

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 87

(Senators Astle and Middleton)

Finance

Economic Matters

**Maryland Tourism Development Board - Destination Marketing Organization
Officials - Voting Rights**

This bill alters the voting membership of the Maryland Tourism Development Board by granting three existing nonvoting members appointed by the Governor the right to vote. The composition of the board remains otherwise unchanged.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill is procedural in nature.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The Maryland Tourism Development Board in the Department of Commerce is composed of 24 members appointed by either the Governor or the Presiding Officers. Of the Governor's 14 appointees to the board, 3 are nonvoting members who are directors or chief executive officers from destination marketing organizations officially recognized by the department. These nonvoting appointees do not need the advice and consent of the Senate, which is currently a requirement for all of the Governor's voting appointees. All other appointees are voting members.

The general duties of the board are to (1) protect, preserve, promote, and restore the natural, historical, scenic, and cultural resources in the State; (2) generate revenue through the sale of goods and services related to tourism; and (3) publish and submit to the Maryland

Economic Development Commission and the Secretary of Commerce an annual report and other material that the board considers appropriate.

Specific duties of the board, among others, include to (1) encourage the development of new tourism resources, products, businesses, and attractions in the State; (2) facilitate the movement and activities of tourists to, from, and within the State through signs, information aids, and other services; and (3) encourage, assist, and coordinate the tourism activities of local and regional promotional organizations.

The board is supported through general funds and special fund revenue generated from advertisements in board-produced magazines. The fiscal 2016 budget for the board was \$8.5 million in general funds, \$0.5 million in special funds, and \$0.1 million in reimbursable funds.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Commerce; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 12, 2017
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