

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 225 (Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee)(By
Request - Departmental - Planning)

Environment and Transportation

Smart Growth Subcabinet - Membership and Duties

This departmental bill (1) makes the Secretary of Planning the chair of the Smart Growth Subcabinet and the Secretary of Housing and Community Development the vice chair; (2) adds the Secretary of Emergency Management to the subcabinet; and (3) removes the Special Secretary of Smart Growth from the subcabinet. The bill also requires that (1) the subcabinet's discussions of interdepartmental smart growth-related issues include discussion of issues relating to activities that affect equity and resiliency and (2) the subcabinet work together to create, enhance, support, and revitalize equitable (in addition to sustainable) communities across the State.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect local finances.

Small Business Effect: The Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: In statute, the Smart Growth Subcabinet is comprised of the Special Secretary of Smart Growth and the secretaries of specified State agencies, including the Secretary of Planning and the Secretary of Housing and Community Development. The Special Secretary of Smart Growth chairs the subcabinet and is responsible for the

oversight, direction, and accountability of its work, and the Secretary of Planning is the vice chair.

The subcabinet must:

- provide a forum for discussion of interdepartmental issues relating to activities that affect growth, development, neighborhood conservation, and resource management;
- work together to promote the understanding of smart growth;
- work together to create, enhance, support, and revitalize sustainable communities across the State;
- meet at least biannually with county and municipal elected leaders and planning officials to discuss local government issues relating to activities that affect smart growth, development, neighborhood conservation, and resource management;
- make recommendations to specified State agencies;
- evaluate and report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly on the implementation of the State's smart growth policy; and
- perform other duties assigned by the Governor.

Background: MDP advises that including equity and resiliency in the duties of the Smart Growth Subcabinet, and adding the Secretary of Emergency Management to the subcabinet, reflect current policy priorities. The department also indicates that it is the main agency that staffs the subcabinet, and making the Secretary of Planning the chair, and the Secretary of Housing and Community Development the vice chair, aligns with the subcabinet's mission and staffing requirements.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 309 (Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Planning) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Emergency Management; Department of Housing and Community Development; Maryland Department of Planning; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 25, 2024
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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Smart Growth Subcabinet - Membership and Duties

BILL NUMBER: HB0225

PREPARED BY: Maryland Department of Planning

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

 X WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND
SMALL BUSINESS

OR

 WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND
SMALL BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

This proposal will have no economic impact on small businesses as it is attempting to change the internal structure of the Smart Growth subcabinet and not its practices.