

266DD-3[(d), (e), (f),, and (g)] (H), (I), (J), AND (L) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

[266FF-1.

(a) (1) There is a Maryland Office of Small Business Assistance within the Department of Economic and Community Development.

(2) The Office shall foster, support, and assist the economic growth and revitalization of small business in Maryland. These activities should include, but not be limited to coordinating the efforts of small business extension services throughout the State.

(b) (1) In this subtitle, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

(2) "Center" means a small business extension service center.

(3) "Office" means the Maryland Office of Small Business Assistance.

(4) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Department of Economic and Community Development.

(5) "Small business" means any Maryland business concern that is independently owned and operated and is not dominant in its field or industry.]

[266FF-2.

(a) (1) The Secretary shall appoint a director of the Office, an assistant director, and other personnel as required.

(2) The director shall be knowledgeable in business investment and finance, and shall develop and maintain continual liaison with financial institutions and federal agencies.

(3) The assistant director shall be knowledgeable in business administration and management, and shall develop and maintain continual liaison with business and industrial concerns.

(b) (1) The director shall designate one public institution of higher education in each major region of the State to serve as small business extension service center.

(2) One center shall be designated in each of the following regions:

(i) Western: Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Frederick, and Carroll counties;