

(2) Encourage and facilitate the participation by Maryland businesses in barter and counter trade transactions and joint venture transactions, where appropriate, by:

(i) Providing informational and consultative services on, but not limited to, the necessary components, laws, and regulations involved in these transactions;

(ii) Facilitating the commercial relationship between the Maryland business and counterpart foreign business involved in these transactions; and

(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, ENVIRONMENT, and Transportation, the University of Maryland System, 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, 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~~ ENCOURAGE THE LOCATION OF NEW INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIAL OR COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES IN THE STATE, IN COORDINATION WITH local governments and other entities [in the marketing and development of foreign trade zones for international trade]; and

~~(8)~~(7) Engage in any other activity reasonably necessary to achieve the purposes of this section.

(c) (1) The [Office] DIVISION shall have the personnel and funding as provided in the State budget. The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Personnel, shall establish those positions, technical or professional in nature, that shall be in the unclassified service of the State Personnel Management System, INCLUDING A DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION.

(2) The [Office] DIVISION 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 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.

~~(3) THE DIVISION MAY ACCEPT AND EXPEND ANY GIFTS OR GRANTS FROM PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SOURCES FOR ANY OF THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION.~~