

# SENATE BILL 472

P1

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CF HB 581

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By: **The President (By Request – Administration) and Senators Bailey, Beidle, Brooks, Carozza, Carter, Charles, Corderman, Elfreth, Ferguson, Folden, Gile, Hershey, Hester, Hettleman, James, Lam, Mautz, McKay, Ready, Rosapepe, Salling, Waldstreicher, West, ~~and Zucker~~ Zucker, and Kagan**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 26, 2024

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Permits, Licenses, and Certificates – Processing**  
3 **(Transparent Government Act of 2024)**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the principal departments of the Executive Branch; requiring  
5 each principal department and independent unit to create a certain catalog of  
6 information relating to permits, licenses, and certificates issued by the department  
7 or independent unit and submit the catalog to the Governor on or before a certain  
8 date; requiring each principal department and independent unit to post certain  
9 information relating to permits, licenses, and certificates on the website of the  
10 department or independent unit on or before a certain date; establishing the  
11 Government Efficiency Commission; and generally relating to the processing of State  
12 permits, licenses, and certificates.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article – State Government  
15 Section 8–201  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

18 BY adding to  
19 Article – State Government

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Section 8–506; and 9–3801 and 9–3802 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 38.  
2 Government Efficiency Commission”  
3 Annotated Code of Maryland  
4 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

5 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
6 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

7 **Article – State Government**

8 8–201.

9 (a) The Executive Branch of the State government shall have not more than [21]  
10 22 principal departments, each of which shall embrace a broad, functional area of that  
11 Branch.

12 (b) The principal departments of the Executive Branch of the State government  
13 are:

14 (1) Aging;

15 (2) Agriculture;

16 (3) Budget and Management;

17 (4) Commerce;

18 (5) Disabilities;

19 (6) **EDUCATION;**

20 [(6)] (7) Emergency Management;

21 [(7)] (8) the Environment;

22 [(8)] (9) General Services;

23 [(9)] (10) Health;

24 [(10)] (11) Housing and Community Development;

25 [(11)] (12) Human Services;

26 [(12)] (13) Information Technology;

27 [(13)] (14) Juvenile Services;

- 1            ~~[(14)]~~ **(15)** Labor;
- 2            ~~[(15)]~~ **(16)** Natural Resources;
- 3            ~~[(16)]~~ **(17)** Planning;
- 4            ~~[(17)]~~ **(18)** Public Safety and Correctional Services;
- 5            ~~[(18)]~~ **(19)** Service and Civic Innovation;
- 6            ~~[(19)]~~ **(20)** State Police;
- 7            ~~[(20)]~~ **(21)** Transportation; and
- 8            ~~[(21)]~~ **(22)** Veterans Affairs.

9 **8-506.**

10            **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
11 **INDICATED.**

12                    **(2) “DEPARTMENT” MEANS A PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT**  
13 **ESTABLISHED UNDER § 8-201 OF THIS TITLE.**

14                    **(3) “INDEPENDENT UNIT” MEANS A UNIT IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH**  
15 **OF STATE GOVERNMENT THAT IS NOT A DEPARTMENT.**

16            **(B) ON OR BEFORE ~~SEPTEMBER~~ OCTOBER 1, 2024, EACH DEPARTMENT AND**  
17 **INDEPENDENT UNIT SHALL:**

18                    **(1) CREATE A CATALOG OF EACH TYPE OF PERMIT, LICENSE, OR**  
19 **CERTIFICATE THAT IT ISSUES; AND**

20                    **(2) SUBMIT THE CATALOG REQUIRED UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS**  
21 **SUBSECTION TO THE GOVERNOR.**

22            **(C) A CATALOG CREATED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION SHALL**  
23 **INCLUDE:**

24                    **(1) A DESCRIPTION OF EACH PERMIT, LICENSE, OR CERTIFICATE;**

25                    **(2) THE TERM FOR WHICH EACH ISSUED PERMIT, LICENSE, OR**  
26 **CERTIFICATE IS VALID;**

1           **(3) THE STATUTORY AND REGULATORY AUTHORITY THAT:**

2                   **(I) AUTHORIZES OR REQUIRES THE DEPARTMENT OR**  
3 **INDEPENDENT UNIT TO ISSUE THE PERMIT, LICENSE, OR CERTIFICATE; AND**

4                   **(II) ESTABLISHES A TIMELINE WITHIN WHICH A DEPARTMENT**  
5 **OR INDEPENDENT UNIT MUST PROCESS AND ISSUE THE PERMIT, LICENSE, OR**  
6 **CERTIFICATE, IF ANY;**

7           **(4) THE METHOD AND PROCESS USED BY THE DEPARTMENT OR**  
8 **INDEPENDENT UNIT TO ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR EACH PERMIT, LICENSE, OR**  
9 **CERTIFICATE, INCLUDING A LIST OF:**

10                   **(I) PRIOR SIGNIFICANT UPDATES TO THE METHOD AND**  
11 **PROCESS; AND**

12                   **(II) THE CURRENT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM USED,**  
13 **AND ANY REMAINING ASSOCIATED TASKS STILL PERFORMED MANUALLY WITH THE**  
14 **SYSTEM;**

15           **(5) AN ESTIMATE OF THE LENGTH OF TIME TO:**

16                   **~~(I) REVIEW AN APPLICATION FOR INITIAL COMPLETION~~**  
17 **DETERMINE IF AN APPLICATION IS COMPLETE; AND**

18                   **~~(II) MAKE A FINAL DETERMINATION FOR A COMPLETED~~**  
19 **APPLICATION TO ISSUE, WAIVE, OR DENY THE PERMIT, LICENSE, OR CERTIFICATE;**

20           **(6) THE APPLICATION FEE CHARGED FOR EACH PERMIT, LICENSE, OR**  
21 **CERTIFICATE AND HOW THE REVENUE COLLECTED FROM APPLICATION FEES IS**  
22 **ALLOCATED;**

23           **(7) ANY STATUTORY OR REGULATORY AUTHORITY THAT MAY IMPACT**  
24 **AN APPLICANT'S ABILITY TO RECEIVE A PERMIT, LICENSE, OR CERTIFICATE BASED**  
25 **ON THE CRIMINAL HISTORY OF THE APPLICANT;**

26           **(8) AN ANALYSIS AND ANY RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT**  
27 **OR INDEPENDENT UNIT ON THE APPROPRIATE LENGTH OF TIME TO PROMPTLY**  
28 **PROCESS COMPLETED APPLICATIONS FOR EACH PERMIT, LICENSE, OR CERTIFICATE**  
29 **AND FACTORS IMPEDING THE TIMELY PROCESSING OF EACH PERMIT, LICENSE, OR**  
30 **CERTIFICATE; AND**

31           **(9) STATUTORY OR REGULATORY CHANGES AND RESOURCES THAT**  
32 **COULD EXPEDITE THE PROCESSING TIMELINE.**

1 (D) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2024, ~~AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER,~~  
2 EACH DEPARTMENT AND INDEPENDENT UNIT SHALL POST ON ITS WEBSITE ~~A~~  
3 ~~DESCRIPTION OF AN INTERIM DESCRIPTION, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, OF THE~~  
4 APPLICATION PROCESS FOR EACH PERMIT, LICENSE, OR CERTIFICATE IT ISSUES,  
5 INCLUDING:

6 (1) ANY UPDATES TO THE APPLICATION PROCESS IN THE PRECEDING  
7 12-MONTH PERIOD; AND

8 (2) THE TIME TO PROCESS EACH APPLICATION TYPE.

9 (E) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2025, AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, EACH  
10 DEPARTMENT AND INDEPENDENT UNIT SHALL POST ON ITS WEBSITE A COMPLETED  
11 UPDATE OF THE INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION  
12 APPLICABLE TO THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 12-MONTH PERIOD.

13 SUBTITLE 38. GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY COMMISSION.

14 9-3801.

15 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
16 INDICATED.

17 (B) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY COMMISSION.

18 (C) "DEPARTMENT" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 8-506 OF THIS  
19 ARTICLE.

20 (D) "INDEPENDENT UNIT" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 8-506 OF THIS  
21 ARTICLE.

22 9-3802.

23 (A) (1) THERE IS A GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY COMMISSION.

24 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION IS TO ENHANCE  
25 GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS BY MONITORING  
26 EFFICIENCY IN THE PROCESSING OF PERMITS, LICENSES, AND CERTIFICATES.

27 (B) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

28 (1) ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF  
29 THE SENATE;

1           **(2) ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE**  
 2 **SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;**

3           **(3) THE SECRETARY OF PLANNING, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

4           **(4) THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT,**  
 5 **OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

6           **(5) THE SECRETARY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, OR THE SECRETARY'S**  
 7 **DESIGNEE;**

8           ~~**(6) THE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION,**~~  
 9 ~~**OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;**~~

10           **(6) THE SPECIAL SECRETARY OF SMALL, MINORITY, AND WOMEN**  
 11 **BUSINESS AFFAIRS, OR THE SPECIAL SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

12           **(7) THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, OR THE SECRETARY'S**  
 13 **DESIGNEE;**

14           **(8) THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, OR THE SECRETARY'S**  
 15 **DESIGNEE;**

16           **(9) THE SECRETARY OF LABOR, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

17           **(10) THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

18           **(11) THE SECRETARY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, OR THE**  
 19 **SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

20           ~~**(11)**~~ **(12) THE CHIEF PERFORMANCE OFFICER; AND**

21           ~~**(12)**~~ **(13) ~~TWO~~ THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE'S BUSINESS**  
 22 **COMMUNITY, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.**

23           **(C) THE GOVERNOR SHALL DESIGNATE THE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION.**

24           **(D) THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE**  
 25 **COMMISSION.**

26           **(E) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION:**

1           **(1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE**  
2 **COMMISSION; BUT**

3           **(2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE**  
4 **STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.**

5           **(F) THE COMMISSION SHALL:**

6           **(1) COMPILE AND INDEX THE REPORTS SUBMITTED UNDER § 8-506**  
7 **OF THIS ARTICLE;**

8           **(2) REVIEW STATUTORY AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS THAT MAY**  
9 **IMPACT THE EFFICIENCY OF PROCESSING PERMITS, LICENSES, AND CERTIFICATES;**  
10 **AND**

11           **(3) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON:**

12           **(I) ANY FACTORS IMPEDING PROMPT AND FAIR PROCESSING**  
13 **OF PERMITS, LICENSES, AND CERTIFICATES;**

14           **(II) STRATEGIES FOR HOW DEPARTMENTS AND INDEPENDENT**  
15 **UNITS CAN IMPROVE PERMITTING AND LICENSING EFFICIENCY; AND**

16           **(III) REMOVING BARRIERS THAT HINDER INDIVIDUALS AND**  
17 **BUSINESSES FROM RECEIVING PERMITS, LICENSES, AND CERTIFICATES.**

18           **(G) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2024, AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE**  
19 **COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT ON ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**  
20 **TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE**  
21 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

22           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
23 1, 2024.