



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

HEARING DATE: January 25, 2024
BILL NO: SB0310
COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
POSITION: Support
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Wilson (443) 366-4224

TITLE: Department of Planning - State Repository and Clearinghouse for Federal and State Financial and Technical Assistance

BILL ANALYSIS:

The bill updates the current role of the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) in comparison to the Governor's Grants Office regarding serving as a source for information on federal and state financial assistance opportunities, and updates language concerning Maryland's InfoPortal tool, which provides online access to information on state financial and technical assistance programs.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) supports SB0310. The Governor's Grants Office, created in February 2004 by Governor Ehrlich, serves as a repository and clearinghouse for information concerning federal and state grants and loans. The information is available online at grants.maryland.gov. The bill recognizes the role and function of the Governor's Grants Office and that MDP does not need to duplicate their efforts.

MDP has maintained since 2003 an online catalog of state financial assistance and technical services [Maryland InfoPortal](#), which previously was periodically updated as a physical document. MDP updates bi-annually the Maryland InfoPortal tool in coordination with each state agency, which voluntarily provides updated information regarding state financial and technical assistance programs. As a result, MDP does not need to adopt regulations requiring state agencies to provide this information. State agencies typically provide a summary description on their respective grant or technical assistance services and a link to their agency webpages.