

(b) To provide regional planning in the area of the State subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission, and except as otherwise provided in this section, the [Office] DEPARTMENT may include in the annual budget of the [Office] DEPARTMENT the amount the [Director] SECRETARY considers appropriate as the State's share of the cost of regional planning projects programmed by the Commission for the following fiscal year.

(c) The amount included in the annual budget under subsection (b) of this section may not exceed \$100,000 in any single year.

(d) The [Director] SECRETARY shall determine which regional planning projects programmed by the Commission qualify for State assistance.

(e) (1) The Commission shall provide the [Director] SECRETARY with any information the [Director] SECRETARY requires to determine which regional planning projects programmed by the Commission qualify for State assistance.

(2) On or before August 1 of each year, the Commission shall provide the [Director] SECRETARY with a copy of the proposed budget of the Commission for the following fiscal year. After the copy of the proposed budget is provided to the [Director] SECRETARY, the Commission shall promptly notify the [Director] SECRETARY and obtain the approval of the [Director] SECRETARY for any changes in the proposed budget for regional projects funded under this section.

(f) The [Director] SECRETARY may require an annual audit of the operations of the Commission that relate to any project financed wholly or partly by payments to the Commission from the [Office] DEPARTMENT.

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(a) There is within the [Office] DEPARTMENT a program for certification of effective county agricultural land preservation programs.

(b) A county may apply to the [Office] DEPARTMENT and the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation for certification under this section only if the County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board and the governing body of the county both:

(1) approve the program established at the county level as being an effective approach to agricultural land preservation; and

(2) approve the county's application for certification.

(c) (1) A county may apply for certification under this section if the county has established programs to encourage participation of farmers in agricultural land preservation efforts at the county level, including purchase of development rights or financial enhancements related to purchase of development rights, outside of the State Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation.

(2) County programs shall include any program that the [Office] DEPARTMENT and the Foundation: