

482, Acts of 1994). The Commission advises the Secretary of Business and Economic Development on ways to encourage new and expanding manufacturing enterprises in Maryland. The Commission also recommends ways to retrain and educate Maryland workers for manufacturing jobs; support research; and foster the growth and viability of manufacturing enterprises in the State.

The Commission's twenty-five members serve three-year terms. Twenty are appointed by the Secretary of Business and Economic Development with the Governor's approval; two by the Senate President; and two by the House Speaker. The Secretary of Business and Economic Development serves ex officio and names the chair (Code 1957, Art. 83A, secs. 3-801 through 3-804).

FEDERAL RESPONSE & TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION

Marsha R. B. Schachtel, *Director*
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Federal Response and Technology Commercialization started as the Office of Technology Development in January 1989. The Office was reformed as the Technology Commercialization Program in 1993, and Federal Response and Technology Commercialization in 1995.

This office stimulates development, application, and commercialization of new technologies for Maryland industries concerned with manufacturing, information services, biotechnology, aerospace, and environmental technology. In this way, it works to retain and expand existing firms and encourage new enterprises within the State.

To support technology businesses, Federal Response and Technology Commercialization coordinates and leverages resources in the public, private and academic sectors. It also serves as liaison to federal government agencies located in Maryland. In addition, the office provides financial support and training grants to companies affected by federal budget cuts and relocations.

DEFENSE ADJUSTMENT FINANCING COMMITTEE

F. Bradford Smith, *Chair*
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In 1994, the Defense Adjustment Financing Committee was formed to oversee the Defense Adjustment Loan Fund within the Department (Chapter 689, Acts of 1994). From the Fund, loans are made to companies in communities adversely affected by reductions in the budget of the U.S. Department of Defense. These loans enable Maryland companies to modernize manufacturing operations, develop commercial applications for technology, or enter and compete in new economic markets. The Committee approves applications for

defense adjustment loans and sets the terms and conditions for such loans.

Appointed by the Secretary of Business and Economic Development, the Committee consists of at least seven members who serve two-year terms (Code 1957, Art. 83A, secs. 6-501 through 6-512).

OFFICE OF REGIONAL RESPONSE

Alan S. Kutz, *Director*
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The Office of Regional Response was created as the Maryland Business Assistance Center under the Division of Business Development. In 1991, Center functions were reorganized as the Office of Business Assistance under the Division of Business Resources. The Office became Business Assistance in 1993 and Office of Regional Response in 1995.

Through four regional offices, the Office works directly with Maryland businesses. It serves as liaison to the many State programs and services designed to enhance the competitiveness of Maryland businesses. The Office also oversees the Maryland Industrial Training Program and serves as an advocate for business in dealing with government-related issues and problems.

PARTNERSHIP FOR WORKFORCE QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD

H. K. Norman Wolske, *Chair*, 1997
(410) 767-0095

The Partnership for Workforce Quality Advisory Board was formed in 1989, when the Partnership for Workforce Quality Program was established within the Department of Economic and Employment Development (Chapter 292, Acts of 1989). The Program provides training services to improve the competitiveness and productivity of Maryland's workers and businesses, upgrade employee skills for new technologies or production processes, and help Maryland businesses promote employment stability. The Board consults with the Work Force Investment Board and advises the Secretary of Business and Economic Development about the Program.

With advice from the Secretary of Business and Economic Development and the Chair of the Work Force Investment Board, the Governor names the Board's fifteen members to three-year terms (Code 1957, Art. 83A, secs. 3-701 through 3-704).

MARYLAND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING PROGRAM

Herbert L. Moore, *Manager*
(410) 767-0095

To develop new workforces and underwrite the training necessary to start and expand operations, the Maryland Industrial Training Program gives grants to businesses. It helps firms use the Maryland Job Service to determine staffing needs and recruit employees. The Program also links businesses to