

~~(2) THE SPECIAL SECRETARY SHALL APPOINT AND REMOVE STAFF IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE STATE PERSONNEL AND PENSIONS ARTICLE.~~

~~9-1406.~~

(A) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER POWERS AND DUTIES IMPOSED BY LAW, THE OFFICE HAS THE POWERS AND DUTIES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION.

(B) THE OFFICE SHALL:

~~(1) EXAMINE THE SMART GROWTH PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND PLANS OF STATE AGENCIES TO IDENTIFY DUPLICATIONS, INEFFICIENCIES, AND UNMET NEEDS IN THE STATE AND TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THOSE PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND PLANS;~~

~~(2) COORDINATE THE SMART GROWTH PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND PLANS OF STATE AGENCIES TO ENSURE INTERAGENCY CONSENSUS AND COOPERATION;~~

(1) REVIEW STATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS RELATED TO SMART GROWTH TO DETERMINE THEIR APPLICABILITY, IF ANY, TO PROJECTS THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE STATE'S SMART GROWTH POLICY;

(2) PROMOTE INTERAGENCY CONSENSUS AND COOPERATION ON PROJECTS THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE STATE'S SMART GROWTH POLICY AND RESOLVE CONFLICTING AGENCY POSITIONS ON PROJECTS IN AN EXPEDITED MANNER;

(3) PROVIDE ADVISORY AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL JURISDICTIONS AND TO THE PUBLIC IN PREPARING, FINANCING, AND DEVELOPING SMART GROWTH AND NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION PROJECTS;

(4) GATHER AND DISSEMINATE INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC, INCLUDING LOCAL JURISDICTIONS, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, AND DEVELOPERS ON HOW TO DEVELOP PROJECTS THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE STATE'S SMART GROWTH POLICY;

(5) PROVIDE A SINGLE POINT OF ACCESS FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, INCLUDING LOCAL JURISDICTIONS, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, ~~AND DEVELOPERS,~~ AND COMMUNITY AND HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATIONS WHO NEED ASSISTANCE OR GUIDANCE IN NAVIGATING THE PROCESSES AND REGULATIONS OF STATE AGENCIES ON PROJECTS THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE STATE'S SMART GROWTH POLICY;

(6) WORK WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN EXPEDITING REVIEW OF PROJECTS THAT BOTH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE STATE AGREE ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE STATE'S SMART GROWTH POLICY;

~~(7) IN COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, IMPROVE PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN THE STATE CLEARINGHOUSE FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL ASSISTANCE, AS ESTABLISHED IN § 5-500 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE;~~