

[(8)](7) Coordinate business assistance service delivery to individual companies;

[(9)](8) Link groups of businesses to address regional and industry specific needs;

[(10)](9) Broker information exchange and entrepreneurial services that enhance economic development through partnerships with businesses, nonprofit organizations, professional groups, local economic development entities, and local governments;

[(11)](10) Assist in developing and conducting regional strategic planning and coordinating State investments with regional economic development entities;

[(12)](11) Collect and assemble information and data available from other State agencies and departments;

[(13)](12) Monitor economic conditions, release reports, and maintain inter-industry models of State regulations and local economies;

[(14)](13) Utilize the resources of the State's community colleges, as the [Office] DEPARTMENT deems appropriate, to provide assistance in the delivery of services; and

[(15)](14) Administer those programs assigned to the [Office] DEPARTMENT by law or designated by the Secretary.

[3-203.

The Secretary, with the approval of the Governor, shall appoint a Director of the Office. The Director shall hold office at the Secretary's pleasure and may be removed by the Secretary, with the approval of the Governor. Any such removal by the Secretary is final and is not subject to any appeal. The Director shall be selected because of known experience and interest in the development of natural resources and industrial and business opportunities. The Director shall operate this Office under the direction of the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of the law relating to establishment of the Department.]

[3-204.

In the performance of duties, the Director, subject to the approval of the Secretary or the Secretary's designee, is hereby authorized and empowered to make and enter into contracts, and to assume such other functions as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this subtitle that are not inconsistent with this or other acts. The Director, subject to approval of the Secretary, may make and enter into contracts with other boards, commissions, agencies and institutions of this State or other states, upon such terms as may be mutually agreed upon, to have such studies and research activities conducted as may be necessary and proper, and is authorized to pay the cost thereof out of funds which may be appropriated to the Office.]