

THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND

March 2, 2021
Legislative Session Day

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March 2, 2021

CODE HOME RULE
BILL NO. 4-2021

INTRODUCED BY: P. Thomas Mason, President of the Board of County Commissioners for Kent County, Maryland.


AN ACT to amend Chapter 21, Economic and Tourism Development, of the Code of Public Local Laws of Kent County, Maryland. The purpose of this chapter is to provide a Director of Economic and Tourism Development, merge the existing Economic Development Commission and Tourism Development Advisory Board to create a single Economic and Tourism Development Commission consisting of seven (7) to nine (9) members, and provide for the duties and terms of the Members.

THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND


P. Thomas Mason, President

INTRODUCED, read first time, March 2, 2021, ordered posted and public hearing scheduled on March 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the County Commissioners Hearing Room, R. Clayton Mitchell, Jr., Kent County Government Center, 400 High Street, Chestertown, Maryland.

By order of:


Sondra M. Blackiston, Clerk

PUBLIC HEARING

HAVING been posted and notice of time and place of hearing and copies having been made available to the public and the press, a public hearing was held on March 16, 2021. Reported favorably [with] amendments; read second time and ordered to be considered on April 6, 2021, a legislative session day.

BILL NO. 4-2021, as amended by interlineation, indicated by **bold double underline** and ~~double strike through~~ **CAPITALS & BOLD** INDICATES MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. ~~Strike through~~ indicates matter deleted from existing law (in the original legislative bill)

A BILL ENTITLED CHR 4-2021 ECONOMIC AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND that Chapter 21, Article I Economic Development is hereby amended, and Article II Tourism is hereby deleted as follows:

Article I
Economic AND TOURISM Development

§ 21-1. Director.

~~The Director shall serve at the pleasure of the County Commissioners and receive such compensation as may be from time to time determined by resolution of the County Commissioners.~~ **THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF KENT COUNTY MAY APPOINT A DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT WHO SHALL SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND RECEIVE SUCH COMPENSATION AS MAY BE FROM TIME TO TIME DETERMINED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.**

~~§ 21-2. Powers and duties of Director.~~

~~The Director shall have the following powers and duties:~~

- ~~A. To facilitate the activities of the Economic Development Commission.~~
- ~~B. To promote the economic development of the county by attracting additional industry, commerce, and tourism.~~
- ~~C. To gather, maintain and disseminate information concerning industrial sites and commercial sites throughout the county.~~
- ~~D. To gather and disseminate information concerning the historical and cultural aspects of the county.~~
- ~~E. To act as the County's official liaison agent with persons interested in expanding existing businesses currently in the County or with persons interested in locating businesses in the County.~~
- ~~F. To form partnerships of industry, city, state and national and private agencies in promoting the purposes of economic development.~~
- ~~G. To serve as ombudsman for all businesses and industries in the County in the resolution of any community problems they may have, and to encourage the management of the same to have a constructive interest in the County.~~
- ~~H. To confer with and inform the County Commissioners, the Economic Development Commission, and municipal governing bodies on all matters relative to the economic development in the County.~~

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- I. ~~To periodically survey the overall status of the county and municipalities to determine if the county and municipalities furnish such services and facilities that are conducive to economic expansion.~~
- J. ~~To render annually, or as requested, a summary of activities to the County Commissioners.~~
- K. ~~To meet with existing businesses to ensure retention and keep a pulse on their business activities.~~
- L. ~~Network and stay involved with state and other regional economic development professionals.~~
- M. ~~To serve as an ex officio member of the Tourism Development Advisory Board.~~

§ 21-2. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ECONOMIC AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION.

THERE SHALL BE AN ECONOMIC AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION. THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF KENT COUNTY AS SET FORTH IN THIS CHAPTER.

§ 21-3. Composition and compensation of Commission.

- A. The Commission shall consist of **AT LEAST seven AND members, NO MORE THAN NINE MEMBERS**, excluding the Director, who shall serve as **an A NON-VOTING** ex officio member. ~~AT LEAST ONE MEMBER SHALL BE FROM THE TOURISM INDUSTRY.~~ **THE BOARD SHALL BE COMPRISED OF MEMBERS THAT REPRESENT THE ECONOMY OF KENT COUNTY.**
- B. The members of the Commission shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for such expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as may be approved by the County Commissioners.

§ 21-4. Terms.

- A. Commission members shall serve for terms of three years, **OR UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED.** ~~No member MEMBERS~~ may serve **NOT BE APPOINTED** for more than two successive full terms. (~~F~~filling a vacant position during the term shall not be construed as a full term-)
- B. **IF A MEMBER IS CURRENTLY SERVING ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD, THAT MEMBER MAY FINISH THEIR TERM AS A MEMBER OF THE ECONOMIC AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION. IF THAT MEMBER IS SERVING IN THEIR FIRST TERM, THAT MEMBER MAY BE REAPPOINTED FOR A SECOND TERM.**

C. A MEMBER MAY BE RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR REMOVAL. A MEMBER MISSING THREE CONSECUTIVE MEETINGS MAY BE RECOMMENDED FOR REMOVAL.

§ 21-5. Officers.

- A. ~~At the first meeting of the ECONOMIC AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE CALENDAR YEAR, THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL ELECT FROM THEIR MEMBERS A CHAIRPERSON, AND SUCH OTHER OFFICERS AS THEY MAY DEEM NECESSARY. calendar year, the members of the Commission shall elect from their members a Chairperson, and such other officers as they may deem necessary. The terms of the officers shall be determined by the commission.~~
- B. ~~The chairperson of the economic development commission shall serve as an ex officio member of the tourism development advisory board.~~

§ 21-6. Meetings.

~~The Commission shall meet in regular sessions at least once a month. Special meetings shall be at the call of the chairperson in conjunction with the director~~ **HOLD SUCH REGULAR MEETINGS AS NECESSARY TO DISCHARGE ITS DUTIES.**

§ 21-7. Duties of Commission.

- A. Support and assist the Director in the performance of his or her duties.
- B. Meet with the County Commissioners annually, and as requested, to review and evaluate economic policies and issues, ~~and advise the commissioners on the performance of the county revolving loan fund.~~
- C. Recommend proposed policies and legislation to the Director to promote a healthy business climate.
- D. Promote cooperation between County departments, municipal and state governments.
- E. Provide an annual review of the County economic development strategic plan, ~~which will include benchmarks for retaining and growing existing businesses. The plan will promote economic growth in the county for the short term (one to three year) and long term (four to ten year) horizons.~~
- F. Assist the Director with the retention, expansion, and attraction of businesses in the County.
- G. Assist the ~~e~~Director with dissemination of information in the interest of economic **AND TOURISM** development. ~~by publication, advertising, or other means.~~

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- H. As needed, attend public meetings regarding local and regional economic **AND TOURISM** development.
- I. Assist the Director to ensure local businesses are aware of any local, state, and federal government funding sources (loans and grants) for business growth and retention.
- J. Perform and/or support other duties as requested by the County Commissioners or the Director.

~~§ 21-8. Nature of Commission.~~ **SUBCOMMITTEES.**

~~The powers and duties of the Director and the Commission are of an advisory nature only. Neither the Director, the Commission, nor any member thereof shall incur any obligations in the name of the county.~~ **THE COMMISSION MAY ESTABLISH SUB-COMMITTEES AT ITS DISCRETION TO FURTHER THE MISSION OF THE COMMISSION.**

§ 21-9. NATURE OF COMMISSION.

THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR AND THE COMMISSION ARE OF AN ADVISORY NATURE ONLY. NEITHER THE DIRECTOR, THE COMMISSION, NOR ANY MEMBER THEREOF SHALL INCUR ANY OBLIGATIONS IN THE NAME OF THE COUNTY.

ARTICLE H
Tourism Development

~~§ 21-9. Director.~~

~~The position of Tourism Development Director is hereby created. The Director shall serve at the pleasure of the County Commissioners and receive such compensation as may be from time to time determined by resolution of the County Commissioners.~~

~~§ 21-10. Powers and duties of Director.~~

The Director shall have the following powers and duties:

- ~~A. To work with the Tourism Development Advisory Board.~~
- ~~B. To adopt a progressive program to promote the tourism in the county.~~
- ~~C. To gather, maintain and disseminate information relative to marketing programs and advertising programs and coordinating the same with state and private promotions.~~
- ~~D. To gather and disseminate information concerning the historical and cultural aspects of the county.~~
- ~~E. To act as the county's official liaison agent at state and regional agency meetings.~~

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~~F. To enlist the cooperation of federal and state agencies in promoting tourism in the county.~~

~~G. To confer with and inform the County Commissioners and the Tourism Development Advisory Board and municipal governing bodies on all matters relative to tourism in the county.~~

~~H. To periodically survey the overall status of the county and municipalities to determine if the county and municipalities furnish such services and facilities that are conducive to the expansion of tourism in the county.~~

~~I. To render annually a brief summary of activities to the County Commissioners.~~

~~§ 21-11. Composition and compensation of Board.~~

~~A. The Advisory Board shall consist of seven members, excluding the Director, who shall serve as an ex officio member.~~

~~B. The members of the Advisory Board shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for such expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as may be approved by the County Commissioners.~~

~~§ 21-12. Terms.~~

~~A. Advisory Board members shall serve for terms of three years, which terms shall be staggered. No member may serve for more than two successive full terms. (Filling a vacant position during the term shall not be construed as a full term.)~~

~~B. The initial appointments shall be for three persons to serve one-year terms, two persons to serve two-year terms and two persons to serve three-year terms.~~

~~§ 21-13. Officers.~~

~~Within 30 days after their appointment, the members of the Advisory Board shall meet and organize by electing from their members a Chairperson and such other officers as they may deem necessary. The terms of the officers shall be determined by the Board.~~

~~§ 21-14. Meetings.~~

~~The Advisory Board shall meet in regular sessions at least once a month. Special meetings shall be at the call of the Chairperson in conjunction with the Director.~~

~~§ 21-15. Duties of Board.~~

~~The Advisory Board shall assist the Director in the performance of his duties.~~

~~§ 21-16. Nature of Board.~~

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The powers and duties of the Director and the Advisory Board are of an advisory nature only. Neither the Director, the Advisory Board nor any member thereof shall incur any obligations in the name of the county.

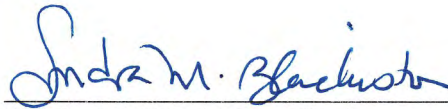
BE IT FURTHER ENACTED by the County Commissioners of Kent County that this Act shall take effect on the 21st day of May, 2021.

Read Third Time April 6, 2021

PASSED this 6th day of April, 2021.

Failed of Passage _____

By order of:



Sondra M. Blackiston, Clerk

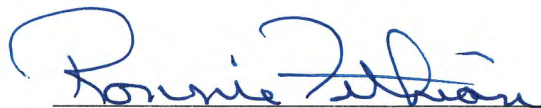
THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND

(SEAL)

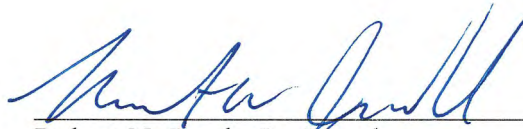




P. Thomas Mason, President



Ronald H. Fithian, Member



Robert N. Jacob, Jr., Member

ORDERED a fair summary thereof or the entire bill shall be published in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the County, not less than three times at weekly intervals within a four-week period.

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