

Article - Agriculture

10-303.

(a) The Board shall encourage and foster agriculture in the State through promotion and assistance of agricultural fairs, exhibits, or other activities. For this purpose, the Board, subject to approval of the Secretary, has exclusive, complete control of the distribution and expenditure of all funds allocated to it pursuant to the provisions of Article 78B of this Code for the payment of premium awards; promotional, educational activities, or other activities, either in connection with a bona fide agricultural fair, exhibit, or activity, as the Board determines, and for one State fair each year, as designated by the Board; and the Board shall administer the distribution of the grant provided in § 19 (a) of Article 78B to the Maryland State Fair and Agricultural Society, Inc.

(b) The Board, subject to approval of the Secretary shall adopt rules and regulations to govern the conduct, qualifications, and requirements of agricultural fairs, exhibits, or activities to which allocations or distributions are made.

(c) No agricultural fair, exhibit, or activity may receive any financial assistance from the Board, unless it has met all qualifications and requirements as set forth in the rules and regulations. The decision of the Board, after approval of the Secretary, shall be final with respect to every question relating to whether any agricultural fair, exhibit, or activity shall be entitled to financial assistance under the provisions of this section.

[(d) Before January 1 of the year preceding the fiscal year in which a State grant is authorized to be paid to the Maryland State Fair and Agricultural Society, Inc., the Society shall submit a report to the Board of Public Works and, subject to § 2-1312 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly outlining the current progress and plans for the following year for the construction, expansion, relocation, replacement, and modernization of the Society's facilities and equipment used in conducting the State Fair. Copies of the report shall be distributed to the Secretary of Agriculture, the State Fair Board and the Department of Fiscal Services.]

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1987.

Approved April 29, 1987.