



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)

August 20, 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, Planning
- Katherine Magruder, MCEC
- Susan Lee, State
- Josh Kurtz (Julia Solomon), DNR
- Troy LeMaile-Stovall (Mindy Lehman), TEDCO
- Elena Quiroz-Livanis, MHEC
- Serena McIlwain, MDE
- Jay Perman (Julia Chadwick), USM
- Kathryn Thomson (David Zaidan), MDOT
- Tom Sadowski, MEDCO
- Kelly Speakes-Backman (Jenn Aiosa), MEA
- Carey Wright (Phil Lasser), Education
- Portia Wu (Ashley Sharp), Labor

Guests:

- Sandeep Boppana
- Jim Chandler
- Matthew Cimino
- Emily Dow
- Michelle Frye
- Mindy Lehman
- Alexandria Lieu
- Michael Lore
- Dana Phillips
- Donald Smith
- Vijay Ramasamy

Commerce:

- Ricardo Benn
- Geri Byrd
- Afiya Bey
- Luis Cardona
- Cori Duggins
- April Doss
- Lee Greely
- Mary Hanley
- Ben McGlaughlin

- Stephen Rice
- Auden Seigel
- Sarah Sheppard
- Judy Smith

I. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Secretary Coker.

II. Quorum Confirmation and Conflict of Interest

Following a quorum confirmation, the conflict of interest statement was read. No conflicts of interest were acknowledged.

III. July 16, 2026 Meeting Minutes Approval

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

IV. Action Item Review and Status

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

V. Discussion – Chair’s Report

Secretary Coker reported on the following topics:

- Key insights from the recent Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) conference, highlighting the proposed Rural Communities Taskforce.
- Commerce supported meetings to follow-up from the Governor’s April 2025 mission to South Korea and visits from the South Australian premier and Ambassador and delegation. Commerce will be supporting the upcoming MEDICA conference in November as part of the State Trade Export Promotion (STEP) program.
- Maryland will be hosting the 2026 Quantum World Congress (QWC) from September 23-25 at The Hotel at the University of Maryland and across the College Park campus.

VI. Discussion – Charles County: Challenges and Themes

In support of the state’s aim to build a collaborative economic development ecosystem for growth, Charles County was invited to present the challenges and opportunities within the county. Mr. Jim Chandler Director, Chandler Director of Economic Development and Deputy Director Michelle Frye shared the following:

- The Charles County Economic Development Department focuses on driving wealth creation and regional growth by fostering a competitive business climate.
- As one of Maryland's fastest-growing and most affluent counties, the region leverages key industries such as defense, health, logistics, and agribusiness, supported by initiatives like the BGAP 360 program and LaunchPad entrepreneurship training. Infrastructure also remains a priority.
- The county seeks to expand through establishing Southern Maryland as a strategic defense and aerospace hub, investing in local workforce development, aligning state

energy policies to facilitate faster permitting, and promoting Maryland as a premier destination for talent.

VII. Future Fund Update

Commerce Chief Strategy Officer Judy L. Smith provided an update on the Maryland Future Board. The Future board was established by Senate Bill (SB) 770, to develop, evaluate, and revise a certain visionary plan for the future of Maryland.

VIII. MEC Scorecard

Ms. Smith presented an update on the Maryland Economic Council (MEC) Scorecard, outlining the disposition of the Council's statewide economic recommendations. Building upon the 2024 report designed to address structural inefficiencies, reduce tax burdens, and modernize business support systems, the 2025 agenda tracks 9 total recommendations, with 7 currently in progress and 2 fully completed.

IX. Biannual Plan Update

Ms. Mary Hanley provided an update on the Maryland Biannual Integrated Economic Development Plan, including a status update on implementation planning for Maryland and answering several frequently asked questions about how each department will contribute to the implementation of their respective initiatives.

The plan is to finalize and complete the Integrated Economic Development Plan by November.

X. Governor's Office of Business Advancement (GOBA) Update

Director Luis Cardona presented an update of the Governor's Office of Business Advancement (GOBA). GOBA was established by executive order in December 2024 and provides customized regulatory support for businesses in Maryland, including navigating permitting, resolving regulatory conflicts, and identifying financial incentives.

Outreach efforts include across all 24 Maryland jurisdictions, with referrals primarily coming from state employees, local partners, and the office's own network.

XI. Advanced Manufacturing Update

Benjamin McGlaughlin, Program Manager, Manufacturing, Department of Commerce shared an update regarding Advanced Manufacturing in Maryland including recent wins from a manufacturing AI forum.

The presentation focused on the Manufacturing 4.0 (M4.0) grant program, which provided capital for small and mid-sized manufacturers to leverage private investment, modernize, expand capacity, and generate jobs, wage growth, and increase exports. Maryland aims to lead in

Industrial AI by linking grants, research, data infrastructure, and workforce development via the University of Maryland, creating an ecosystem to help smaller manufacturers compete globally.

XII. Good of the Order

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

XIII. Summary of Key Decisions and Actions

Secretary Coker noted that the Department of Commerce will follow up regarding any action items.

XIV. Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.