



# The State of Maryland

## Executive Department

### EXECUTIVE ORDER 01.01.2026.18

#### Establishing the Governor's Permitting and Licensing Acceleration Team

- WHEREAS, The timely and efficient processing of permits, licenses, certifications, and other forms of State agency approval is essential to economic competitiveness and public welfare within Maryland;
- WHEREAS, The Moore-Miller Administration values the enhancement of accountability in government through the use of strategic, evidence-based and data-backed solutions to better serve the people of Maryland;
- WHEREAS, Transparent and predictable permitting processes improve regulatory compliance and create a more favorable environment for business development, job creation, and economic growth;
- WHEREAS, Strengthening Maryland's Business Climate to Bolster Economic Competitiveness, Executive Order 01.01.2024.39, signed in 2024 by Governor Moore, established several permitting reform-focused efforts, affirming the Moore-Miller Administration's commitment to strengthening Maryland's economic competitiveness through policies, regulations, and actions that improve and enhance Maryland's business climate, and the modernization of government services through greater accountability and coordination among State agencies;
- WHEREAS, The Maryland Coordinated Permitting Review Council's FY26 Year End report found that centralized permit coordination functions can reduce interagency conflicts and improve communication; and
- WHEREAS, Marylanders deserve a more efficient permit, license, and certification system that is easier to navigate, moves faster, and upholds Maryland's regulatory and environmental standards.

NOW THEREFORE, I, WES MOORE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, HEREBY PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

- A. Establishment.** There is a Governor's Permitting and Licensing Acceleration Team ("PLAT"), that shall be responsible for improving the permit, license, and certification processes in Maryland through greater accountability, coordination, regulatory review, technological improvements, and capacity building with State and local agencies.
- B. Oversight.**

  - 1. PLAT shall be managed by a Director, who is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Governor.
  - 2. PLAT shall be housed within the Maryland Department of Planning, with strategic direction and oversight from the Governor's Office.
- C. Staffing.** The PLAT Director shall select, organize, and direct additional staff who report to and serve at the pleasure of the Director.
- D. Duties.**

  - 1. Focused on permitting, PLAT shall:
    - a. Coordinate State agencies involved in permitting to improve the efficiency, predictability, transparency, and consistency of State permitting processes;
    - b. Evaluate State permitting processes to identify administrative, regulatory, statutory, operational, and technology-related barriers to timely approvals;
    - c. Support State agencies in developing and implementing process improvements, including opportunities to improve coordination, sequencing, communication, and customer service;
    - d. Provide technical assistance and implementation support to State agencies undertaking permitting reform initiatives;

- e. Coordinate with the Maryland Department of Information Technology and State agencies on technology modernization efforts that improve permitting processes, applicant experience, information sharing, and transparency;
  - f. Coordinate enhanced interagency review and issue resolution for select priority projects, building on the work of the Maryland Coordinated Permitting Review Council;
  - g. Engage with local governments and municipalities to better understand State-local permitting dependencies, identify opportunities for improved coordination, and share effective practices;
  - h. Monitor the performance and implementation of State permitting reform efforts and identify opportunities for continued improvement;
  - i. Advise the Governor and State agencies on policy, administrative, regulatory, statutory, and technology changes that may improve State permitting processes;
  - j. Continue to develop deliverables identified in section E. 1 of this Order for additional permit types;
  - k. Implement a recurring State-local permitting and regulatory forum or roundtable series with voluntarily participating local jurisdictions; and
  - l. Develop an applicant-focused concierge-style coordination model for priority projects, including defined project selection criteria and procedures for enhanced interagency coordination and issue resolution.
2. Focused on Licensing and Certifications, PLAT shall:
- a. Coordinate with State agencies, boards, and commissions to improve the efficiency, predictability, transparency, and consistency of licensing and certification processes;
  - b. Evaluate State licensing and certification processes to identify high-impact opportunities for administrative, regulatory, statutory, operational, and technology-related improvement;

- c. Support State agencies, boards, and commissions in developing and implementing process improvements that reduce unnecessary administrative burden and improve service delivery;
- d. Provide technical assistance and implementation support to State agencies, boards, and commissions undertaking licensing and certification reform initiatives;
- e. Identify opportunities to simplify, align, or standardize licensing and certification requirements and practices across State government, where appropriate;
- f. Coordinate with the Maryland Department of Information Technology and State agencies on ongoing and future technology modernization efforts affecting licensing and certification services;
- g. Monitor the performance and implementation of licensing and certification reform efforts and identify opportunities for continued improvement; and
- h. Advise the Governor and State agencies on policy, administrative, regulatory, statutory, and technology changes that may improve licensing and certification processes.

**E. Deliverables.**

- 1. By March 31, 2027, PLAT shall be responsible for developing and delivering:
  - a. A prioritized State permitting, licensing, and certification reform roadmap to guide implementation of reforms that improve efficiency, coordination, transparency, and predictability across State government;
  - b. End-to-end State permitting process maps for priority permit types; and
  - c. End-to-end process maps for selected licensing and certification programs.
- 2. By June 30, 2027, PLAT shall be responsible for developing and delivering:

- a. State and local permitting process maps, developed in partnership with voluntarily participating local jurisdictions, with an initial focus on selected multifamily housing and other priority development processes; and
  - b. Baseline performance measures, processing and review timelines, identification of trends and bottlenecks, and tracking the impact of reforms across Maryland's regulatory landscape, specifically related to housing development.
- 3. By October 1, 2027, PLAT shall be responsible for developing and delivering:
  - a. Analysis of statutory and regulatory policy, and recommendations for legislative reform and agency policy updates, related to housing development;
  - b. Standardized review stages, re-evaluated realistic target timelines, and performance measures for priority permitting, licensing, and certification processes;
  - c. Standard operating procedures and coordination protocols for interagency permitting, including coordination with voluntarily participating local jurisdictions, where applicable, related to housing development;
  - d. Coordinated implementation of standardized processes for permitting practices across State agencies, related to housing development;
  - e. A scalable framework for broader voluntary local participation in State permitting reform efforts; and
  - f. A data dashboard to improve transparency into the status and progress of priority projects.
- 4. By June 30, 2028, PLAT shall be responsible for developing and delivering:
  - a. Coordinated implementation of technology improvements that make permitting, licensing, and certification application, renewal, payment, document submission, and status tracking easier for applicants, including opportunities to improve coordination and information sharing across existing State systems;

- b. An assessment of opportunities to improve information sharing and interoperability between State permitting technology and local permitting systems, where feasible and in partnership with voluntarily participating local jurisdictions;
- c. Applicant-facing resource guides that clearly communicate permitting, licensing, and certification requirements, process steps, timelines, and State and local responsibilities, where applicable; and
- d. A repository of model processes, templates, technology approaches, performance measures, data standards, and implementation lessons that State agencies and local jurisdictions may adapt to their needs.

**F. Reporting.** PLAT shall submit an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly on program activities, performance metrics, progress, and recommendations. The first annual report shall be issued on October 1, 2027.

**G. Cooperation.** All units of the Executive Branch under the direction of the Governor are authorized and directed to cooperate with PLAT in implementing the provisions of this Order, including by:

- 1. Conducting comprehensive permit, license, and certification assessments as requested by PLAT;
- 2. Promptly providing data and information requested by PLAT;
- 3. Designating a liaison to coordinate with PLAT directly, upon request; and
- 4. Implementing process improvements recommended by, and in collaboration with, PLAT.

**H. General Provisions.**

- 1. This Order shall be implemented consistent with all applicable statutes and regulations, and shall not contravene any State or federal law or affect the State's receipt of federal funding.

2. If any provision of this Executive Order or its application to any person, entity, or circumstance is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions or applications of the Executive Order shall remain in effect to the extent possible without the invalid provision or application. To achieve this purpose, the provisions of this Executive Order are severable.

GIVEN Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, in the City of Baltimore, this 1st Day of October 2026.



Wes Moore  
Governor

ATTEST:



Susan C. Lee  
Secretary of State

