

State government to cope with the new situations or grasp new opportunities for economic development which arise from the peaceful application of atomic energy (Code 1957, 1971 Repl. Vol., Art. 41, sec. 359A).

DIVISION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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The General Assembly originally created the Division of Economic Development and the Economic Development Advisory Commission by Chapter 185, Acts of 1959 "for the general purpose of advancing the economic welfare of the people through programs and activities to develop . . . the State's natural resources and economic opportunities pertaining to commerce, agriculture, mining, forestry, transportation, travel, tourism, and recreation, and to promote and encourage the location of new industries and businesses in the State . . . and . . . the retention and expansion of present enterprises . . . and to foster and develop gainful employment . . ." for residents of the State. In 1970, the Department became a division in the newly-created Department of Economic and Community Development and adopted its present name by Chapter 527, Acts of 1970.

The Division assembles and disseminates information in the interest of economic, industrial, and tourist development; enters into contracts; and is empowered to utilize all existing State agencies, boards, commissions, and institutions as sources of information, except in such cases as are provided by law to be confidential and secret.

The programs of the Division are carried out through the following:

The Business and Industrial Development Office promotes, publicizes, and advertises Maryland's advantages and opportunities for the profitable location of sound new business and industries. The Office initiates and maintains contacts with business and industrial prospects, answers their request for information, and informs them about all Maryland locations which might meet their requirements for successful operation. It arranges for industrial prospects to visit Maryland communities of their choosing, and escorts them on such trips. The Office also assists, encourages, and cooperates with community, regional, and area development efforts, both public and private, including working with community groups in the preparation of Community Economic Inventories and other business and industrial reference and promotional publications. It also conducts an advertising program in national and regional publications which call attention to Maryland's business and industrial advantages and opportunities.

The Business Liaison Office provides services to retain resident business and industry; encourages resident industry to expand operations in Maryland; and helps resolve complaints and grievances about State services from Maryland's business community. The Office exists primarily to help the Maryland businessman improve his relations with State agencies, to see to it that his voice is heard, and to make sure that his inquiries and requests receive prompt attention.

A new international program consists of an International Business Specialist, located in the Division's offices in Annapolis, and a European Industrial Development Representative, stationed in Brussels,