

(VI) INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS MADE BY STATE EMPLOYEES CONCERNING FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE IN THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS AND ANY ALLEGED VIOLATION OF THE PROCUREMENT LAW OR REGULATIONS;

(VII) INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS, OTHER THAN FORMAL BID PROTESTS FILED UNDER TITLE 15, SUBTITLE 2 OF THIS ARTICLE, MADE BY CONTRACTORS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES CONCERNING FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE IN THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS AND ANY ALLEGED VIOLATION OF THE PROCUREMENT LAW OR REGULATIONS;

(VIII) IF ~~ALLEGED~~ APPARENT CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS ARE FOUND IN THE COURSE OF AN INVESTIGATION, REPORT FINDINGS TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, AND STATE OR LOCAL PROSECUTORS, AS APPROPRIATE;

(IX) IF OTHER APPARENT VIOLATIONS OF LAW OR REGULATION ARE FOUND IN THE COURSE OF AN INVESTIGATION, REPORT FINDINGS TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE APPROPRIATE AGENCY HEAD, AND ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE BODY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION;

(X) PRODUCE AND SUBMIT TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1312 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, AN ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PROCUREMENT ADVISOR, INCLUDING:

1. ALL FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PROCUREMENT SYSTEM; AND

2. THE IDENTIFICATION OF BARRIERS TO EFFECTIVE BROAD-BASED COMPETITION IN STATE PROCUREMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ELIMINATION OF THESE BARRIERS;

(XI) ASSIST AGENCIES AND THE PUBLIC WITH QUESTIONS REGARDING PROCUREMENT POLICY;

(XII) ESTABLISH POLICIES FOR THE EFFECTIVE TRAINING OF STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICIALS TO ENSURE THAT THE STATE'S PROCUREMENT SYSTEM IS UTILIZING THE MOST ADVANCED PROCUREMENT METHODS AND MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES;

(XIII) COORDINATE ACTIVITIES WITH OTHER ENTITIES PERFORMING SIMILAR FUNCTIONS;

(XIV) REVIEW INTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS AND COMMENT AS APPROPRIATE; ~~AND~~

(XV) BE THE PRINCIPAL STAFF TO THE PROCUREMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL; AND

(XVI) NOTIFY THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR WHEN THE PROCUREMENT ADVISOR UNDERTAKES AN INVESTIGATION UNDER ITEMS (VI) OR (VII) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.