

- (4) Assist the growth and revitalization of small businesses;
- (5) Support the growth of the State and regional economies by providing consulting, technical assistance, and liaison activities on business and economic development issues;
- (6) Promote the development of international trade activities;
- (7) Assist businesses and employees through training and other employment services;
- (8) Promote regulatory reform and coordinate efforts with other State and local agencies; and
- (9) Foster and develop gainful employment opportunities for residents of this State.

Subtitle 2. [Office of Business Development and Resources] GENERAL DUTIES.

[3-201.

There is an Office of Business Development and Resources within the Department.]

[3-202.] 3-201.

The [Office] DEPARTMENT shall:

(1) Investigate and assemble information pertinent to the economic development, industrial opportunities and economic resources of the State, including raw materials, power and water resources, transportation facilities, markets, labor, banking and financing facilities, industrial sites and other fields of research;

(2) Encourage location and development of new business enterprises in the State and the retention and expansion of present enterprises in coordination with local governing bodies and local economic development agencies;

(3) [Coordinate its activities with those of the Division of Tourism and Promotion in the promotion of tourism in the State;

(4)] Encourage formation of local and sectional development committees and cooperate with local civic groups and other local, State and federal development agencies;

[(5)](4) Disseminate information in the interest of industrial development in this State, by publication, advertising and other means;

[(6)](5) Assist businesses in the areas of technology development and commercialization, small business development, workforce development and productivity, manufacturing modernization, and defense conversion;

[(7)](6) Serve as ombudsmen for businesses affected by State policies and programs;