

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 696 (Delegate Woods, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations

State Boards, Committees, Commissions, Task Forces, and Workgroups -
Elimination of Citizenship Requirements and Establishment of Diversity
Requirements

This bill repeals citizenship requirements for members of specified State boards, committees, commissions, task forces, and workgroups and instead requires only that they be Maryland residents or public individuals, as specified. The bill establishes, to the extent practicable, that the membership of any board, committee, commission, task force, or workgroup created by State law must reflect the full diversity of the State. However, this provision does not apply to a standing committee or a committee established by the General Assembly, as specified. The bill also makes conforming changes.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is technical in nature and has no effect on governmental operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Generally, some State boards, committees, commissions, task forces, and workgroups require their members to be citizens of the United States, but other entities do not have a citizenship requirement for their members. Bodies that do not require members to be citizens under current law include, among others, the State Board of Barbers, the State Board of Law Examiners, the State Athletics Commission, the Maryland Parole

Commission, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, the Maryland Manufacturing Advisory Board, the State Board of Education, the State Board of Physicians, the State Acupuncture Board, the State Fire Prevention Commission, and the Maryland Transportation Commission. In addition, many temporary commissions, work groups, and task forces also do not include citizenship requirements for their members.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: SB 490 (Senator Kagan, *et al.*) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

Information Source(s): Department of Commerce; Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Charles, Garrett, and Howard counties; Maryland Association of Counties; City of Laurel; Maryland Municipal League; Town of La Plata; Office of the Attorney General; Maryland Department of the Environment; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Human Services; Maryland Department of Labor; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Maryland Department of Transportation; Deaf & Hard of Hearing; Department of Legislative Services

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