

(C) -- THE COUNCIL MAY EMPLOY A PROFESSIONAL STAFF TO ASSIST IN CARRYING OUT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL.

(1) -- THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF SERVES AT THE PLEASURE OF THE COUNCIL.

(2) -- THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE STATE MERIT SYSTEM.

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(A) -- IN ADDITION TO THE POWERS SET FORTH ELSEWHERE IN PART I OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE COUNCIL MAY:

(1) -- ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE;

(2) -- CREATE COMMITTEES FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS;

(3) -- APPOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEES;

(4) -- APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT FEDERAL AND OTHER FUNDS AVAILABLE TO CARRY OUT THIS SUBTITLE;

(5) -- ACCEPT GRANTS, GIFTS, AND REQUESTS FROM ANY SOURCE TO CARRY OUT THE SUBTITLE; AND

(6) -- CONTRACT WITH ANY PERSON INCLUDING ANY LOCAL HEALTH PLANNING AGENCY, FOR STUDIES, DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION, AND PROVISION OF SERVICES THAT ARE NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE TO CARRY OUT THE FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

(B) -- IN ADDITION TO THE DUTIES SET FORTH ELSEWHERE IN PART I OF THIS SUBTITLE THE COUNCIL SHALL:

(1) -- BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ESTABLISHING, ADOPTING, MODIFYING, REVISING, AND CARRYING OUT A STATE HEALTH PLAN; AND

(2) -- (1) -- ESTABLISH A CERTIFICATE OF NEED PROGRAM;

(11) -- HAVE THE SOLE AUTHORITY TO MAKE DECISIONS ON AN APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF NEED.

(C) -- INFORMATION.

IN ADDITION TO INFORMATION THAT AN APPLICANT FOR A CERTIFICATE OF NEED MUST PROVIDE, THE COUNCIL MAY REQUEST, COLLECT, AND REPORT ANY STATISTICAL OR OTHER INFORMATION, INCLUDING INFORMATION FROM A HEALTH CARE FACILITY OR PROVIDER OF HEALTH CARE THAT:

(1) -- IS NEEDED BY THE STATE AGENCY TO PERFORM ITS DUTIES UNDER THE LAW; AND