



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 (Richard Auxier)
Secretary Harry Coker, Chair, (Jerel
Registre)
State Superintendent of Schools Carey
Wright (Lisa Sparr & Alex Reese)
Secretary Serena McIlwain (Scott Goldman)
Secretary Atif Chaudhry (Daniel Chase)
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 (Darius White)
Secretary Susan Lee (Alexandria Liu)
Acting Secretary Samantha J. Biddle (Joe
McAndrew & David Zaidan)
Chancellor Dr. Jay Perman (Diane Walters)

September 22, 2025
401 E. Pratt Street, 17th Floor Conference Room, Baltimore Maryland 21202
1:00 – 3:00pm
Minutes

Attendance

Subcabinet:

- Harry Coker, Secretary (Chair), Commerce
- Kevin Atticks, Agriculture
- Atif Chaudhry (Daniel Chase)
- Jake Day (Rosa Cruz), Housing & Community Development (DHCD)
- Rebecca Flora (Darius White), Planning (MDP)
- Helene Grady (Richard Auxier), Budget and Management
- Josh Kurtz, Natural Resources (DNR)
- Susan Lee (Alexandria Liu), State (SoS)
- Katherine Magruder, Maryland Clean Energy Center
- Maria Martinez, Governor's Office of Small, Minority, and Women's Affairs (GOSBA)
- Serena McIlwain (Scott Goldman)
- Sanjay Rai, Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC)
- Troy LeMaile-Stovall, TEDCO
- Portia Wu, Labor

Guests:

- Akilah Alleyne
- Mona Curran
- Brad Fallon
- Michael Lore
- Jessica Smith

Commerce:

- Ricardo Benn
- Afiya Bey
- Cori Duggins
- Mary Hanley
- Mayank Kapur
- Jayson Knott
- Jim Palma
- Jerel Registre
- Stephen Rice
- Judy L. Smith
- Sarah Sheppard

I. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Secretary Harry Coker, after confirming a quorum.

II. August 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes Approval

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting minutes from August 25, 2025 were approved.

III. Action Item Review and Status

Ms. Afiya Bey reviewed the status of action items from the August 25, 2025 meeting.

IV. AI Intern Presentation

AI Specialist Intern, Ms. Jessica Smith, provided a presentation on her experience as an intern within the Department of Commerce's Policy, Research, and Government Affairs team. Ms. Smith presented the outcomes of her research on Maryland's Business Climate and Identifying Overlap, Duplication & Pathways for Reform.

Ms. Smith's presentation highlighted the current complexities within Maryland's statutes and COMAR, and the essential need for simplification for growth & effective governance. Ms. Smith presented a Business Climate Assessment offering actionable insights for reform & coordination.

Barriers Revealed Through Case Studies included:

- Prolonged Approvals
- Community & Legal Disputes
- Maryland lost high-profile opportunities due to limited or inflexible packages
- Complex environmental and utility processes discouraged investment

Ms. Smith outlined solutions to standardization and harmonization including:

- Option 1 – Policy-Facing Tool and Option 2 – Small Business Tool.

Policy Recommendations Included:

- Modernization must integrate zoning, permitting, and environmental review across levels
- Adoption & Buy-In
- Clear Metrics to Track
- Scaling

Members of the Subcabinet expressed gratitude for the work and presentation. Deputy Secretary of State Michael Lore highlighted upcoming initiatives, including a new

product to be launched soon that will provide updates to COMAR designed to enhance the user experience and simplify government navigation. Additionally, Secretary Rai shared that significant AI innovation in higher education is expected to boost the state's competitiveness.

Secretary Coker thanked and congratulated Ms. Smith on her work this summer.

- **Action:** Secretary Coker requested that Ms. Smith's full presentation will be shared with the Subcabinet.

V. Discussion – Chair's Report

Secretary Coker reported on the following topics:

- Status of the Strategic Agenda and the second phase of its Strategic Planning, which will cover 2027 to 2029. The FY26 Implementation Plan is targeted for finalization by October 31, 2025. These items are happening in parallel.
- The Loaned Executive Program currently focuses on three key areas: Branding, Energy Legislation, and Organizational Construct. A joint meeting was held with some members of the Maryland Economic Council (MEC), Greater Washington Partnership, and Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) and Commerce staff.
- Trade Missions
 - The Trade Mission to Canada will now be led by the Department of Commerce.
 - The recent Secretary-led mission to Ireland and subsequent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) achievements have successfully drawn companies to Maryland.
 - The governor-led mission to Japan generated productive meetings, leading to further discussions and potential partnerships.
- Commerce attended the Hitachi Global Inspire Summit in Washington, DC, following the Hitachi Rail launch in Hagerstown and met with Hitachi leadership. Following this, Hitachi has pledged to organize a workshop dedicated to advancing the quantum ecosystem.

VI. Discussion – Moonshots

Secretary Coker discussed the evolving concept of "Moonshots," emphasizing that the Commerce team is actively defining the term and gathering input from the Subcabinet to compile a list of potential initiatives for consideration. Secretary Coker provided examples and announced that a Moonshot information sheet would be shared with the Subcabinet. The next steps include coordinating with MEDC and MEC to establish working groups.

- **Action:** Ms. Judy L. Smith will add sporting events to the list of potential Moonshots, as suggested by Ms. Alexandria Liu.

- **Action:** Secretary Coker requested that the Moonshot information sheet be sent to the Subcabinet.

VII. Discussion – Business Life Cycle and Touchpoints with Commerce/DHCD/MEDCO/TEDCO

Ms. Judy L. Smith presented updates to a diagram depicting the Business Life Cycle and intersections between Commerce/DHCD/MEDCO/TEDCO, noting that Labor and MARBIDCO had been added. Currently, the information is in raw form, the next step is to make it more user friendly.

Ms. Smith is still awaiting information to finalize the diagram's corresponding spreadsheet.

- **Action:** Upon finalization, Ms. Smith will work with the Commerce Marketing team to enhance the diagram's user-friendliness for subsequent dissemination to the Subcabinet.

VIII. Discussion - AI and Economic Development

Department of Labor Secretary Wu led a Subcabinet discussion on the impact of AI on economic development, including how various departments are addressing AI's effects on skills and jobs. Maryland was identified as a state highly exposed to AI, presenting an opportunity to reskill its workforce to become an AI leader.

- The discussion highlighted the exposure of individuals in customer service, knowledge-based, and entry-level roles and explored solutions such as retooling, public-private partnerships, AI-skilling, and AI entrepreneurship. It was noted that this will be an ongoing conversation that will require continued Subcabinet attention.
- Ms. Smith (Commerce) proposed a tiered approach—short-term, mid-term, and long-term—to tackle the issues. She noted that many of the points raised could be incorporated into the Strategic Agenda, particularly within the Lighthouse Sectors. An immediate step would be to get the word out to citizens.
 - **Action:** Ms. Judy L. Smith will connect Secretary Wu (Labor) to the Library System to facilitate these communications.

IX. Discussion – Biannual Report Update

Ms. Mary Hanley shared an update regarding the Biannual Maryland Consolidated Competitiveness Plan.

- Ms. Hanley has initiated contact with the Subcabinet to request the appointment of representatives to the GECS Competitiveness Plan Working Group. These representatives will be tasked with attending regular virtual meetings with the Department of Commerce and other Working Group members.

- The meeting schedule will include approximately two meetings per month: one full Working Group meeting, and one individual meeting with Mary Hanley (Department of Commerce) to discuss department-specific topics and questions. Ms. Hanley is in the process of scheduling initial meetings with Ms. Afiya Bey and herself to onboard designees into their working group roles.

X. Good of the Order

- Katherine Magruder, Executive Director of the Maryland Clean Energy Center, announced that the Maryland Clean Energy Summit will be held from October 14–15, 2025.
- Secretary Sanjay Rai of the Higher Education Commission announced a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Hagerstown for the new Maryland School of Medicine, to be held later in the day for its inaugural class.
- Department of Agriculture Secretary Kevin Atticks highlighted an upcoming meeting with a company seeking a regional location. He will loop in Commerce when he gets more details.
- TEDCO CEO Troy LeMaile-Stovall announced TEDCO's 11th Entrepreneur Expo to be held Tuesday, October 21, 2025.
- Secretary Coker underscored the open invitation for Subcabinet members to participate in county tours and highlighted the significant benefits derived from roundtable discussions during these events.
- Secretary Coker announced that a future Subcabinet meeting is planned for Prince George's County, with further details to be provided.

XI. Summary of Key Decisions and Actions

Ms. Smith (Commerce) highlighted several follow-up actions resulting from the meeting.

Action Items for Meeting Participants:

- Continue to share potential Moonshots with Commerce.
- Provide feedback regarding the current working definition of Moonshots.

Action Items for Afiya Bey (Commerce):

Send to Subcabinet:

- Full AI Intern presentation from Jessica Smith.
- Moonshot information sheet for review and feedback including:
 - List of examples of Moonshots compiled for reference (as requested by Executive Director Katherine Magruder).

Action Items for Judy L. Smith (Commerce):

- Add sporting events to the list of potential Moonshots (as suggested by Alexandria Liu).
- Connect Secretary Wu (Labor) to the Library System to collaborate on how to

best get the word out regarding AI and Economic Development in the state.

- Vet and send the Collaboration Scheme Diagram and Spreadsheet through the Commerce Marketing department.
 - Send out to the Subcabinet once complete.

XII. Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 2:21 p.m.