

FAV - MDEM - SB309 - Sustainable Growth Subcabinet

Uploaded by: Anna Sierra

Position: FAV



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Russell J. Strickland | Secretary

FAVORABLE - SB309
Sustainable Growth Subcabinet and Repeal of the Office of Smart Growth

Maryland Department of Emergency Management
Education, Energy, and the Environment
Hearing Date: 1 FEB 2024

Chairman Brian Feldman
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chairman Feldman,

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) writes **in support of SB309 - Sustainable Growth Subcabinet and Repeal of the Office of Smart Growth**. The bill includes the Department of Emergency Management in the Sustainable Growth Subcabinet and expands the duties of the Subcabinet to include equity and resiliency to their current areas of focus.

The Department of Emergency Management's vision is *to shape a resilient Maryland where communities thrive*. Our mission is to proactively reduce disaster risks and reliably manage consequences through collaborative work with Maryland's communities and partners. We believe the expansion of the subcabinet combined with inclusion of equity and resilience provides a critical collaborative environment for State agencies to build resilience as we grow Maryland. This effort will dovetail well with MDEM's Office of Resilience, a new Office established by the General Assembly standing up this year.

In conclusion, MDEM urges a favorable report of SB309 - Sustainable Growth Subcabinet and Repeal of the Office of Smart Growth.

If you have any questions, please contact Anna Sierra, MDEM legislative liaison: anna.sierra1@maryland.gov.

NCSG Support Ltr for SGSC Update SB 309.pdf

Uploaded by: Charles Boyd

Position: FAV



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**ARCHITECTURE,
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**NATIONAL CENTER FOR SMART GROWTH
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3835 Campus Drive,
College Park, Maryland 20742
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January 26, 2024

Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Feldman:

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 309, which updates the Smart Growth Subcabinet's organizational structure, expands the Subcabinet's charge to address resiliency and equity, and adds the Maryland Department of Emergency Management to the Subcabinet membership. This bill will enhance the Subcabinet's role in responding to the myriad of economic and community development challenges facing Maryland's communities and promoting the effective and efficient protection, conservation and use of Maryland's many natural resources.

As an original ex officio member of the Subcabinet, the National Center for Smart Growth (NCSG) has actively participated in most of the Subcabinet initiatives, including chairing the PlanMaryland workgroup coordinating participation of state agencies, local governments, and various interest groups in the first state development plan. NSGC has seen firsthand how the Subcabinet can be instrumental in making a difference and ensuring well-coordinated, effective policy and program implementation of sustainable growth in Maryland.

Over more than 20 years, NCSG has built a solid foundation of government agency, nonprofit and academic partnerships that have been generative in reimagining smart growth for this region. Further, NCSG has developed initiatives that have the potential to support new approach that centers existing communities – particularly low- and moderate-income residents of color. The Center has leveraged its academic and policy leadership roles to change the regional conversation about the centrality of existing residents in redevelopment and amenities.

We look forward to working with the Sustainable Growth Subcabinet to continue to advance smart and sustainable growth throughout Maryland.

I respectfully ask for a favorable report for Senate Bill 309. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Howell".

Kathryn Howell, PhD
Director, National Center for Smart Growth

SB 309 Written Testimony (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Charles Boyd

Position: FAV

HEARING DATE: February 1, 2024
BILL NO: SB 309
COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
POSITION: Support
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Wilson (443) 366-4224

TITLE: Department of Planning – Sustainable Growth Subcabinet and Repeal of the Office of Smart Growth

BILL ANALYSIS:

SB 309 includes amendments that will result in an accurate reflection of actual operation and leadership of the subcabinet; updates its title, purpose, and membership to better address today’s issues; and positions Maryland to lead the country once again in growth and development best practices.

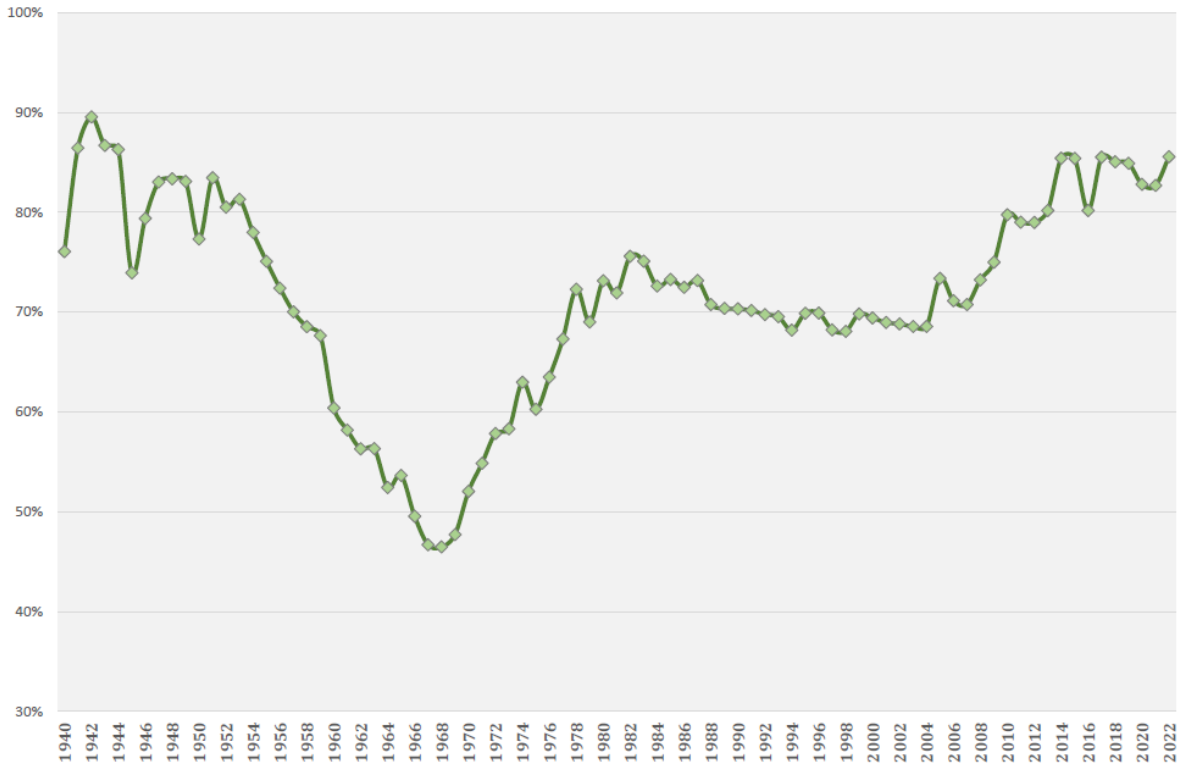
POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) supports SB 309. MDP and its partner agencies on the Smart Growth Subcabinet, are committed to building on Maryland’s thirty-year legacy of targeted growth to both conserve our natural areas and revitalize existing communities. As noted in the chart below, Maryland’s post-WW II residential development pattern was between 75-90% compact development inside of locally designated PFAs, in the late 1950s and 60s compact development of single-family residential lots dropped to as low as 47% but returned for the next thirty years to the mid 70% compact development through the 1990s. It wasn’t until after the PFA law was passed in 1997, starting in 2004, when Maryland began to see a sharp increase in compact single-family residential development within PFAs, reaching 85% in recent years. Smart growth policies and residential market interest are some of the reasons for resurgence in compact development.

The Economic Growth, Resource and Planning Act was passed in 1992 (the precursor to the Smart Growth Act), when Smart Growth was just beginning to take hold in the US. Maryland was an early leader and consequently, the Smart Growth Subcabinet was formed in 2001 with the support of Governor Glendenning who established the Office of Smart Growth within the Governor’s office and named the first Special Secretary. Since 2003 the Subcabinet has operated within the Maryland Department of Planning and the Secretary of Planning has served as Acting Chair up through 2017. Under the Moore-Miller administration, the MDP Secretary is again serving as Acting Chair and has fully engaged the subcabinet members over the past year to enhance cross-agency collaboration. This amendment would name the MDP Secretary as Chair, and the DHCD Secretary as Vice-Chair and eliminate the position of Special Secretary and PIN that no longer exists within either agency.

The Subcabinet’s original focus was driven by conservation values to protect land and guide the location of development toward existing population centers. Since that time, fast moving market complexities, climate impacts and social needs have expanded the subcabinet’s need to also consider how we grow that is encompassed in the new title of “Sustainable” Growth Subcabinet. A sustainable approach to growth works to balance economic development with ensuring that there is opportunity created for all Marylanders along with upholding our responsibilities as natural resource stewards. As the “Sustainable” Growth Subcabinet members agencies will collaborate to balance these sometimes-conflicting objectives to reach the best possible outcomes for all

Chart 3: Percent of Compact Improved Single-Family Residential Parcels in Maryland by Year Built, 1940 - 2022



Source: Maryland Department of Planning, Planning Data Services, from MD Property View

MDP's State Data & Analysis Center

(https://planning.maryland.gov/MSDC/Documents/pfa/resid_growth/parcel_analysis_2022/Chart3.pdf)

The Subcabinet includes thirteen Cabinet Secretaries, the director of MEA and the National Center for Smart Growth director as ex-officio. The amendment would also add the Department of Emergency Management to ensure the pressing topics of all types of resiliencies are fully represented in deliberations regarding growth and development. In addition to resiliency, the topic of equity has been added to the description of activities to ensure we consider the human factor in all our cross-agency decision making.

The newly named and re-invigorated "Sustainable" Growth Subcabinet is uniquely positioned to serve as an executive leadership group that collectively, through this amendment, actively engages and supports the creation of lasting neighborhood vitality for all.

SB309_DHCD_SUPPORT.pdf

Uploaded by: Chuck Cook

Position: FAV



WES MOORE
Governor
ARUNA MILLER
Lt. Governor
JACOB R. DAY
Secretary
JULIA GLANZ
Deputy Secretary

DATE: February 1, 2024
BILL NO.: Senate Bill 309
TITLE: Sustainable Growth Subcabinet and Repeal of the Office of Smart Growth
COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Letter of Support

Description of Bill:

The legislation makes several changes to the State Government Article regarding the Smart Growth Subcabinet including changes in membership and changing language relating to the purpose of the Subcabinet. Senate Bill 309 would eliminate the Special Secretary position from the Subcabinet and transfer those responsibilities to the Secretary of Planning. It designates the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development as the vice chair of the Subcabinet and adds the Secretary of Emergency Management as a member of the Subcabinet.

Background and Analysis:

Established by the Governor, the Smart Growth Subcabinet began as the Smart Growth and Neighborhood Conservation Subcabinet in January 1998 (Executive Order 01.01.1998.04). It was established by statute effective July 1, 2001 (Chapter 566, Acts of 2001; Code State Government Article, sec. 9-1406). The Subcabinet helps implement Smart Growth Policy, recommending to the Governor changes in State law, regulations, and procedures needed to support the Policy (Chapter 759, Acts of 1997). Further, the Subcabinet works to create, enhance, support, and revitalize sustainable communities across Maryland (Chapter 487, Acts of 2010).

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has historically played an active role in the Subcabinet, as both the Secretary of DHCD and DHCD's Assistant Secretary for Neighborhood Revitalization are members of the Subcabinet, and the Department administers several programs that support smart growth policy by financing development and revitalization activity in existing communities and areas planned for growth.

Senate Bill 309 makes important updates to the statute governing the Subcabinet to reflect current policy and practice. The Special Secretary for Smart Growth position has been vacant for some time and those responsibilities are being transferred to the Secretary of Planning. The Secretary of DHCD will become Vice Chair of the Subcabinet. This reflects the strong partnership between DHCD, the Maryland Department of Planning and the Subcabinet, as well as the partnership between DHCD and the Subcabinet in implementing revitalization programs and designations, including Sustainable Communities. The Secretary of Emergency Management is added as a member of the Subcabinet, reflecting in increased focus on resiliency and response to the effects of climate change. The legislation also adds language describing activities of the Subcabinet that reflect current policy and practice, including the words "equity" and "resiliency", and centers sustainability in mission of the Subcabinet. This language reflects the increased focus on equitable development to reduce and reverse the results of historic policies that contributed to ongoing disinvestment in redlined communities, as well as the imperative to respond to the challenge of climate change.

DHCD Position

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 309



'24 SB 309 DGS Smart Growth Subcabinet SUP 2-1-202

Uploaded by: Ellen Robertson

Position: FAV

BILL: **Senate Bill 309**
Smart Growth Subcabinet - Membership and Duties

COMMITTEES: Senate Education, Energy, & Environment Committee

DATE: February 1, 2024

POSITION: Support

Upon review of Senate Bill 309 - Smart Growth Subcabinet - Membership and Duties, the Maryland Department of General Services (DGS) provides these comments for your consideration.

Senate Bill 309 will remove the Subcabinet Special Secretary and now include the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Emergency Management to the Smart Growth Subcabinet. The bill will also designate the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Planning as Chair and the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development as Vice Chair. In addition, the bill will add new language as it relates to the issues and activities of the Subcabinet, specifically including equity and resiliency into the important discussions and work charged of the Subcabinet.

Senate Bill 309 will streamline the efficiency of the Smart Growth Subcabinet and DGS supports passage of this bill and encourages a favorable report.

For additional information, contact Ellen Robertson at Ellen.Robertson@maryland.gov or 410-260-2908 or Lisa Nissley at Lisa.Nissley1@maryland.gov or 410-260-2922.

SB 309 Written Testimony (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Rebecca Flora

Position: FAV

HEARING DATE: February 1, 2024
BILL NO: SB 309
COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
POSITION: Support
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Wilson (443) 366-4224

TITLE: Department of Planning – Sustainable Growth Subcabinet and Repeal of the Office of Smart Growth

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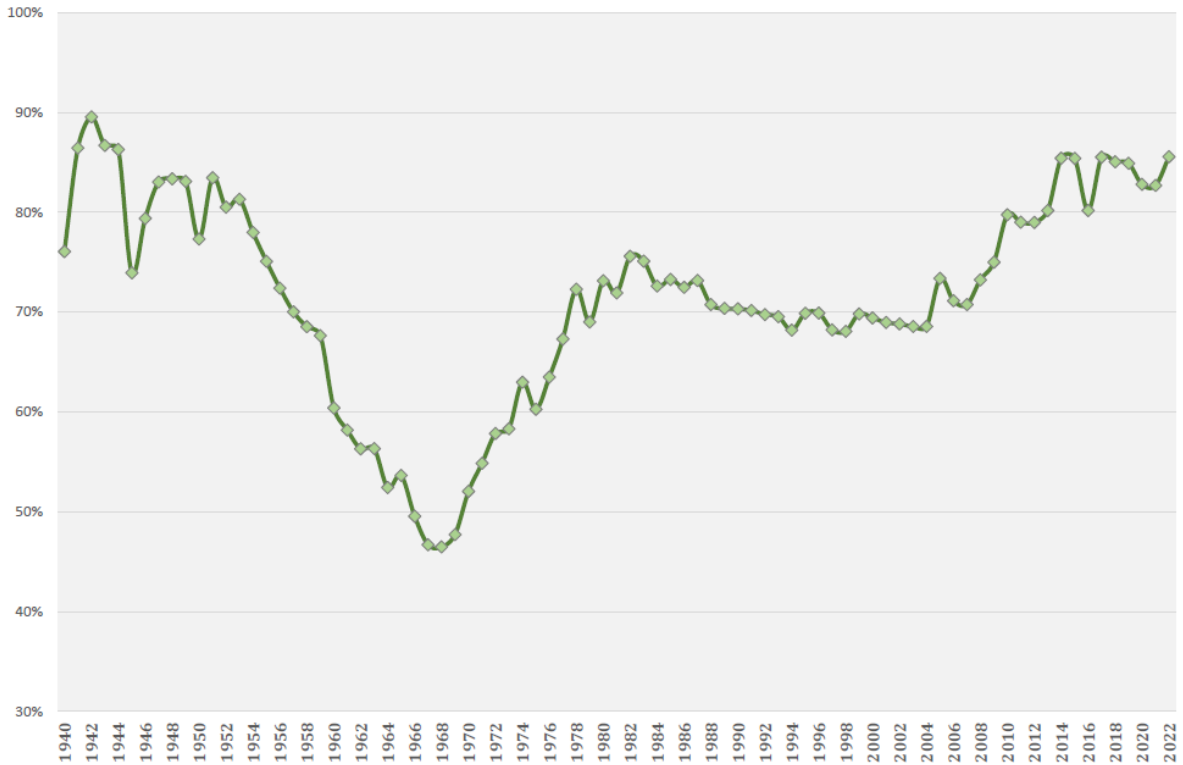
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Uploaded by: Jacob Day

Position: FWA



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DHCD Position

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 309



Oppose SB 309.pdf

Uploaded by: Mark Meyerovich

Position: UNF

Oppose SB0309

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Sustainable Growth Subcabinet and Repeal of the Office of Smart Growth

Position: UNFAVORABLE

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee:

Unfortunately, this mechanism was already set in motion with the creation of the Office of Smart Growth. We now know that this is a part of the World Economic Forum's Sustainable Development (One World Government) system of control of all land, water, minerals, plants, animals, construction, means of production, education, information, and human beings in the world. It has been decades in the making, and we now see it at the local level in the Thrive Montgomery 2050 Plan (and similar plans all over the state and country).

It has become obvious that the central planners draw more power away from elected representatives and into the hands of unelected and largely unknown bureaucrats, who create hidden rules that often subvert laws that protect individuals. Those were distinct features of governance in communist countries, which I had left for good. Under the guise of striving for "greater good", the government of the people is replaced by central planning with global agendas that benefit the few. The agendas lead to a society under total control and surveillance where individual rights become irrelevant.

Bill SB0309 just changes the old buzz words like "smart" and "conservation" to the new buzzwords, "sustainable" and "vitality." In the end, it's all the same mandate system of control for the masses. Thus, I strongly oppose any bill which advances this blueprint for our local communities.

For additional information please visit:

<https://rumble.com/v26pi10-un-agenda-21-exposed-condensed-version.html>

www.DemocratsAgainstUNAgenda21.com

<https://www.amazon.com/Behind-Green-Mask-U-N-Agenda/dp/0615494544>

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,
Mark Meyerovich
Gaithersburg, MD
District 15

oppose sb0309.pdf

Uploaded by: Peggy Williams

Position: UNF

SB0309 (Sustainable Growth Subcabinet and Repeal of the Office of Smart Growth) – **UNFAVORABLE**

Honorable Members:

I wish to go on record with my concerns about Smart Growth/Sustainable Development. According to the UN, Agenda21 (i.e., the agenda for the 21st century) is “a comprehensive plan of action to be taken globally, nationally, and locally by...Governments...in every area in which human impacts on the environment.” Agenda21 was signed by George H.W. Bush along with many other international heads of state without Congressional consent. Currently the name has been updated to Agenda2030. It is a plan to inventory and control all resources, human and natural, and all means of production in the world and this is a process that is happening right now in every city, town and community in the entire world. The goals of tight control over all aspects of life are outlined right on the UN website. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals> This agenda is also being pushed by the World Economic Forum whose recent “8 Predictions for the World in 2030” promotion started out with the quote “You’ll own nothing and you’ll be happy.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBBxWtKKQIA>

At the local level, this plan is called Plan2040 where I live. This plan seems to be re-drawing and erasing jurisdictional boundaries, in effect erasing city, county, and state sovereignty where we vote, where we have our representative government. This so-called “Regionalization” is actually a transition to a non-representative government, a socialist control mechanism, where we will ultimately be governed by **unelected boards and commissions**. This is **governance**, as opposed to government by the people.

Such a scheme should lead constituents to ask:

“Would you trust a government-run program that regulated all aspects of human living in order to save the planet?”

“How would you feel if the government used eminent domain to take your private property in order to save a certain species on it?”

“Would you accept monitoring of your private well so that your water use can be restricted?”

“Would you approve of the government fining you for use of your gas-burning car because your carbon footprint is too big?”

“Would you approve of the government drawing boundaries and then restricting your freedom to travel outside of those boundaries in order to limit your carbon footprint?” It’s called a 15-Minute City, and early implementation of them in Europe has met with fierce resistance due to its open-air prison feel.

<https://europeanconservative.com/articles/news/thousands-protest-15-minute-city-in-oxford/>

I suspect your constituents would not react positively to any of the above. For all the reasons above, I oppose Smart Growth/Sustainable Development policies and bills such as this. I think it is important for lawmakers to understand what you are signing constituents up for, when you push forward with Smart Growth/Sustainable Development legislation.

Thank you.

Peggy Williams (District 31)

Severna Park