

(h) There is a comprehensive flood management grant program within the Department of Natural Resources.

(1) Subject to the approval of the Board of Public Works, the Department may use proceeds from the State debt created to fund the comprehensive flood management grant program to pay the entire cost of watershed studies pursuant to subsection (b). The Department may provide grants to subdivisions to pay the entire cost of watershed studies when the Department delegates that responsibility pursuant to subsection (b).

(2) Subject to the approval of the Board of Public Works the Department may provide grants to subdivisions for flood control and watershed management capital projects, and for the capital costs related to design, purchase, and installation of automated flood warning projects, provided that the projects are consistent with the plans and implementation prepared and adopted in accordance with this subtitle, and provided further that each project:

(i) Is undertaken as part of a comprehensive flood management plan prepared and adopted by the subdivision; and

(ii) Is not inconsistent with any State or interjurisdictional flood management plan.

(3) Grants for automated flood warnings projects shall be conditioned to require all affected local governing bodies to:

(i) Adopt a specific and compatible response plan which has been coordinated with local emergency management authorities and reviewed and approved by the Department and the Maryland Emergency Management and Civil Defense Agency; and

(ii) Provide for financial and other commitments to properly operate and maintain the project.

(4) (I) SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE DEPARTMENT MAY PROVIDE GRANTS TO SUBDIVISIONS IMMEDIATELY AFTER A FLOOD FOR ACQUISITION OF ANY FLOOD DAMAGED OWNER-OCCUPIED DWELLING.

(II) TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR GRANTS MADE UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH MAY NOT EXCEED 50 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL AUTHORIZED BUDGETED FUNDS IN A FISCAL YEAR FOR GRANTS UNDER SUBSECTION (H) OF THIS SECTION.

[(4)] (5) The amount of any grant made by the Department for a flood control and watershed management capital project shall be matched by a minimum amount of 50 percent of local funds. The Department may provide up to 50 percent of the nonfederal share of the funding for a flood control and watershed