

The State Trade Policy Council was established in 1985 to advise the Governor and General Assembly on policies concerning the State's role in international trade (Chapter 119, Acts of 1985). These policies include new programs or strategies to enhance international trade opportunities for Maryland citizens.

The Council fosters coordination and communication between public entities and the private sector involved in international trade, and sponsors an annual conference to facilitate the discussion of issues and exchange of information on international trade. The Council also evaluates the effectiveness of State and local programs designed primarily to promote or assist in international trade, and makes assessments and appropriate recommendations concerning changes in federal programs designed to promote or assist international trade.

The Council consists of twenty-five members. Eighteen are appointed to four-year terms by the Governor. They represent local government, the business community, agriculture, labor, international trade professionals, and the general public. Seven serve as ex officio voting members. They include the Secretaries of Agriculture, Economic and Employment Development, and Transportation; the President of the University of Maryland; a representative of the Baltimore office of the U.S. Department of Commerce; and two members of the General Assembly, one nominated by the President of the Senate and the other by the Speaker of the House of Delegates. One member of the Governor's cabinet is designated to serve as chairperson (Code 1957, Art. 41A, sec. 2-108).

MARYLAND ENERGY FINANCING ADMINISTRATION (MEFA)

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Created in 1981, the Maryland Energy Financing Administration (MEFA) administers a program of financial assistance for energy conservation, energy cogeneration, and solar energy projects (Code 1957, Art. 41A, secs. 6-301 through 6-321).

MARYLAND INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL REDEVELOPMENT FUND (MICRF)

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The Maryland Industrial and Commercial Redevelopment Fund (MICRF) became operational in 1980. To provide supplemental financing that supports local commercial or industrial redevelopment efforts, the Fund administers State loans, grants, and loan guarantees to local governments.

Fund money is used to encourage private investment in industrial and commercial redevelopment projects that retain jobs, create new jobs, and increase tax revenues. MICRF funds may be expended directly by a local jurisdiction, or passed through to a third party committed to carrying out the project (Code 1957, Art. 41A, secs. 5-501 through 5-507).

MARYLAND INDUSTRIAL LAND ACT (MILA) PROGRAM

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The Maryland Industrial Land Act (MILA) was enacted by the General Assembly in 1972 (Chapter 360, Acts of 1972). The intent of the Program is to ensure adequate industrial sites throughout the State. The Program may be used to acquire and preserve such sites for the State in partnership with the local political subdivision (Code 1957, Art. 41A, secs. 5-401 through 5-414).

MARYLAND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCING AUTHORITY (MIDFA)

Chairperson: Patricia B. Bissell, 1989

Vice-Chairperson: Joseph Haskins, Jr., 1989

Bernard Koman, 1987; Thomas H. Mullaney, 1987; William F. Brooks, Jr., 1988; William J. Detweiler, 1989; Thomasine M. Tarsell, 1991.