



The State of Maryland

Executive Department

EXECUTIVE ORDER
01.01.2026.21

Maryland Maritime Task Force

- WHEREAS, Maryland has a long and proud maritime history;
- WHEREAS, Maryland has attracted historic levels of new public and private investment in the maritime industry, and this growth serves as a catalyst for economic development;
- WHEREAS, Baltimore's deep-water harbor was designated an international port of entry in 1706, and served as a shipbuilding hub for the Revolutionary War and War of 1812;
- WHEREAS, Baltimore's shipyards were vital to the nation's defense in World War I and World War II and Baltimore served as a major port of entry for transatlantic trade throughout the 19th and 20th centuries;
- WHEREAS Today, Maryland operates one of the largest container terminals on the East Coast, the Navy conducts its critical advanced ship design here, and Maryland's maritime industries contribute over \$10.2 billion annually to the State's economy and 115,000 jobs;
- WHEREAS, Maryland hosts exceptional natural resources, a robust and specialized maritime workforce, innovative maritime industries, and world-class academic institutions that are specialized for maritime applications;
- WHEREAS, Maryland is home to the Chesapeake Bay, the Port of Baltimore, the United States Coast Guard Yard in Curtis Bay, the Naval Surface Warfare Center at Carderock, the United States Naval Academy, the Mariner School at Piney Point, The Naval Maritime Intelligence Center, the Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies, the Calhoon Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association Engineering School, several United States Coast Guard stations, and hundreds of commercial, recreational, defense, and trade maritime entities;
- WHEREAS Maryland's maritime sector encompasses marine transportation, ship and boat building and repair, shipping, national defense, critical areas of ship design and testing, world-class research on autonomous crafts, maritime intelligence and national security, tourism and recreation;

WHEREAS, Maryland is uniquely positioned to contribute to national security and economic growth and advance national priorities to strengthen America's maritime capabilities, through its world-class maritime industries, skilled workforce, training programs, research and innovation, shipbuilding and manufacturing capabilities, maritime supplies, and facilities;

WHEREAS, The Maritime Prosperity Zones to be established under the February 2026 White House Maritime Action Plan ("MAP") present an emerging opportunity to advance economic growth in Maryland, including through federal tax benefits for industries supporting shipbuilding and related maritime efforts within designated zones;

WHEREAS, Based on the Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act, numerous federal initiatives are expected to focus significantly on maritime-related activities that are well suited to Maryland's existing maritime infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Maryland recognizes the importance of the MAP opportunities and the national shipbuilding and maritime initiatives, and is committed to pursuing opportunities, partnerships, and initiatives that utilize and strengthen the State's maritime sector, support national security, and promote economic growth.

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.

1. There is hereby established a Maryland Maritime Task Force to identify and pursue national and international maritime-related opportunities.
2. The Task Force shall be administered by the Maryland Department of Commerce.

B. Membership. The Task Force shall consist of the following members:

1. The Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary's designee;
2. The Secretary of Labor, or the Secretary's designee;
3. The Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee;
4. The Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary's designee;
5. The Adjutant General ("TAG") of Maryland, or the TAG's designee;

6. The Director of the Office of Military and Federal Affairs, or the Director's designee;
7. The Executive Director of the Maryland Economic Development Corporation, or the Executive Director's designee;
8. One (1) representative from each of the following entities, appointed by the Governor:
 - i. The Port of Baltimore or the Port of Baltimore Alliance;
 - ii. The Maritime Technology Alliance;
 - iii. The Baltimore or Chesapeake Bay maritime industries;
 - iv. A maritime research entity;
 - v. A maritime training and workforce development program;
 - vi. A labor union or trade association; and
9. Up to five (5) government officials with expertise or a demonstrated interest in Maryland's maritime economy.
10. At the discretion of the Secretary of Commerce, additional members from the following entities may be invited to participate on the Task Force as ex officio members:
 - i. The United States Navy, Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division;
 - ii. The United States Coast Guard, Curtis Bay;
 - iii. The United States Naval Academy;
 - iv. The United States Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District; and
 - v. Subject matter experts to assist in developing strategies and identifying opportunities in specific maritime-related areas.

C. Duties. The Task Force shall:

1. Take all actions necessary to secure a Maritime Prosperity Zone designation for the State;
2. Engage and consult relevant stakeholders to develop and recommend actions to advance Maryland's maritime industry and maritime economy;

3. Identify barriers encountered by public or private entities in pursuing national maritime opportunities and recommend executive, legislative, and regulatory actions necessary to overcome such barriers and increase the utilization of Maryland's resources, workforce, and business entities;
4. Recommend mechanisms to coordinate and strengthen state and federal advocacy efforts to advance Maryland's maritime interests, policies, programs, businesses, and partnerships, including international engagement, workforce training, federal grants and programs, and related opportunities; and
5. Study and make recommendations on business incentives, tax credits, or other economic development tools to expand and support Maryland's maritime industries.

D. Administration.

1. The Governor shall appoint a Chair and Co-Chair from amongst the members of the Task Force, who will oversee and lead the work of the Task Force.
2. The Task Force shall meet as often as its duties require, but no less than every two months, at times and places to be determined by the Chair.
3. At the discretion of the Chair, the Task Force may form subcommittees to carry out the duties set forth in this Executive Order.
4. The Department of Commerce shall staff the Task Force and develop a resource plan to support the Task Force's initiatives.
5. If requested, all executive department agencies shall cooperate with and assist the Task Force in carrying out its duties under this Executive Order.
6. Members of the Task Force may not receive any compensation for their services, but may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred by travel for the performance of their duties, in accordance with the Standard State Travel Regulations, and as provided in the State budget.

E. Reporting.

1. Initial Report. On or before February 1, 2027, the Task Force shall submit a report to the Governor assessing the health and growth of Maryland's maritime sector.
2. Action Plan. On or before April 1, 2027, the Task Force shall submit a report to the Governor outlining its action plan and assessing current opportunities and barriers within Maryland's maritime sector.

3. Progress Reports. On or before June 1, 2027, and every six (6) months thereafter, the Task Force shall submit a report to the Governor detailing the Task Force's progress and fulfillment of the duties set forth in this Executive Order.

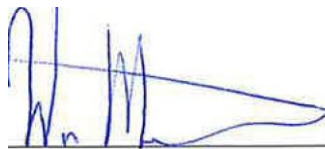
F. Review of Task Force Progress

1. Following each progress report, the Secretary of Commerce shall review the Task Force's progress, economic impact, and the participation of the maritime entities represented on the Task Force and shall recommend to the Governor when the Task Force should terminate.
2. When the Secretary of Commerce determines, based on the review of the progress reports, that the Task Force has fulfilled its purpose and should terminate, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Governor recommending termination.

G. General Provisions.

1. This Executive Order shall be implemented in a manner that is consistent with all applicable statutes and regulations. Nothing in this Executive Order shall operate to contravene any State or federal law or to 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 Annapolis, this 21st Day of October 2026.



Wes Moore
Governor

ATTEST:



Susan C. Lee
Secretary of State

