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ON SERVICE AND
4 VOLUNTEERISM AND VOLUNTEER MARYLAND.

5 9-2705.

6 THE OFFICE SHALL:

7 (1) COORDINATE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE ACTIVITIES
8 THROUGHOUT THE STATE;

9 (2) DEVELOP AND COORDINATE THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY AGENDA
10 AFFECTING COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES;

11 (3) ADVISE THE GOVERNOR ON POLICIES AND MEASURES TO ENHANCE
12 AND IMPROVE THE DELIVERY OF COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEER SERVICES;

13 (4) SERVE AS THE PRINCIPLE LIAISON TO THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF
14 FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES;

15 (5) SERVE AS A LIAISON TO:

16 (I) THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON SERVICE AND
17 VOLUNTEERISM; AND

18 (II) THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE;

19 (6) CONDUCT PUBLIC OUTREACH ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNOR TO
20 ENCOURAGE GREATER INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION BY COMMUNITY
21 ORGANIZATIONS AND CONSTITUENT GROUPS;

22 (7) REVIEW STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO ENSURE THAT
23 COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ARE AFFORDED THE FULLEST OPPORTUNITY
24 PERMITTED BY LAW TO EQUALLY PARTICIPATE IN THE COMPETITIVE PROCESS FOR
25 FEDERAL, STATE, AND PRIVATE FUNDING;

26 (8) COORDINATE STATE PROGRAMS PROVIDING HEALTH, SOCIAL,
27 EDUCATIONAL, OR OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICES WITHIN THE RESTRICTIONS
28 CREATED BY THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY THROUGH LANGUAGE IN THE
29 FISCAL YEAR 2005 BUDGET;

30 (9) CONDUCT A REVIEW OF STATE PROGRAMS IN COOPERATION WITH
31 APPROPRIATE STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES TO IDENTIFY LEGISLATIVE AND
32 REGULATORY BARRIERS THAT IMPEDE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMUNITY
33 ORGANIZATIONS TO DELIVER RESULTS-BASED SOCIAL SERVICES;

34 (10) ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE VII OF THE
35 CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964, AS AMENDED, AS IT APPEARS IN VOLUME 42 OF THE U.S.
36 CODE, SECTION 2000E-1;

1 (11) COORDINATE EFFORTS, IN COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNOR'S
2 GRANTS OFFICE, TO MORE EFFECTIVELY PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO
3 COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AS IT RELATES TO CONTRACTING AND GRANT
4 OPPORTUNITIES TO RELEVANT STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES;

5 (12) MONITOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVING GRANTS OR
6 OTHER FUNDS FROM OR ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE OF MARYLAND TO ENSURE
7 ACCOUNTABILITY AND MEASURABLE OUTCOMES CONSISTENT WITH EXISTING
8 FEDERAL AND STATE POLICIES;

9 (13) DIRECT AND COORDINATE POLICY AND ACTIONS RELATING TO
10 COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE INITIATIVES ACROSS STATE GOVERNMENT,
11 EMPHASIZING COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION WITH THE FEDERAL AND LOCAL
12 GOVERNMENTS ON ALL COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE CONCERNS, AND
13 PROVIDING EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENHANCE
14 COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEERISM EFFORTS;

15 (14) COORDINATE PUBLIC ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO MOBILIZE PUBLIC
16 SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, VOLUNTEER SERVICE, AND CIVIC
17 PARTICIPATION BY INDIVIDUALS, SCHOOLS, AND ORGANIZATIONS, WITH THE GOAL
18 OF PROMOTING PARTICIPATION; AND

19 (15) ORGANIZE EVENTS TO RECOGNIZE OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER
20 SERVICE AND SHOWCASE INNOVATIVE GRASSROOTS COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS.

21 9-2706.

22 SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS OF ANY LAW THAT GOVERNS THEIR ACTIVITIES,
23 ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES, COMMISSIONS, AND BOARDS SHALL
24 COOPERATE WITH THE OFFICE IN COMPLETING THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 June 1, 2005. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of May
27 31, 2007, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
28 abrogated and of no further force and effect.