

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Article 88C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "State Planning Commission", be and it is hereby repealed, and that a new Article 88C be and it is hereby enacted in lieu thereof, to stand in the place of the Article so repealed and to be under the new title "State Planning", and to read as follows:*

*Article 88C*

*State Planning*

*1. State Planning Department; purposes*

*There shall be a State Planning Department responsible to the Governor, headed by the Director of State Planning. It shall be the purpose of the State Planning Department to function as the Governor's staff agency in planning matters, and to prepare, recommend and keep up-to-date a balanced, integrated program for the development and effective employment of the natural and other resources of the State, in order to promote the health, safety and general welfare of its citizens. In the execution of its purposes, the State Planning Department shall function as an advisory, consultative and coordinating agency, (1) harmonizing its planning activities with the planning activities of departments, agencies or instrumentalities of state or local government; (2) rendering necessary planning assistance; and (3) stimulating public interest and participation in the development of the State. Nothing contained in this Article shall operate in derogation of planning powers conferred upon departments, agencies or instrumentalities of state or local government by any existing state or local law.*

*2. State Planning Department; powers and duties*

*(a) The State Planning Department shall:*

*(b) Prepare, and from time to time revise, amend, extend or add to, a plan or plans for the development of the State, which plan or plans collectively shall be known as the state development plan. Such plan shall be based on studies of physical, social, economic and governmental conditions and trends and shall aim at the coordinated development of the State in order to promote the general welfare and prosperity of its people. In preparing the state development plan or any part thereof, and in preparing, from time to time, revisions, amendments, extensions or additions, the State Planning Department may seek the cooperation and advice of appropriate departments, agencies and instrumentalities of federal, state and local government, regional and metropolitan planning commissions, educational institutions and research organizations, whether public or private, and of civic groups and private persons and organizations. The state development plan shall embody the policy recommendations of the State Planning Department in regard to the physical development of the State and shall contain:*

*(1) A statement of the objectives, standards and principles sought to be expressed in the plan;*

*(2) Recommendations for the most desirable general pattern of land use within the State, in the light of the best available information concerning topography, climate, soil and underground conditions, water sources and bodies of water, and other natural or environmental factors, as well as in the light of the best available information*