

How to Form an LLC in Maryland Yourself (2026 Costs and Steps)

A free step-by-step guide from BusinessOwner.com. State information verified from official sources on September 15, 2026.

Quick answer

The cost to file an LLC in Maryland is \$100 plus a 3% Maryland Business Express service/convenience fee if you file online, through the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) at [Maryland Business Express](#).

Step 1: Check that your LLC name is available

Search the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation business name records to ensure your desired LLC name is available before filing.

Step 2: Choose a registered agent

Maryland requires every LLC to have a resident agent. A resident agent is an individual residing in Maryland or a Maryland corporation, LLC, or limited partnership. The agent's address must be a complete physical address in Maryland (no P.O. boxes). You may serve as your own registered agent if you meet these criteria. The agent must sign a consent on the Articles of Organization.

Step 3: File your Articles of Organization

File the Articles of Organization with SDAT. You can file online or by mail. The filing fee is \$100 for both methods. If you file online, you must also pay the Maryland Business Express service/convenience fee, which is 3% of payments processed through Maryland Business Express.

Expedited processing is available for Articles of Organization:

- Expedited service (reviewed within 7-10 business days) costs \$50 and is available for online filings or documents hand-delivered/dropboxed.

SDAT also lists general rush same-day fees for some documents: \$325 online (must be submitted by 2:30 PM; not all documents are eligible for same-day service online) and \$425 on paper (drop the document by 10 AM for same-day review, pick up by 3:45 PM, or go in person by appointment).

Step 4: Create an operating agreement

Create an operating agreement to outline ownership, roles, voting procedures, and what

happens if a member leaves.

Step 5: Get your EIN from the IRS

Get your Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the IRS. This service is free. You can apply at <https://www.irs.gov/ein>.

Step 6: Keep your LLC in good standing

File Form 1 Annual Report and Business Personal Property Return annually with SDAT. The fee is \$300. It is due on or before April 15 each year. You can file online at Maryland Business Express or on paper. The personal property section is required only if the business owns, leases, or uses reportable Maryland personal property.

Frequently asked questions

How much does it cost to file an LLC in Maryland?

The filing fee is \$100. If you file online, you must also pay a 3% Maryland Business Express service/convenience fee.

When is the annual report due?

The Form 1 Annual Report and Business Personal Property Return is due on or before April 15 each year.

Can I serve as my own registered agent in Maryland?

Yes, if you are an individual residing in Maryland or a Maryland corporation, LLC, or limited partnership. Your address must be a complete physical address in Maryland (no P.O. boxes).

Is expedited processing available?

Yes. Expedited service for Articles of Organization filed online or hand-delivered/dropboxed costs an additional \$50, and expedited documents are reviewed within 7-10 business days.

Want us to file it for you? \$249 plus state fees.

Want the whole business set up? Book a call with BusinessOwner.com.

Sources

Official sources, last verified September 15, 2026:

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- [dat.maryland.gov: 2026 Filings - Form 1 Business Entity Annual Report_0426-A.pdf](https://dat.maryland.gov/Documents/Accessible%20Documents/BPP%20-%20Annual%20Reports%20and%20Returns/2026%20Filings%20-%20Form%201%20Business%20Entity%20Annual%20Report_0426-A.pdf)
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- [IRS: Get an employer identification number](https://www.irs.gov/ein)
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