



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)

June 18, 2026
401 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore MD 21202
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Minutes

Attendance

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

Subcabinet:

- Harry Coker, Chair, Commerce
- Kevin Atticks (Steve Connelly), Agriculture
- Rebecca Flora (Darius White), Planning
- Josh Kurtz (Julia Soloman), DNR
- Katherine Magruder, MCEC
- Susan Lee (Alexandria Liu), State
- Elena Quiroz-Livanis, MHEC
- Serena McIlwain (Suzanne Dorsey), MDE
- Jay Perman (Michelle Masucci), USM
- Joe McAndrew for Kathryn Thomson, MDOT
- Tom Sadowski, MEDCO
- Kelly Speakes-Backman (Ian Ullman) , MEA
- Jake Weissmann (Zaynah Rose), DBM
- Carey Wright (Phil Lasser), Education
- Portia Wu (Ashley Sharp), Labor

Guests:

- Cindy Greb (Charles County Economic Development Department)
- Mary Keller (Labor)
- Karen King-Sheridan (MHEC)
- Michael Lore (State)
- Erin Roth (Labor)
- Marissa Yancone (Labor)

Commerce:

- Ricardo Benn
- April Doss
- John Gilstrap
- Mary Hanley
- Nick Henninger-Ayoub
- Mayank Kapur
- Tamar Osterman
- Stephen Rice
- Judy Smith

I. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Secretary Coker.

II. Quorum Confirmation and Conflict of Interest

Secretary Coker asked Ms. Judy L. Smith to confirm a quorum. A quorum was confirmed and the conflict of interest statement was read. There were no acknowledgements of conflict of interest.

III. May 21, 2026 Meeting Minutes Approval

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting minutes from May 21, 2026 were approved.

IV. Action Item Review and Status

Ms. Smith reviewed the status of action items from the May 21, 2026 meeting.

V. Discussion – Chair’s Report

Secretary Coker reported on the following topics:

- The Loaned Executive website has been launched and is live. Ms. Smith will share a preview of the new site if time permits.
- Per the last meeting, we will be standing up a Rural Communities Taskforce as a direct response to the County Tours feedback.
- Commerce has completed the ROI analysis for its 30 programs as presented at the May GECS meeting. Labor will be presenting their ROI analysis today, and Commerce is still working with DHCD for the presentation of their ROI analysis soon.
- Ms. Cindy Greb, Director of St. Mary’s County Department of Economic Development is joining today’s meeting to share an update on some issues impacting the county, along with recommendations for addressing these issues.
- Commerce is leading a delegation of 15 Maryland life sciences companies to the BIO International Convention in San Diego from June 22-25, 2026. As the largest global gathering of biotechnology entities, with over 20,000 attendees expected, BIO serves as a critical platform for visibility and business development.
- Building on our Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) strategy, Commerce is conducting targeted country-specific meetings.
- Maryland is proud to host the 2026 Quantum World Congress (QWC) from September 23-25 at The Hotel at the University of Maryland and across the College Park campus.
- As of June 8, 2026, Commerce’s pipeline of active attraction, expansion and FDI opportunities is summarized as follows:
 - 35 total opportunities, each representing at least 50 new and/or at-risk jobs
 - 13 attractions, 18 expansions and 4 foreign direct investments

- 8,714 potential new jobs and 2,261 potential at-risk jobs
 - \$33.57 billion in potential new capital expenditure
- o 4 new opportunities were added to the pipeline in May 2026
 - 0 attractions, 4 expansions and 0 foreign direct investments
 - 340 potential new jobs and 0 at-risk jobs
 - 45.7 million in potential new capital expenditure
- Finally, Mary Hanley will provide an update on the Biannual Integrated Economic Development Plan as part of the agenda.

VI. Discussion – St. Mary’s County: Challenges and Themes

In support of the state’s aim to build a collaborative economic development ecosystem for growth, St. Mary’s County was invited to present the challenges and opportunities within the county.

Key Opportunities:

- St. Mary's County Regional Airport is **one of the nation's few airports** anchoring a fully integrated innovation district that connects aviation, research, workforce development, and aerospace industry growth.
- March 2026 runway extension opens doors for larger aircraft, more business, and more visitors to Leonardtown
- West End Concept Plan Nearly Finalized:
 - o 68,900 SF of new commercial hangar space with direct runway access
 - o (4 × 13,000 SF + 1 × 16,900 SF hangars with office space)
 - o 20,640 SF of adjacent flex buildings
- High demand, private-sector success, and TechPort collaboration directly supporting NAVAIR innovation at Pax River
- • Endless opportunities for job creation and economic ripple that flows from St Mary’s County to throughout Maryland

Primary Challenges Impacting Growth:

- Building Maryland’s Aerospace Innovation Ecosystem
- Workforce Development

Requests for the State:

- Recognize Southern Maryland as a Strategic Aerospace & Defense Innovation Hub.
- Invest in workforce development and talent attraction.
- Align housing and economic development strategies.
- Improve statewide coordination around federal contracting and innovation opportunities.
- Support infrastructure that strengthens military readiness and economic competitiveness.

VII. ROI Analysis – Department of Labor

Ms. Erin Roth and the Labor team presented an update of the four programs where Labor will provide a ROI analysis:

- EARN Maryland: In FY25 EARN created an estimated \$19.32 in economic activity for every \$1 invested by the state
- MD Works for Wind: 2,019 apprentices and journey workers upskilled (avg. wage = \$30.55); 213 incumbents upskilled (avg. wage = \$43.39); 527 placed (avg. wage = \$21.14)
- Accelerating Cyber Careers: Average starting wage = \$27.76
- Road to Careers: 479 enrollers, 110 individuals completed training, 287 individuals earning certificates or credentials; and 663 upskilled individuals or placed in new employment

VIII. Site Readiness Program Update – MEDCO

Mr. Tom Sodoawski and team presented the FY26 program accomplishments:

- \$3.35M awarded
- 24 grants
- 18 or 25 Counties participated
- 32 days was the median review time

Additionally, the program's key performance indicators were presented:

- Leveraging Public Dollars: (Exceeded) - FY26 Target 3:1 or 4:1 and currently: 20:1 on horizontal infrastructure (\$60M: \$3M); up to ~300:1 with buildings (\$1B build-out); 75% of matches are private
- Geographic Representation: (Exceeded) - FY26 Target Majority of jurisdictions, Now: 18 of 24 jurisdictions (75%)
- Award Timeline & Ease of Application – (Exceeded) - FY26 Target 60-day review now 32-day median review

IX. Maryland Future Board Discussion – Commerce

Ms. Judy Smith provided the following Future Board Summary:

- Key Objectives:
 - To identify long-term economic development targets for the State and coordinate infrastructure, innovation and workforce development across the state in pursuit of these targets
 - Operates a non-lapsing account to carry funds forward and ensure stable investment in multi-year projects
 - Report directly to the General Assembly on its analysis of economic growth trends and their expected impact on the State's economic conditions to ensure continued accountability to the General Assembly

- The Scope
 - In Scope - Anticipating and describing future technologies, tools, and trends that are predicted to be viable in the next 5-15 years
 - Out of Scope – Technologies, tools and trends that are expected to be obsolete and/or overtaken in the next 5-15 years
- The Members
 - Chair, Governor: 3 appointees, Comptroller, or designee, Senate President: 2 appointees, Speaker of the House: 2 appointees, and Community and Business Leaders in the areas of: Next generation Disruptive Technologies as identified by the Board
 - Commerce will provide input for prospective members by June 26th

X. Discussion – Biannual Report Update

Ms. Mary Hanley provided an update on the biannual plan. She explained that the public-facing, high-level version of the GECS competitiveness plan highlights an initiative’s desired outcome/future end state. She previewed the document’s main graphic that summarizes how the State and its agencies and partners will work together to deliver prosperity for all Marylanders. Finally, she provided a high level delivery schedule for the plan:

- August 2026 - Draft Biannual Integrated Economic Development Plan completed
- October 2026 - Interagency and external socialization completed; feedback integrated
- November 2026 - Final review and approval by GECS; Biannual Integrated Economic Development Plan released

XI. Good of the Order

There were no “Good of the Order” comments made.

XII. Summary of Key Decisions and Actions

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

- Commerce will connect Ms. Greb and MDOT.
- Labor will provide the names of the EARN Maryland grantees to the GECS members.
- Labor will review their four ROI programs to determine if any legislative proposals should be submitted for those programs.
- GECS members are to provide Future Board suggestions for technology and issues inhibiting forward movement.
- USM will provide an update on research initiatives during the July GECS meeting.

XIII. Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.