

WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes the need to establish the Maryland Small Business Extension Service Center Program; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments

MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS EXTENSION SERVICE CENTER PROGRAM

266FF-1.

(A) (1) THERE IS A MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS EXTENSION SERVICE CENTER PROGRAM WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL FOSTER, SUPPORT, AND ASSIST THE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND REVITALIZATION OF SMALL BUSINESS IN MARYLAND BY COORDINATING THE EFFORTS OF SMALL BUSINESS EXTENSION SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

(B) (1) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING TERMS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS EXTENSION SERVICE CENTER PROGRAM.

(3) "SECRETARY" MEANS THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

(4) "SMALL BUSINESS" MEANS ANY MARYLAND BUSINESS CONCERN THAT IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED AND IS NOT DOMINANT IN ITS FIELD OR INDUSTRY.

266FF-2.

~~(A) (1) THE SECRETARY SHALL APPOINT A DIRECTOR OF THE PROGRAM AND OTHER PERSONNEL AS REQUIRED.~~

~~(2) THE DIRECTOR SHALL BE KNOWLEDGEABLE IN SMALL BUSINESS FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT, AND SHALL DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN CONTINUAL LIAISON WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, BUSINESS CONCERNS, AND FEDERAL AGENCIES.~~

(B) (A) (1) THE SECRETARY SHALL CONTRACT WITH A PUBLIC AGENCY, AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, OR A PRIVATE CONTRACTOR IN EACH MAJOR REGION OF THE STATE TO SERVE AS A SMALL BUSINESS EXTENSION SERVICE CONTRACTOR.

(2) ONE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RETAINED WITHIN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING REGIONS: