

402.

(a) [(1)] The General Assembly of Maryland finds and declares that the sale of business opportunities is an increasingly common area of investment problems and deceptive practices in this State.

406.

In addition to any other powers and duties, the Commissioner:

(a) May initiate and conduct investigations within and outside this State as needed:

(1) To determine whether any person has violated or is violating any provision of this subtitle;

(2) To aid in the prescription of rules and forms under this subtitle; or

(3) To aid in any other way in the enforcement of this subtitle;

(b) May conduct public hearings in connection with any investigation in accordance with § 407 of this subtitle;

[(e)] (C) May issue a cease and desist order as to any practice or act found by the Commissioner to be in violation of this subtitle;

[(c)] (D) May publish generally information concerning violations of provisions of this subtitle, and orders and rules made under this subtitle;

[(d)] (E) May report to any appropriate law enforcement officer information concerning any violation of this subtitle;

[(e)] (F) May bring an action or may request the Attorney General to bring an action in the name of the State of Maryland to enforce the provisions of this subtitle or any rules or orders made under this subtitle; and

[(f)] (G) May assist, develop, and conduct programs of public education and information through publications and other materials prepared for distribution to the public on the subjects of this subtitle.

412.

In connection with the offer or sale of any business opportunity, a person may not:

(e) Make or authorize the making of any reference to its compliance with this subtitle in any advertisement or