

1. The Commission on Ethnic Affairs is created as a unit within the Department of Economic and Community Development.

- (a) The Commission consists of thirteen persons appointed by the Governor from among the various ethnic organizations in the State in such manner as to be fairly representative of the racial, cultural, and ethnic communities in the State. The Chairman shall be designated by the Governor.

- (b) The term of office of each member of the Commission is two years, except that, of the initial members, seven shall be appointed for a term of one year and six shall be appointed for a term of two years.

2. The Commission shall:

- (a) Advise the Governor on the needs of all ethnic or racial groups in the State of Maryland.

- (b) Cooperate with existing ethnic or racial commissions in the State in an attempt to coordinate their activities.

- (c) Maintain contact with and coordinate the activities of all ethnic and racial communities in the State.

- (d) Promote the exchange of information among ethnic and racial communities.

- (e) Promote studies or projects to further the public understanding of all racial or ethnic communities in Maryland.

- (f) Act as liaison with and provide assistance to ethnic and racial communities in overcoming cultural, language, educational, or social barriers.

- (g) Act as liaison for racial and ethnic communities in dealing with governmental agencies.

- (h) Maintain a listing of all ethnic or racial organizations in the State.

- (i) Conduct studies on the history of needs of any ethnic or racial community.

- (j) Have the ability to seek funds from