

(C) (1) THE OFFICE SHALL HAVE THE PERSONNEL AND FUNDING AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET. THE SECRETARY OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SECRETARY OF PERSONNEL, SHALL ESTABLISH THOSE POSITIONS, TECHNICAL OR PROFESSIONAL IN NATURE, THAT SHALL BE UNCLASSIFIED.

(2) THE OFFICE HAS AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT OR MAKE GRANTS CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION. ALL CONTRACTS AND GRANTS SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE. PROCUREMENTS FOR SERVICES OR SUPPLIES TO BE PERFORMED OR DELIVERED OUTSIDE THE STATE SHALL BE CONSISTENT WITH, BUT NOT SUBJECT TO, THE PURPOSES OR REQUIREMENTS OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

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(A) THERE IS A STATE TRADE POLICY COUNCIL ESTABLISHED TO:

(1) ADVISE THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON POLICIES CONCERNING THE STATE'S ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE, INCLUDING THE INITIATION OF NEW PROGRAMS OR STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MARYLAND CITIZENS.

(2) FOSTER COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PUBLIC ENTITIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVED IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE;

(3) SPONSOR AN ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO FACILITATE THE DISCUSSION OF ISSUES AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE;

(4) EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAMS DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO PROMOTE OR ASSIST IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THEIR CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT; AND

(5) ASSESS, AND MAKE APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS, CONCERNING CHANGES IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO PROMOTE OR ASSIST IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

(B) THE COUNCIL SHALL CONSIST OF 25 MEMBERS AS FOLLOWS:

(1) THE FOLLOWING SHALL BE VOTING EX OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

(I) 1 MEMBER OF THE GOVERNOR'S CABINET, OTHER THAN A MEMBER SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED IN THIS SUBSECTION, WHO SHALL SERVE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL;

(II) THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION;