

(11) ENCOURAGE THE UTILIZATION OF THE STATE'S INNOVATIVE IDEA AWARD PROGRAM AND THE INCENTIVE PERFORMANCE AWARDS PROGRAM FOR STATE EMPLOYEES UNDER TITLE 8, SUBTITLE 2 OF THE STATE PERSONNEL AND PENSIONS ARTICLE AND ASSESS THE NEED FOR EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY UNDER THESE PROGRAMS;

(12) WORK WITH APPROPRIATE STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS:

(I) TO ASSESS THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF EXISTING STATE MANDATES IMPOSED ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND OF PROPOSALS FOR HELPING TO MITIGATE THE FISCAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE MANDATES;

(II) TO EVALUATE THE FUNDING AND MANAGEMENT OF THOSE COUNTY-FUNDED STATE ENTITIES SPECIFIED IN ARTICLE 24, § 8-101 OF THE CODE;

(III) AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR INDIVIDUAL STATE GRANT PROGRAMS, TO INVESTIGATE BLOCK GRANT FUNDING PROPOSALS THAT AFFORD GREATER FLEXIBILITY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL FOR USE OF GRANT FUNDS;

(IV) TO IDENTIFY DUPLICATIVE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND DETERMINE WHICH LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE EXCLUSIVELY RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FUNDING OF THESE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES;

(V) TO FORMULATE SHORT- AND LONG-TERM STRATEGIES THAT FOCUS ON THE OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET NEEDS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE EXTENT, IF ANY, TO WHICH THE STATE SHOULD BE COMMITTED TO HELP FINANCE THESE NEEDS; AND

(VI) TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATE CHANGES, IF ANY, TO EXISTING TAXING AUTHORITIES; AND

(13) HOLD REGULAR PUBLIC HEARINGS THROUGHOUT THE STATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF SOLICITING PUBLIC INPUT PERTINENT TO COST EFFICIENCY IN STATE GOVERNMENT.

9-1808.

(A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE, THE COMMISSION, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ARE NOT PERSONALLY LIABLE IN ANY ACTION FOR DAMAGES BECAUSE OF ACTS COMMITTED OR OMITTED BY THE COMMISSION, ANY MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION, OR ANY EMPLOYEE OF THE COMMISSION, IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES.

(B) THE IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY IN THE CASE OF WILLFUL MALFEASANCE OR BREACH OF TRUST BY THE STATE, THE COMMISSION, OR ANY OF ITS MEMBERS OR STAFF.