

(iii) Providing, in cooperation with the private sector, a listing of potential barter and joint venture opportunities[.];

(3) Coordinate its programs with the Departments of Agriculture and Transportation, the University of Maryland, and other appropriate federal, State, local, and private agencies and organizations[.];

(4) Assume lead agency status with respect to the maintenance and development of sister-state relationships[.];

(5) Encourage and facilitate regional efforts to develop local and regional international trade programs and expertise, consistent with State efforts, through technical assistance and use of matching grants to public or private regional entities[.];

(6) Participate, where appropriate, and in conjunction with other units of the Department [of Economic and Community Development], the Department of Transportation, and any other State agencies or departments, in Maryland overseas offices to provide informational and marketing services to support international trade efforts of the office[.];

(7) Assist local governments and other entities in the marketing and development of foreign trade zones for international trade[.]; AND

(8) Engage in any other activity reasonably necessary to achieve the purposes of this section.

(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.

[11-208.] 2-108.

(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,