

~~TECHNICAL RESOURCES, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RURAL BROADBAND SERVICES IN RURAL AND UNDERSERVED AREAS OF THE STATE;~~

~~(3) COORDINATE WITH THE RURAL COUNCILS IN MANAGING PROCUREMENT PROCESSES FOR IMPLEMENTING A FIBER OPTIC BROADBAND BACKBONE AND OTHER APPROPRIATE BROADBAND TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES IN RURAL AND UNDERSERVED AREAS; AND~~

~~(4) ACT AS A FISCAL AGENT FOR THE RURAL COUNCILS AND RURAL BROADBAND COOPERATIVES IN FINANCING THE DEPLOYMENT OF BROADBAND TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES IN RURAL AND UNDERSERVED AREAS OF THE STATE WITHIN THE REGIONS SERVED BY THE RURAL COUNCILS.~~

~~(C) (1) THE SECRETARY SHALL APPOINT AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE OFFICE.~~

~~(2) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SERVES AT THE PLEASURE OF THE SECRETARY.~~

~~(D) THE OFFICE SHALL COOPERATE WITH OTHER UNITS OF STATE GOVERNMENT.~~

~~(E) SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY, THE OFFICE MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SUBTITLE.~~

~~5-1902. 5-1902.~~

(A) THERE IS A RURAL BROADBAND ASSISTANCE FUND IN THE OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO ASSIST RURAL IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BROADBAND COOPERATIVES IN DEVELOPING BROADBAND TELECOMMUNICATION COMMUNICATION SERVICES IN RURAL AND UNDERSERVED AREAS AND MAKING THOSE SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC OF THE STATE.

(C) THE OFFICE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

(D) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO REVERSION UNDER § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

(2) THE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY, AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

(E) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

(1) MONEY TRANSFERRED TO THE FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 4-313(C)(2) OF THE TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE MARYLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY AND FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BROADBAND COMMUNICATION SERVICES IN RURAL AND UNDERSERVED AREAS OF THE STATE;

(2) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND;

(3) FEDERAL MONEY ALLOCATED OR GRANTED TO THE FUND; AND