



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)	Secretary Kevin Atticks (Steve Connelly & Martin Proulx)
Budget and Management (DBM)	Secretary Jake Weissmann (Richard Auxier)
Commerce	Secretary Harry Coker, Chair (Judy L. Smith)
Education	State Superintendent of Schools Carey Wright (Phil Lasser & Alex Reese)
Maryland Energy Administration (MEA)	Director Kelly Speakes-Backman (Jenn Aiosa)
Environment (MDE)	Secretary Serena McIlwain (Scott Goldman)
General Services	Secretary Atif Chaudhry (Daniel Chase)
Department of Social and Economic Mobility (DoSEM)	Secretary Walter Simmons
Higher Education Commission (MHEC)	Acting Secretary Elena Quiroz-Livanis
Housing & Community Development (DHCD)	Secretary Jake Day (Brad Fallon)
Labor	Secretary Portia Wu (Ashley Sharp)
Maryland Clean Energy Center	Executive Director Katherine Magruder (Mary Sirios & Pamela Powers)
Maryland Economic Development Corporation	Executive Director Tom Sadowski
Maryland Technology Development Corporation	CEO Troy LeMaile-Stovall
Natural Resources (DNR)	Secretary Josh Kurtz (David Goshorn)
Planning (MDP)	Secretary Rebecca Flora (Darius White)
Transportation	Secretary Kathryn Thomson (Joe McAndrew & David Zaidan)
University System of Maryland (USM)	Chancellor Dr. Jay Perman (Diane Walters)

April 16, 2026
401 E. Pratt Street Baltimore, MD 21202
1:00 – 3:00pm
Minutes

Attendance

Note: Names in parentheses denote designees or alternates for members of the Subcabinet.

Subcabinet:

- Harry Coker, Chair, Commerce
- Kevin Atticks, Agriculture
- Jake Day (Brad Fallon), DHCD
- Rebecca Flora, Planning
- Troy ALeMaile-Stovall
- Katherine Magruder, MCEC
- Serena McIlwain, MDE
- Susan Lee, SoS
- Elena Quiroz-Livanis (Tiffany Majors), MHEC
- Jay Perman, USM
- Kathryn Thomson (Joe McAndrew)
- Tom Sadowski, MEDCO
- Walter Simmons, DoSEM
- Kelly Speakes-Backman, MEA
- Jake Weissmann (Richard Auxier), DBM
- Carey Wright (Phil Lasser), Education
- Portia Wu, Labor

Guests:

- Julia Chadwick
- Suzanne Dorsey
- Anupa Geevarghese
- Michael Huber
- Jennifer Jones
- Lucas Lin
- Alexandria Liu
- Michael Lore
- Michelle Masucci
- Vijay Ramasamy
- Ashley Sharp
- Adebola Soyemi
- Darius White

Commerce:

- Ricardo Benn
- Afiya Bey
- Cori Duggins

- April Doss
- Matthew Doyle
- Mary Hanley
- Mayank Kapur
- Jayson Knott
- Ivy Gales
- Tamar Osterman
- Stephen Rice
- Sarah Sheppard
- Roger Venezia

I. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. by Secretary Coker.

II. March 16, 2026 Meeting Minutes Approval

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting minutes from March 16, 2026 were approved.

III. Action Item Review and Status

Ms. Afiya Bey reviewed the status of action items from the March 16, 2026 meeting.

IV. Discussion – Chair’s Report

Secretary Coker reported on the following topics:

- The DECADE Act 2.0 passed and the key points of the film tax credit include a per-production cap remaining at \$10 million. There is also a new reporting requirement for Commerce to produce a report by December 1, 2026 with recommendations for reform.
- Building on the discussion from the March GECS meeting, a new Rural Communities Subgroup will be formed. This Subgroup will focus on addressing challenges and incentives specific to rural communities. This initiative stems from the February GECS meeting, where Ms. Melanie Pursel, Director of Tourism & Economic Development for Worcester County, presented on the distinct challenges and opportunities present in her county and other rural areas across Maryland. Commerce is currently drafting a group charter and will contact participants to schedule the preliminary meeting.
- The Loaned Executive Program website has been completed and is ready to launch and accept applications.
- The Integrated Economic Development Construct Review is underway and a meeting to levelset expectations was held with foundational partners. A scope of work was sent to those partners for review and to date no feedback has been received. Commerce is moving forward with the procurement process to secure a contractor for this initiative.
- The FY26 Commerce Implementation Planning initiatives for each goal and objective have been developed and are being reviewed internal to Commerce. A draft of the FY26 initiatives will be shared with the GECS during the April meeting.
- Commerce has kicked-off its Moonshot Initiative and is currently in the discovery phase generating clear vision and objectives for each moonshot. These moonshots will be vetted and then finalized in an informational briefing to be shared with the GECS, eventually being shared with potential investors.
- Since the last meeting, there have been no county tours, but two are currently scheduled for later in the month:
 - April 30: Queen Anne's

- May 12: Baltimore City
- Commerce is following up on deliverables from recent Missions to Canada, the UAE, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia, and supported the Secretary of State's recent mission to Taiwan. At RSA in March, Commerce announced the landing of UK Cybersecurity firm Risk Ledger. Commerce will also engage with delegations at the BIO International Convention in June where promising leads have been generated. A primary focus is the upcoming SelectUSA Investment Summit (May 3-6), the largest FDI conference, where Commerce will promote Maryland's competitive advantages in cybersecurity and life sciences to secure job-creating commitments, integral to the Governor's strategy of expanding Maryland's global economic footprint and driving prosperity at home.
- Recent pipeline successes encompassed 39 total opportunities, each representing a minimum of 50 new and/or at-risk employment positions
 - 16 attractions, 19 expansions and 4 foreign direct investments
 - 10,096 potential new jobs and 1,847 potential at-risk jobs
 - \$33.5 billion in potential new capital expenditure
 - Attraction of UK Cybersecurity firm

V. Discussion – Howard County: Challenges and Themes

In support of the state's aim to build a collaborative economic development ecosystem for growth, Ms. Jennifer Jones, CEO of the Howard County Economic Development Authority, was invited to present the challenges and opportunities within the county.

Strengths within Howard County include:

- Ideal Location
- High Quality of Life
- Excellent Schools
- Highly Educated / High Income Resident Base
- Growing Tax Base
- Industry Diversity

Primary Challenges include:

Workforce: Talent Pipeline Alignment for Sectors

- Sector-focused pipelines in cyber/IT, med tech, advanced manufacturing, ag/ag-tech, and skilled trades
- Expansion of apprenticeships & work-based learning into growth (cyber, healthcare, tech)
- Youth-to-career pathways connecting K-12, higher ed, and employers earlier
- Rapid transition pathways for federal and mid-career workers into private sector roles
- Stronger employer engagement to ensure training aligns with real-time hiring needs

Small/Minority/Women Procurement

- Increase participation of local and small businesses in public contracting
- Use procurement as an economic development tool to support business growth and retention

- Increase small dollar contracts Simplify and clarify local procurement processes to improve accessibility
- Provide technical assistance to help businesses compete and scale
- Strengthen pathways for small and emerging firms to win their first contract

Infrastructure: Enabling Growth Through Site & Industry Readiness

- Advance Gateway Innovation District infrastructure to support cyber, tech, and advanced industry growth
- Support development of a regional meat processing facility to strengthen local agriculture and food supply chains

The conversation emphasized that the county's agriculture is at an inflection point. Secretary Atticks noted efforts to support the expansion of existing small meat processors. In response to Secretary Coker's question about immediate support actions, Ms. Jones volunteered to provide a summary detailing proposed next steps. Additionally, Executive Director Sadowski suggested that MEDCO could offer relevant support and capabilities.

- **Action:** Ms. Jennifer Jones will provide a concept package for meat processing to Departments of Commerce and Agriculture, with support and information sharing offered by MEDCO.

VI. Discussion – Biannual Report Update

In Ms. Mary Hanley's absence, Ms. Judy L. Smith presented an update on the GECS Consolidated Competitiveness Plan. Her update included details on the structure for roles and responsibilities, specifically addressing goal leads and initiative facilitators, as well as the process for communication, feedback, and integration. An overview of each goal and its corresponding team was also shared. Commerce is also ensuring that its strategic agenda is aligned with the Biannual Plan.

Director Speakes-Backman and Secretary Simmons subsequently requested to be added to additional goal groups.

- **Action:** Ms. Hanley will coordinate with DoSeM and the MEA to integrate their Departments into the established goal teams for the Biannual Plan.

VII. Good of the Order

- Secretary Wu announced that more than \$5 million in EARN Grants were awarded by the Department of Labor to help facilitate more than 2,000 Marylanders train for in-demand careers. More information can be found in a recent press release issued by the Governor's office.

VIII. Summary of Key Decisions and Actions

Ms. Smith highlighted follow-up actions resulting from the meeting.

Action items for follow-up:

- Secretary Simmons will follow up with counties on state procurement programs.
- Ms. Jennifer Jones will provide a concept package for processing to Departments of Commerce and Agriculture, with support and information sharing offered by MEDCO.
- Commerce (Mary Hanley) will coordinate with DoSeM and the MEA to integrate them into the established goal teams for the Biannual Plan.

IX. CLOSED SESSION INFORMATION (§ 3-306)(c)(2) or § 3-104

- Time of closed session: 1:46 p.m. to 2:38 p.m. ET
- Place: 401 E. Pratt Street Baltimore, MD 21202, 17th Floor Conference Room
- Purpose(s): The meeting was closed under the provisions of procurement exception under General Provisions Article Section 3-305(b)(14), business location exception under Section 3-305(b)(4), and “other law” exception under Section 3-305(b)(13) and the “other law. Every member voted to meet in closed session.

Persons attending closed session:

Subcabinet:

- Secretary Atticks
- Secretary Weissmann (Richard Auxier)
- Secretary Coker
- Secretary Day (Brad Fallon)
- Secretary Flora
- CEO LeMaile-Stovall
- Director Magruder
- Acting Secretary Quiroz-Livanis (Tiffany Majors)
- Secretary Thomson (Joe McAndrew)
- Secretary McIlwain
- Secretary Chancellor Perman
- Executive Director Sadowski
- Secretary Simmons
- Director Speaks-Backman
- Secretary Wu
- Superintendent Carey Wright (Phil Lasser)

State of Maryland:

- Ricardo Benn
- Afiya Bey
- Julia Chadwick
- Suzanne Dorsey
- Cori Duggins
- April Doss
- Matthew Doyle
- Ivy Gales
- Anupa Geevarghese
- Mary Hanley

- Michael Huber
- Mayank Kapur
- Jayson Knott
- Secretary Susan Lee
- Alexandria Liu
- Michael Lore
- Special Secretary Maria Martinez
- Michelle Masucci
- Tamar Osterman
- Vijay Ramasamy
- Stephen Rice
- Ashley Sharp
- Sarah Sheppard
- Roger Venezia
- Darius White

Topics discussed:

- Moonshot Initiatives
- Data Centers

Action taken:

- No actions were taken.

X. Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.