



Larry Hogan | Governor
Boyd Rutherford | Lt. Governor
R. Michael Gill | Secretary of Commerce
Benjamin H. Wu | Deputy Secretary of Commerce

The Advisory Council on the Impact of Regulations on Small Businesses

Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 13, 2017

3:30 p.m.

**Neal Conference Room – James Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD**

Advisory Council Members in Attendance:

R. Michael Gill, Secretary, Department of Commerce
Michael Whitson, Tri-County Abstract, Inc.
Leslie Goodwyn, SpeedPro Imaging
Claudia Towles, aMuse Toys

Ellington Churchill, Secretary, Department of General Services, was represented at the meeting by Lauri McGuire and Jack Howard.

Commerce Staff:

Laila Atallah, Lead Counsel
Malachy Rice, Regulations Analyst
Emily Tocknell, Assistant Director, Policy, Research & Government Affairs

I. Introduction

Secretary Gill called the organizational meeting of the Advisory Council to order, and asked members to introduce themselves.

II. Open Meetings Law

Laila Atallah, Counsel for the Maryland Department of Commerce, provided an overview of the Open Meetings Law, and explained that an exemption from the State Ethics Commission's reporting requirements for members has been requested because of the Council's purely advisory role.

III. Maryland's Regulatory Review and Adoption Process

Malachy Rice with the Department of Commerce provided an overview of the purpose of regulations and the State's process for proposing and adopting regulations.

IV. Advisory Council's Role and Responsibilities

Mr. Rice reviewed the statutory purpose of the Advisory Council. During discussion of its statutory responsibilities, members expressed concern about the ability of the Advisory Council to review all proposed State regulations. Ms. Goodwyn raised a question about how frequently the Advisory Council will need to meet. Chairman Gill stated that he understood the time commitment it takes to run a small business and that he will be respectful of the member's time. The Advisory Council agreed to begin its work by focusing on more manageable actions, including: reviewing best practices and existing State law to identify potential regulatory reforms that benefit small businesses; and developing guidelines for State agencies on how estimating economic impact for small businesses.

V. Closing Remarks & Adjournment

Secretary Gill, with the consent of the Advisory Council, provided direction to Mr. Rice to develop a schedule of work for the Advisory Council for the remainder of 2017, and then closed the meeting.