

(4) THE FUND SHALL BE INVESTED AND REINVESTED IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE FUNDS.

(5) ANY INVESTMENT EARNINGS SHALL BE RETAINED TO THE CREDIT OF THE FUND.

(6) THE FUND SHALL BE SUBJECT TO AN AUDIT BY THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITS AS PROVIDED FOR IN § 2-1220 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

(7) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT THE FUND FROM RECEIVING FUNDS FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE.

(8) THE FUND SHALL BE USED ONLY TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE COMMISSION AND FOR THE PURPOSES AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS ARTICLE.

2-203.

(a) The State budget shall provide sufficient money for the Office of People's Counsel to hire necessary staff in addition to the staff assistance that is provided under § 2-205(c)(2) of this subtitle.

(b) The Office of People's Counsel may retain as necessary for a particular matter or hire experts in the field of utility regulation, including cost of capital experts, rate design experts, accountants, economists, engineers, transportation specialists, and lawyers.

Article — State Finance and Procurement

11 203.

~~(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, this Division II does not apply to:~~

~~(1) procurement by:~~

~~(xv) the Forum for Rural Maryland; [and]~~

~~(xvi) the Maryland State Lottery Agency, for negotiating and entering into private sector cooperative marketing projects that directly enhance promotion of the Maryland State Lottery and its products, if the cooperative marketing project:~~

~~1. provides a substantive promotional or marketing value that the lottery determines acceptable in exchange for advertising or other promotional activities provided by the lottery;~~

~~2. does not involve the advertising or other promotion of alcohol or tobacco products; and~~

~~3. is reviewed by the Attorney General and approved by the Maryland Lottery Director or the Director's designee; AND~~

~~(XVII) THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.~~