19–107.

(A) THE OFFICE SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR INVESTIGATING DISCRIMINATION AND RETALIATION COMPLAINTS FILED UNDER THIS TITLE.

(B) (1) IN CONDUCTING ITS INVESTIGATION, THE OFFICE MAY ENLIST THE ASSISTANCE OF ONE OR MORE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN SELECTED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VOLUNTEER EXPERTS POOL ESTABLISHED UNDER § 19–120 OF THIS TITLE.

(2) THE ROLE OF ANY WITNESSES SELECTED FROM THE VOLUNTEER EXPERTS POOL SHALL BE TO HELP THE OFFICE EVALUATE THE CLAIM BY PROVIDING INFORMATION REGARDING INDUSTRY CUSTOM AND PRACTICE IN A PARTICULAR AREA OF BUSINESS.

(C) (B) THE OFFICE MAY REQUEST THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL COMMISSION PROVIDE ADDITIONAL STATE PERSONNEL OR OUTSIDE CONSULTANTS AS MAY BE REASONABLY NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION.

(D) (C) (1) THE OFFICE SHALL EXERCISE REASONABLE JUDGMENT IN SEEKING RELEVANT EVIDENCE FROM THE COMPLAINANT, THE RESPONDENT BUSINESS ENTITY AND, AS NECESSARY, EXTERNAL SOURCES.

(2) THIS TITLE MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO REQUIRE THE STATE TO FUND THE COST OF:

(I) HAVING STATE STAFF OR OTHER INDIVIDUALS TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE MARYLAND METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA STATE TO INVESTIGATE ANY CLAIM UNDER THIS TITLE; OR

(II) HAVING WITNESSES TRAVEL TO THE STATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATING A CLAIM OR TESTIFYING AT A HEARING OR PROCEEDING UNDER THIS TITLE.

(D) (1) CONSISTENT WITH THE PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT AND THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT, THE OFFICE MAY ISSUE PROTECTIVE ORDERS FOR GOOD CAUSE TO LIMIT, OR OTHERWISE IMPOSE CONDITIONS ON, ACCESS BY ANY PERSON TO ANY DOCUMENT IN THE POSSESSION OF A PARTY.

(2) A PROTECTIVE ORDER ISSUED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY INCLUDE:

(I) A DOCUMENT IN THE POSSESSION OF THE STATE OR OTHERWISE IN THE RECORD THAT IS NOT A PUBLIC RECORD; AND

(II) INFORMATION DISCLOSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 19–116 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(E) THE OFFICE SHALL EXERCISE REASONABLE DISCRETION IN DETERMINING THE EXTENT OF THE INVESTIGATION REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S COMMISSION'S INITIAL FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.