

STATE, MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES, TECHNOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE, ADMINISTRATIVE METHODS, PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES, PRODUCT DEVELOPMENTS, FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS AFFECTING SMALL BUSINESS, AND ANY OTHER NEWS OR INFORMATION HELPFUL TO SMALL BUSINESS; AND

(2) INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ANY SMALL BUSINESS THAT REQUESTS THE SERVICE. THE CONSULTATION AND ASSISTANCE MAY INCLUDE INFORMATION CONCERNING PROCUREMENT OF INVESTMENT CAPITAL, MANAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATION, PRODUCTION, PRODUCT MARKETING, COMPLIANCE WITH GOVERNMENTAL REGULATIONS, AND BUSINESS EXPANSION, RENOVATION, AND DIVERSIFICATION.

266FF-3.

(A) THE DIRECTOR, SHALL COORDINATE WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS TO EFFECTUATE THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBTITLE, AVOID A DUPLICATION OF SERVICES, AND SOLICIT AND OBTAIN COOPERATION AND ANY AVAILABLE FUNDS OR GRANTS TO AID SMALL BUSINESSES IN THIS STATE.

~~(B) THE DIRECTOR SHALL ACT AS AN ADVOCATE TO ASSURE THAT SMALL BUSINESSES RECEIVE FAIR AND NONDISCRIMINATORY CONSIDERATION IN THE LETTING OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS UNDER WHICH STATE FUNDS ARE TO BE USED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO ASSURE THAT SMALL BUSINESSES RECEIVE FAIR AND EQUAL ACCESS TO ALL INFORMATION RELATING TO THE BIDDING OR CONTRACTING PROCESS.~~

~~(C) THE DIRECTOR SHALL ASSIST POLICE DEPARTMENTS IN APPLYING FOR FEDERAL GRANTS FOR THE PROTECTION OF SMALL BUSINESSES IN HIGH CRIME AREAS.~~

(B) WHENEVER POSSIBLE, THE DIRECTOR SHALL UTILIZE THE SERVICES OF EXISTING GOVERNMENTAL, EDUCATIONAL, BUSINESS, INDUSTRIAL, AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR PERSONNEL ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS. ANY PERSON WHO, AT THE REQUEST OF THE DIRECTOR, PROVIDES VOLUNTARY ASSISTANCE TO THE MARYLAND OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE SHALL BE REIMBURSED FOR TRAVEL COSTS AND OTHER REASONABLE AND NECESSARY EXPENSES.

(C) THE DIRECTOR MAY PROCURE THE TEMPORARY OR INTERMITTENT SERVICES OF ORGANIZATION ORGANIZATIONS, EXPERTS, AND CONSULTANTS ON A CONTRACTUAL BASIS.

(D) THE DIRECTOR SHALL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN REGARD TO THE OPERATION OF THE OFFICE, INCLUDING SUGGESTED LEGISLATION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department shall submit to the General Assembly, not later than January 1, 1984, an evaluation of the efficacy of the Office of Small Business Assistance, including the