

(6) IN COOPERATION WITH THE MARYLAND INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION AND THE MARYLAND STATE POLICE, CONDUCT PUBLIC OUTREACH AND AWARENESS PROGRAMS ON THE COSTS OF INSURANCE FRAUD TO THE PUBLIC.

6-204.

(A) (1) PRIOR TO PROSECUTION, THE FRAUD DIVISION SHALL PRESENT ANY EVIDENCE OF ALLEGED INSURANCE FRAUD TO THE LOCAL STATE'S ATTORNEY IN THE JURISDICTION WHERE THE ALLEGED ACTS OF INSURANCE FRAUD TOOK PLACE.

(2) THE LOCAL STATE'S ATTORNEY MAY:

(I) INVESTIGATE ANY PERSON SUSPECTED OF ENGAGING IN INSURANCE FRAUD; AND

(II) WHERE APPROPRIATE AFTER AN INVESTIGATION, CRIMINALLY PROSECUTE A PERSON FOR INSURANCE FRAUD.

(B) (1) IF, WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE PRESENTATION OF A CASE UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FAILS TO NOTIFY THE FRAUD DIVISION IN WRITING OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY'S INTENTION TO PROSECUTE THE CASE, THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY CRIMINALLY PROSECUTE A PERSON FOR INSURANCE FRAUD.

(2) IF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY HAS NOT INITIATED A PROSECUTION WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER THE PRESENTATION OF A CASE UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY CRIMINALLY PROSECUTE A PERSON FOR INSURANCE FRAUD.

(C) IN CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION UNDER THIS SUBTITLE, THE INSURANCE FRAUD DIVISION SHALL COOPERATE AND CONSULT AS NECESSARY WITH THE INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION, THE STATE'S ATTORNEYS, THE MARYLAND STATE POLICE, THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL, THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS.

(D) (1) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL ASSIGN ONE OR MORE ASSISTANT ATTORNEYS GENERAL TO ASSIST THE INSURANCE FRAUD DIVISION IN THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS DUTIES.

(2) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL ANNUALLY REPORT TO THE INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION AS TO ALL REFERRED FRAUD CASES, DETAILING ANY GENERAL UNDERLYING FACTORS THAT MAY ASSIST IN OR IMPROVE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S ABILITY TO PROSECUTE ANY FUTURE FRAUD CASES.

6-205.

(A) FUNDING FOR THE FRAUD DIVISION SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

(B) THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AN APPROPRIATION SUFFICIENT FOR THE OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.