

(H) ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF PROPOSED ACTIONS CAN BE ANTICIPATED, MINIMIZED, AND OFTEN ELIMINATED IF ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATIONS ARE MADE A PART OF THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES OF THE STATE.

(I) ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS REPORTS CAN FACILITATE THE FULLEST PRACTICABLE PROVISION OF TIMELY PUBLIC INFORMATION, UNDERSTANDING, AND PARTICIPATION IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES OF THE STATE;

(J) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS AN OBLIGATION TO THE PEOPLE OF MARYLAND TO REVIEW AND EVALUATE PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS AND OTHER PROPOSED LEGISLATION AND THE CONDUCT OF THE STATE AGENCIES IN CARRYING OUT THE POLICY SET FORTH IN THIS SUBTITLE; AND

(K) THE POLICIES, RULES, REGULATIONS, AND PUBLIC LAWS OF THE STATE SHALL BE INTERPRETED AND ADMINISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICIES SET FORTH IN THIS SUBTITLE.

#### 1-303. RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF STATE AGENCIES.

ALL STATE AGENCIES, EXCEPT WHERE EXISTING LAW EXPRESSLY PROHIBITS, SHALL IDENTIFY, DEVELOP, AND ADOPT METHODS AND PROCEDURES THAT WILL ASSURE THAT:

(1) ENVIRONMENTAL AMENITIES AND VALUES ARE GIVEN APPROPRIATE CONSIDERATION IN PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING ALONG WITH ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS;

(2) STUDIES ARE UNDERTAKEN TO DEVELOP AND DESCRIBE APPROPRIATE ALTERNATIVES TO PRESENT POLICIES, PROGRAMS, AND PROCEDURES THAT INVOLVE SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OR UNRESOLVED CONFLICTS CONCERNING USES OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES; AND

(3) PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING INVOLVING ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS ARE UNDERTAKEN WITH THE FULLEST PRACTICABLE PROVISION OF TIMELY PUBLIC INFORMATION AND UNDERSTANDING AND IN COORDINATION WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH JURISDICTION BY LAW, SPECIAL EXPERTISE, OR RECOGNIZED INTEREST.

#### 1-304. ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS REPORTS.

(A) AS OF JULY 1, 1974, ALL STATE AGENCIES SHALL PREPARE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH EACH PROPOSED STATE ACTION SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTING THE QUALITY OF THE