

UNDER THIS SECTION, HAS GIVEN INFORMATION TO THE DEPARTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION, HAS CAUSED TO BE INSTITUTED OR IS ABOUT TO CAUSE TO BE INSTITUTED A PROCEEDING UNDER THIS SECTION, OR HAS TESTIFIED OR IS ABOUT TO TESTIFY IN A PROCEEDING, SHALL BE DEEMED IN VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION AND SHALL BE SUBJECT TO A CIVIL PENALTY OF AT LEAST \$2,000 BUT NOT MORE THAN \$10,000 FOR EACH VIOLATION.

(G) (1) AN EMPLOYEE MAY NOT:

(I) MAKE A GROUNDLESS OR MALICIOUS COMPLAINT TO THE COMMISSIONER OR AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMISSIONER;

(II) IN BAD FAITH, BRING AN ACTION UNDER THIS SUBTITLE; OR

(III) IN BAD FAITH, TESTIFY IN AN ACTION UNDER THIS SUBTITLE OR A PROCEEDING THAT RELATES TO THE SUBJECT OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(2) THE COMMISSIONER MAY BRING AN ACTION FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND DAMAGES AGAINST A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

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(b) (1) The Fund is a continuing, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7-302 of this subtitle.

(2) There shall be credited to the Fund all revenues consisting of funds received by the State from any source resulting, directly or indirectly, from any judgment against or settlement with tobacco product manufacturers, tobacco research associations, or any other person in the tobacco industry relating to litigation, administrative proceedings, or any other claims made or prosecuted by the State to recover damages for violations of State law.

(3) THERE SHALL BE CREDITED TO THE FUND ALL MONEYS COLLECTED UNDER § 24-508 OF THE HEALTH - GENERAL ARTICLE OR § 5-608 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE.