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for Mr. Cochran; Ruth U. Keeton, for
Mr. Yeager.

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The Regional Planning Council was created by Chapter 753, Acts of 1963, as the official successor to the Baltimore Regional Planning Council, which was terminated in August 1964. The prior agency had been operating as an arm of the State Planning Department since 1956. By Chapter 7, Acts of 1967, the requirements for membership on the Council were changed so as to provide that a majority of the Council members must be "elected officials." By Chapter 497, Acts of 1971, the Secretary of State Planning, the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Natural Resources, and the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene were made non-voting ex officio members of the Council. By Chapter 699, Acts of 1975, the Council also includes a representative of a municipal corporation within the regional planning area appointed by the Governor on the advice of the chief executives of all the municipalities in the area.

By Executive Order on February 7, 1972, the Governor assigned the Regional Planning Council to the Department of State Planning for certain administrative matters. Basic responsibility for policy, direction and operations remains with the membership of the Council.

The Council's area of jurisdiction covers all of Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard Counties, and encompasses an area of 2,259

square miles. The 1970 Census shows that this metropolitan area has a population of 2,070,670. The Regional Planning Council is in effect a council of local governments with State participation. Its voting membership of twenty-three persons consists of three representatives from each of these six member jurisdictions, a member of the State Senate, a member of the House of Delegates, an elected municipal official, and two members at large. The last five members are appointed by the Governor. Of the three members from each of the six jurisdictions, the following are members: the Mayor of the City of Baltimore, the County Executives of Baltimore and Anne Arundel, Harford and Howard Counties, the President of the Baltimore City Council, the Chairman of the County Council in Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Harford and Howard Counties, the President and a member of the Board of County Commissioners from Carroll County, and a member of the Planning Commissions or Advisory Boards of each of the six member jurisdictions. The elected officials representing the six member political subdivisions have the right to designate an alternate to act in their absence.

The Regional Planning Council provides an opportunity for its member governmental units to work together and with the State in dealing with common problems and planning for the future development of the region.

By law, the Council is required to reexamine, revise if necessary, readopt and republish the General Development Plan for the region every five years, with the next revision scheduled in 1977. Criminal justice, transportation, housing, recreation, water/sewer, solid waste and environmental planning are all facets of the RPC program. RPC's work also encompasses socio-economic analysis and evaluation of regional problems and opportunities. Housing, manpower training, job placement, regional economy and coordination of statistical data resources are included (Code 1957, 1969 Repl. Vol., 1975 Supp., Art. 78D).

Staff: 1975, 92; 1976, 93; 1977, 93.