

By an Executive Order issued by the Governor on May 14, 1965, the Council was recognized as the cooperative planning and development agency in Southern Maryland. The Council was permanently established by Chapter 586, Acts of 1966. It became a corporate body by Chapter 573, Acts of 1970. The Council's enabling legislation was reenacted as State general legislation by Chapter 708, Acts of 1976.

The Council is composed of twenty-three voting members including the State senators and

delegates representing Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties, three county commissioners from each county, one member appointed by the Southern Maryland Municipal Association, and one member-at-large from each county. There are eight non-voting members of the Council who represent each County Planning Commission, each County Economic Development Commission, the Department of State Planning, and the Department of Economic and Community Development (Code 1957, Art. 20).