



Maryland

COMMERCE SUBCABINET

February 26, 2024

401 E. Pratt Street, 17th Floor Conference Room

Baltimore

1:00 – 2:30pm

Minutes

Subcabinet:

Kevin Anderson, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Chair
Cassie Shirk, Assistant Secretary for Marketing, Animal Industries, and Consumer Services for Kevin Atticks, Secretary, Department of Agriculture
Chuck Cook, Chief Legislative Officer for Secretary Jake Day, Department of Housing & Community Development, DHCD
Y. Maria Martinez, Special Secretary, Governor's Office of Small, Minority, & Women Business Affairs (GOSBA) – Virtual
Kamil Williams, Special Advisor, for Joshua Kurtz, Secretary, Department of Natural Resources – Virtual
Michael Higgs, Director, State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT)
David Zaidain, Chief of Real Estate & Transit Oriented Development for Paul Wiedefeld, Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Portia Wu, Secretary, Department of Labor
Rebecca Flora, Secretary, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) – Virtual
Michael Lore, Deputy Secretary of State for Secretary Susan Lee
Scott Goldman, Chief of Staff for Secretary Serena McIlwain, Department of Environment (MDE) – Virtual
Sanjay Rai, Secretary, Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC)

Guests:

Ashley Sharp, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Labor
Scott Goldman, MDE – Virtual
Davon Garner, GOSBA – Virtual
Rosa Cruz, DHCD
Signe Pringle, Deputy Secretary, Commerce – Virtual
Jerel Registre, Chief of Staff, Commerce
Heather Gramm, Assistant Secretary, Commerce
Julie Woepke, Executive Director, MEDC, Commerce
Jennifer LaHatte, Managing Director, OPRGA, Commerce – Virtual
Walter Donoughe, Council & Commission Program Specialist, Commerce
Jayson Knott, Senior Director, Commerce – Virtual

I. Meeting called to Order

Commerce Secretary Kevin Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:02pm. He thanked members for their attendance and participation.

II. Review and Approval of January 22, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the January 22, 2024 meeting were approved.

III. Chair's Update

Secretary Kevin Anderson reported that the Maryland Economic Council and Maryland Entertainment Industry Council, both created in 2023, have been making great progress in their objectives to advise Governor Moore on ways to make Maryland more economically competitive and develop Maryland's film, tourism, and broader entertainment industries, respectively. Secretary Anderson also discussed the establishment of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Subcabinet, created by executive order in January 2024 to advise the Governor on AI-related matters and the upcoming reception at the Government House for the Maryland Marketing Partnership members.

Secretary Anderson commended the Subcabinet members who met recently with Maryland General Assembly Committee Chairs for having productive discussions related to current legislation. He stated that Commerce is working hard to execute elements of the Governor's newly released state plan, including the implementation of key performance indicators to hold state agencies accountable to quantifiable goals.

IV. Legislative Priorities

Representatives of each Subcabinet agency described key pieces of legislation that have been introduced in the General Assembly during the 2024 legislative session. Bills discussed among the members included expanding the licenses for wineries to grow and sell non-grape products; streamlining the permitting process for businesses included in the Transparent Government Act of 2024; expanding Maryland's international profile through the establishment of a state Aerospace and Technology Commission; making focused strategic investments into certain industries; modernizing state government technology and software; increasing minority business enterprise and small business reserve goals; discontinuing the reciprocal agreement with Virginia Tech for the veterinarian degree program due to the program offered at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore; authorizing local government the ability to issue tax credits for redevelopment projects with projects that include hotels; and prioritizing sustainable growth through mixed-use development. Presentation on file.

V. Good of the Order

No additional items were discussed.

VI. Adjournment

The open meeting was closed at 2:20pm upon a motion made by Cassie Shirk, designee for Secretary Atticks and seconded by Deputy Secretary Lore designee for Secretary Lee and approved by all voting members, the meeting was closed pursuant to General 3 Provisions Article § 3-305 (4) To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State." Confidential and financial information is protected from disclosure under the Maryland Public Information Act (§4-335).