

**Recommendations of the Maryland Economic Development and Business Climate Commission  
to Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. and Speaker of the House Michael Busch**

February 2015

1. Elevate and consolidate economic development in the State by creating a new structure headed by a Secretary of Commerce.
2. Empower a newly designed Maryland Economic Development Commission.
3. Realign economic development programs between the Department of Business and Economic Development and the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) to build upon the strengths of each and to clarify where to access State business development resources.
4. As the State's financial conditions improve, increase TEDCO's investment budget to more nearly match those of high-performing states.
5. Bolster outreach efforts by expanding private participation in the State's marketing efforts.
6. Establish a position, housed in the Governor's Office, which is dedicated to design and execute a strategy in support of all federal facilities and to support the needs of businesses that depend on those facilities.
7. Create and fund State programs that capitalize on the federal presence in the State.
8. State agencies with frequent interaction with the business community and the public should receive continuous customer service and business development training.
9. Create within TEDCO a "concierge service" to assist start-ups seeking to establish operations in the State.
10. Initiate a marketing campaign that promotes a welcoming business climate and fosters a pro-business culture among the State's agencies and employees.
11. Expand and publicize the State's Central Business Licensing System.
12. Require State entities with functions affecting business to provide a plan that outlines the steps it will take to facilitate the growth of business and jobs in Maryland while fully carrying out the organization's basic responsibilities.
13. Expedite the implementation of plans to upgrade transportation infrastructure of all types in the Baltimore/Washington Area.
14. Implement third-party review of permits and licenses in the Maryland Department of the Environment and State Highway Administration when requested by an applicant.
15. Authorize a member of the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR) to hold a hearing on a proposed regulation if the State's analysis of the proposed regulation notes a meaningful adverse, small business impact. State's analysis of the proposed regulation notes a meaningful adverse, small business impact.
16. Require the Comptroller to aggregate, secure, and report data on income taxes paid by report data on income taxes paid by corporations and members of pass through entities such as partnerships and limited liability companies as well as data on business incentive tax credits.
17. Require TEDCO to report its non-budgeted funds through the State appropriation process.
18. Recapitalize DBED's training program, the Partnership for Workforce Quality.
19. Develop a statewide, coordinated marketing effort to encourage adult participation in apprenticeships and especially encourage veteran enrollment in apprenticeship programs.

20. Require funds from the State Apprenticeship Training Fund to be used in registered apprenticeship training programs that have veteran outreach programs for current or transitioning service members. .
21. Consider providing matching funds to community colleges to assist in the reestablishment of course offerings that provide individuals the skills needed to pursue employment in trades.
22. Develop a user friendly, streamlined, and appealing apprenticeship website.
23. Establish a pilot apprenticeship program, "Apprenticeship Maryland."
24. Reactivate the Maryland Academy of Sciences, patterned after the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine.
25. Prioritize higher education funding, including capital funding, to a degree that reflects its extraordinary importance.
26. Establish a university executive in residence at DBED.
27. Establish a one semester elective course in engineering in high schools in the State.
28. Reassess State allocation of preK-12 funds to assist in closing the education gap and to assure equity in education.
29. Require all research universities receiving State funds to consider establishing mechanisms of technology transfer, including incubators and innovation hubs, and provide additional State funding to support these efforts.
30. Increase the availability of venture capital through matching investment, publicity, and other programs.
31. Encourage higher education institutions to implement higher education professional development standards.
32. Establish a task force to examine appropriateness of existing conflict of interest laws, procurement rules, and intellectual property policies that inhibit technology transfer.