

(3) State whether the political subdivision has examined the feasibility of creating educational or training opportunities for employers and employees of business entities located or to be located in the proposed enterprise zone; and

(4) Set forth the standards with which a business entity must comply as a precondition to its receiving the incentives and initiatives set forth in this subtitle.

(e) Within 60 days following any submission date, the Secretary may designate one or more enterprise zones from among the applications submitted to the Secretary on or before that submission date, provided, however, that the Secretary may not designate more than 6 enterprise zones in any [12-month period] CALENDAR YEAR and no county may receive more than 1 area designated as an enterprise zone in any calendar year. The determination of the Secretary as to the areas designated enterprise zones shall be final, except that, for any area not designated an enterprise zone, a political subdivision may reapply at any time to the Secretary for designation of that area as an enterprise zone.

(f) Any area that is designated an enterprise zone or an empowerment zone under federal law shall automatically and without any additional action by the political subdivision or the Secretary be designated an enterprise zone under this section without regard to any limitation on the number of enterprise zones that may be designated by the Secretary. However, the incentives and initiatives provided for in this subtitle shall not be available to business entities located in an enterprise zone designated under federal law unless the Secretary and the Board of Public Works shall consent to the designation.

(g) An application by a political subdivision and the designation by the Secretary of an area as an enterprise zone shall constitute the State approval that may be required for designation as an enterprise zone under federal law.

(h) Before designating an enterprise zone, the Secretary shall consult with and ask the advice of the appropriate individuals and advisors.

(i) (1) A political subdivision may apply to the Secretary for the expansion of an existing enterprise zone in the same manner as the political subdivision would apply for the designation of a new enterprise zone.

(2) The Secretary may grant an expansion of an enterprise zone into any area that meets the requirements of § 5-403 of this subtitle.

(3) IF THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF A PROPOSED EXPANSION AREA DOES NOT EXCEED 50% OF THE EXISTING GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF THE ENTERPRISE ZONE, THE EXPANSION MAY NOT COUNT TOWARDS THE LIMITATIONS, PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION, ON THE NUMBER OF ENTERPRISE ZONES THAT THE SECRETARY MAY DESIGNATE IN A CALENDAR YEAR OR THAT A COUNTY MAY RECEIVE IN A CALENDAR YEAR.

(j) (1) The Secretary may grant an extraordinary expansion of an enterprise zone into any area that:

(i) Meets the requirements of § 5-403 of this subtitle; and