

- (3) the Economic Development Opportunities Program Fund; AND
- (4) THE CATASTROPHIC EVENT FUND.

7-317.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, "FUND" MEANS THE "CATASTROPHIC EVENT FUND".

(B) SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, THE FUND IS ESTABLISHED TO ENABLE THE STATE TO RESPOND WITHOUT UNDUE DELAY TO A NATURAL DISASTER OR OTHER CATASTROPHIC SITUATION THAT CANNOT BE TAKEN CARE OF WITHIN THE RESOURCES OF EXISTING APPROPRIATIONS.

(C) THE GOVERNOR MAY PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET BILL TO THE FUND.

(D) AFTER NOTICE TO AND APPROVAL BY THE LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE, THE GOVERNOR MAY TRANSFER FUNDS BY BUDGET AMENDMENT FROM THE FUND TO THE EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS OF THE APPROPRIATE UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT.

(E) FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE CATASTROPHIC EVENT FUND:

(1) MAY NOT BE USED TO OFFSET OPERATING DEFICIENCIES IN REGULAR PROGRAMS OF STATE GOVERNMENT; BUT

(2) MAY BE EXPENDED TO ASSIST A UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT IN FUNDING COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH A NATURAL DISASTER OR CATASTROPHIC SITUATION.

(F) (1) THE FUND IS A CONTINUING, NONLAPSING FUND WHICH IS NOT SUBJECT TO SECTION 7-302 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(2) THE TREASURER SHALL SEPARATELY HOLD, AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR, THE FUND.

(3) THE FUND SHALL BE INVESTED AND REINVESTED IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE FUNDS.

(4) ANY INVESTMENT EARNING SHALL BE SUBJECT TO SECTION 7-311(D) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(G) MONEYS APPROPRIATED TO THE FUND DO NOT REVERT TO THE REVENUE STABILIZATION ACCOUNT.

(H) BEFORE JANUARY 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FISCAL PLANNING SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, THE CHAIRMEN OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEES, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISCAL SERVICES THE FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE