

a value less than \$1.00 for each pack of 20 cigarettes must be stamped with the additional stamps necessary to make the aggregate value equal to \$1.00. In lieu of the additional stamps necessary to make the aggregate tax value equal to \$1.00 the Comptroller may provide an alternate method of collecting the additional tax. The revenue attributable to this requirement shall be remitted to the Comptroller by September 30, 2002. Except as provided above, on and after June 1, 2002, no Maryland stamp shall be used except the stamp issued by the Comptroller to evidence the tobacco tax on cigarettes of \$1.00 imposed by this Act.

SECTION 18. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) In this section, "Special Fund" means the special fund established under this section.

(b) (1) A Special Fund is established to dedicate certain tobacco tax revenues for education aid purposes as provided in this section.

(2) The Special Fund is a continuing, nonlapsing fund which is not subject to § 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

(3) The Special Fund consists of the tobacco tax revenues distributed to the Fund under subsection (c) of this section.

(4) The Treasurer shall separately hold, and the Comptroller shall account for, the Special Fund.

(5) (i) The Special Fund shall be invested and reinvested in the same manner as other State funds.

(ii) Any investment earnings shall be credited to the General Fund of the State.

(c) Notwithstanding § 2-1603 of the Tax - General Article or any other provision of law, for fiscal year 2003 only, after making the distributions required under §§ 2-1601 and 2-1602 of the Tax - General Article, from the remaining tobacco tax revenue, the Comptroller shall distribute:

(1) ~~\$78,524,611~~ ~~\$78,523,604~~ \$80,523,604 to the Special Fund; and

(2) The remaining balance to the General Fund of the State.

(d) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this Act, moneys in the Special Fund shall be retained in the Special Fund and may not be spent for any purpose.

(2) Of the moneys credited to the Special Fund, subject to the budget amendment procedure provided for in § 7-209 of the State Finance and Procurement Article:

(i) ~~\$62,656,835~~ \$64,656,835 may be used to make grants for fiscal year 2003 to county boards of education and the New Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners as provided under Section 11 of this Act;