

(i) "Secretary" means the Secretary of BUSINESS AND Economic [and Employment] Development.

(j) "Submission date" means April 15 and October 15 of any calendar year.

[5-302.] 5-402.

(a) Any political subdivision may apply to the Secretary for designation of an area within that political subdivision as an enterprise zone, but if a county seeks to designate an area within a municipal corporation as an enterprise zone, then the governing body of the municipal corporation must first consent.

(b) Any county may apply to the Secretary on behalf of a municipal corporation, with the consent of such municipal corporation, for designation of any area within that municipal corporation as an enterprise zone.

(c) Two or more political subdivisions may apply jointly to the Secretary for designation of an area as an enterprise zone which may be located astride their common boundaries.

(d) The application shall be in the form and manner and contain such information as the Secretary may, by regulation, determine, provided that the application shall:

(1) Contain information sufficient for the Secretary to determine if the criteria established in [§ 5-303] § 5-403 have been met;

(2) Be submitted on behalf of the political subdivision by its chief elected officer, or, if none, by the governing body of the political subdivision;

(3) State whether the political subdivision has examined the feasibility of creating educational or training opportunities for employers and employees of business entities located or to be located in the proposed enterprise zone; and

(4) Set forth the standards with which a business entity must comply as a precondition to its receiving the incentives and initiatives set forth in this subtitle.

(e) Within 60 days following any submission date, the Secretary may designate one or more enterprise zones from among the applications submitted to the Secretary on or before that submission date, provided, however, that the Secretary may not designate more than 6 enterprise zones in any 12 month period and no county may receive more than 1 area designated as an enterprise zone in any calendar year. The determination of the Secretary as to the areas designated enterprise zones shall be final, except that, for any area not designated an enterprise zone, a political subdivision may reapply at any time to the Secretary for designation of that area as an enterprise zone.

(f) Any area that is designated an enterprise zone under federal law shall automatically and without any additional action by the political subdivision or the Secretary be designated an enterprise zone under this section without regard to any limitation on the number of enterprise zones that may be designated by the Secretary. However, the incentives and initiatives provided for in this subtitle shall not be available to business entities located in an enterprise zone designated under federal law unless the Secretary and the Board of Public Works shall consent to the designation.