



Governor's Economic Competitiveness Subcabinet

The mission of the subcabinet is to advise the Governor on, and identify and recommend policies, regulations, strategies, and actions that strengthen Maryland's economic competitiveness and growth on an ongoing basis; review proposed policies and procedures by executive departments and agencies impacting economic development and workforce development; coordinate the implementation of executive directives and legislation that support business and talent development in the state; track the progress of the cross-agency implementation of the Economic Strategic Plan approved by the Maryland Economic Development Commission; track the progress of the cross-agency implementation of the economic goals under the Moore-Miller Administration's Maryland State Plan; and on a biannual basis, develop and publish a consolidated economic competitiveness plan that incorporates strategies and action plans from every executive department and agency represented on the Subcabinet.

Members

Agriculture (AG)
Budget and Management (DBM)
Commerce

Education

Environment (MDE)
General Services
Governor's Office of Small, Minority,
and Women's Affairs (GOSBA)
Higher Education Commission (MHEC)
Housing & Community Development (DHCD)
Labor
Maryland Clean Energy Center

Maryland Economic Development Corporation
Maryland Technology Development Corporation
Natural Resources (DNR)
Planning (MDP)
State (SoS)
Transportation

University System of Maryland (USM)

Secretary Kevin Atticks, (Steve Connelly)
Secretary Helene Grady
Secretary Harry Coker, Chair, (Jerel
Registre)
State Superintendent of Schools Carey
Wright (Lisa Sparr & Alex Reese)
Secretary Serena McIlwain, (Scott Goldman)
Secretary Atif Chaudhry
Secretary Y. Maria Martinez, (Eduardo
Hayden)
Secretary Sanjay Rai
Secretary Jake Day, (Rosa Cruz)
Secretary Portia Wu, (Ashley Sharp)
Executive Director Katherine Magruder
(Mary Sirios & Pamela Powers)
Executive Director Tom Sadowski
CEO Troy LeMaile-Stovall
Secretary Josh Kurtz (David Goshorn)
Secretary Rebecca Flora, (Joe Griffiths)
Secretary Susan Lee, (Alexandria Liu)
Secretary Paul Wiedefeld (Joe McAndrew &
David Zaidan)
Chancellor Dr. Jay Perman (Diane Walters)

March 10, 2025
401 E. Pratt Street, 17th Floor Conference Room, Baltimore
1:00 – 3:00pm
DRAFT Minutes

Attendance

Subcabinet:

- Kevin Atticks, Secretary, Ag - Virtual
- Harry Coker, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Chair
- Atif Chaudhry, Secretary, Department of General Services
- Rebecca Flora, Secretary, MDP
- Susan Lee, Secretary, SoS
- Y. Maria Martinez, Secretary, GOSBA - Virtual
- Katherine Magruder, Executive Director, Maryland Clean Energy Center - Virtual
- Serena McIlwain, Secretary, MDE
- Dr. Jay Perman, Chancellor, USM - Virtual
- Sanjay Rai, Secretary, MHEC
- Tom Sadowski, Executive Director, MEDCO - Virtual
- Troy Stovall, CEO, TEDCO – Virtual
- Paul Wiedefeld, Secretary, MDOT
- Portia Wu, Secretary, Department of Labor – Virtual

Guests:

- Luis Cardona, GOBA – Virtual
- Rosa Cruz, DHCD - Virtual
- Steve Conelly, MDA
- Laura Gutierrez, GOSBA - Virtual
- Alexandria Liu, SOS
- Michael Lore, SOS - Virtual
- Joe McAndrew, MDOT - Virtual
- Asley Sharp, Labor
- Ben Seigel, DBM

Commerce

- Ricardo Benn
- Cori Duggins
- Jayson Knott
- Jennifer LaHatte - Virtual
- Timothy McGowan
- Jerel Registre
- Stephen Rice

I. Meeting called to Order

Acting Secretary Coker called the meeting to order at 1:05pm.

II. Minutes of the February 10, 2025 Meeting

Mr. Conelly, Secretary Lee, and Deputy Secretary Benn requested amendments to the minutes which included updating the attendance and altering certain comments. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the amended minutes of the February 10, 2025 meeting were approved.

III. Chair's Report

Secretary Coker welcomed everyone to the Governor's Economic Competitiveness Subcabinet meeting. As part of his Chair's report and other agenda items, he presented a brief PowerPoint that included the Subcabinet's mission, key recommendations from the Maryland Economic Council (MEC) report, and high-level metrics.

IV. Executive Order Tasking

To ensure the Subcabinet is aware of its responsibilities and goals, the Secretary presented the mission of the Subcabinet, as outlined in Executive Order 01.01.2024.39. The Subcabinet's mission is to:

- Advise the Governor on, and identify and recommend policies, regulations, strategies, and actions that strengthen Maryland's economic competitiveness and growth on an ongoing basis
- Review proposed policies and procedures by executive departments and agencies impacting economic development and workforce development
- Coordinate the implementation of executive directives and legislation that support business and talent development in the state
- Track the progress of the cross-agency implementation of the Economic Strategic Plan approved by the Maryland Economic Development Commission
- Track the progress of the cross-agency implementation of the economic goals under the Moore-Miller Administration's Maryland State Plan
- On a biannual basis, develop and publish a consolidated economic competitiveness plan that incorporates strategies and action plans from every executive department and agency represented on the Subcabinet.

Acting Secretary Coker welcomed any questions regarding the Subcabinet's mission. Secretary Flora inquired about the report's timelines and contents. Secretary Coker clarified that the goal is to publish a report in June and December. While the exact contents are still being determined, certain MEC recommendations will likely be incorporated, which he would elaborate on later. Secretary Flora also invited Secretary McIlwain to share insights on compiling a report. Secretary McIlwain, Chair of the Governor's Subcabinet on Climate, noted that they had released their 2024 annual Climate report in under two months. She encouraged the Commerce team to contact her colleague, Rachel Lamb, for further information on how that report was consolidated.

Secretary Coker continued by presenting the nine key recommendations of the MEC report, which include:

- 1) Corporate Tax Reduction and Modernization
- 2) Consolidate Economic Development Efforts
- 3) Develop an Integrated Economic Plan
- 4) Foster Better Coordination and Collaboration
- 5) Track and Report Key Economic Metrics
- 6) Implement a Statewide Client Management System
- 7) Enhance Legislative Advocacy and Coordination
- 8) Improve Maryland's Startup Infrastructure
- 9) Protect and Enhance Maryland's Workforce

Secretary Coker briefly elaborated on each recommendation to provide the Secretaries with context regarding the MEC's goals. He then tasked the Subcabinet with reviewing the recommendations, explaining that the most promising ones would be incorporated into the Subcabinet's own report. While the Subcabinet was not required to agree with the recommendations, a thorough review was essential. Before detailing the review process, Secretary Coker opened the floor for general comments and questions.

Secretary Lee commended the effort to streamline the regulatory process and asked whether it could be accomplished within a year. Secretary Coker noted that this would depend on developments during the legislative session, and that timelines would be provided accordingly. Secretary Rai emphasized that business friendliness encompasses more than just incentives and permitting. Secretary Coker agreed, highlighting infrastructure, taxes, and government efficiency as crucial factors in fostering a business-friendly climate. Building on this, Secretary Flora added that retaining talent and maintaining affordable housing are key to keeping businesses in Maryland, noting that housing affordability has become an increasing issue in the state.

Secretary McIlwain reiterated the issue of permitting when it comes to business climate. Secretary Flora reminded the Subcabinet that she will be Chairing the Maryland Coordinated Permitting Review Council, so she urged the Subcabinet to bring any permitting concerns to her. Jayson Knott added that a vast majority of permitting falls on to local jurisdictions, so some of these issues are likely out of the State's control.

Executive Director Magruder inquired about relevant legislation currently passing through the Maryland General Assembly in relation to the nine MEC recommendations. Secretary Coker confirmed that a summary of all relevant legislation will be provided at the next meeting. Mrs. Magruder also expressed disagreement with the view that the Department of Commerce should focus on policy creation, as indicated in the second MEC recommendation. She believes that business attraction and retention efforts are the department's most valuable contributions.

Secretary Coker then explained that the Subcabinet members would be assigned to certain recommendations for a thorough review. At the next meeting the Subcabinet would vote on which recommendations to keep based on their discussions and research. Secretary Coker provided a list of recommendations but noted that a document would be sent out following the meeting in which the Secretaries can edit their agency designations.

Chief of Staff Registre clarified the distinction between the MEC report and the Maryland Economic Development Commission (MEDC) strategic plan. Mr. Registre explained that the Subcabinet would help with the implementation of the MEDC recommendations, which might come to fruition via the decade act. He clarified that the review of the MEC report and the creation of an implementation plan for the MEDC report are two different tasks.

V. High Level Economic Metrics

Secretary Coker concluded the presentation by discussing economic metrics which were provided by the Governor's Office. These include:

- Number of jobs created and retained
- Number of businesses attracted and retained
- Start-ups launched
- Amount of private sector investment (VC, PE and CapEx)
- Foreign Direct Investment and Sovereign Wealth Funds

These economic metrics will be used to track the state of Maryland's economy and the effectiveness of the Subcabinet's recommendations. While these metrics will be prioritized, additional metrics may be included should the Subcabinet deem them necessary. The research team compiled a more comprehensive list which could be distributed at the next Subcabinet meeting should the Secretaries deem it helpful.

CEO Troy Stovall urged the Subcabinet to think about what story they are trying to tell through these metrics. If there is not a specific goal in mind when collecting the data, then the metrics become useless.

VI. Good of the Order

No additional comments were made.

VII. Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 2:01pm.