

HOUSE BILL 858

P1

9lr2195

By: **Delegates Smigiel, Dwyer, McComas, Shank, and Stull**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2009

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Advisory Committees – Appointment of Members**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor or member of an Executive Branch agency
4 who appoints members of an advisory committee to take certain steps to assure
5 that the members represent a fair and balanced range of viewpoints and that
6 the advice and recommendations of an advisory committee are not
7 inappropriately influenced by certain people or groups and are the result of the
8 advisory committee’s independent judgment; defining certain terms; and
9 generally relating to the appointment of members of an advisory committee.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – State Government

12 Section 8–504

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – State Government**

18 **8–504.**

19 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “ADVISORY COMMITTEE” MEANS ANY
20 COMMITTEE, BOARD, COMMISSION, COUNCIL, PANEL, TASK FORCE, WORK
21 GROUP, OR SIMILAR GROUP ESTABLISHED BY LAW OR AN EXECUTIVE BRANCH
22 AGENCY FOR WHICH THE GOVERNOR OR A MEMBER OF AN EXECUTIVE BRANCH
23 AGENCY APPOINTS MEMBERS.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(B) THE GOVERNOR OR MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCY**
2 **SHALL TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO ASSURE THAT:**

3 **(1) MEMBERS APPOINTED TO AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
4 **REPRESENT A FAIR AND BALANCED RANGE OF VIEWPOINTS; AND**

5 **(2) THE ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADVISORY**
6 **COMMITTEE:**

7 **(I) ARE NOT INAPPROPRIATELY INFLUENCED BY THE**
8 **GOVERNOR, EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCY, OR ANY SPECIAL INTEREST; AND**

9 **(II) ARE THE RESULT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S**
10 **INDEPENDENT JUDGMENT.**

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 October 1, 2009.