

(c) The Treasurer shall:

- and
- (1) invest and reinvest the Fund in the same manner as other State funds;
 - (2) credit any investment earnings to the Fund.

(d) Expenditures from the Fund shall be made by:

- (1) an appropriation in the annual State budget; or
- (2) a budget amendment in accordance with § 7-209 of this article, provided that any budget amendment shall be submitted to and approved by the Legislative Policy Committee prior to the expenditure or obligation of funds.

(e) In accordance with the provisions of subsection (f) of this section, the [Secretary of Budget and Fiscal Planning] DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION or the designee of the [Secretary] DIRECTOR shall:

- (1) administer the Fund;
- (2) develop plans, prepare and submit proposals to the Governor for Fund use, and undertake any action that is necessary to obtain for the Fund all energy overcharge refunds and judgment awards to which the citizens of the State have a legal entitlement;
- (3) assess and determine the respective needs of the citizens of the State and develop recommendations for the allocation and disbursement of funds in accordance with those needs pursuant to the provisions of subsection (f) of this section;
- (4) conduct public hearings at least twice a year at times and places the [Secretary] DIRECTOR or the designee of the [Secretary] DIRECTOR determines; and
- (5) perform other duties as may be assigned by the Governor.

(f) (1) The Fund shall be expended subject to any restrictions on its use or other limitations on its allocation that are:

- (i) expressly provided by statute; or
- (ii) required as a condition of the acceptance of funds.

(2) The Fund shall be expended:

- (i) for emergency energy assistance provided under Article 41, § 6-406(1) of the Code;
- (ii) for energy assistance programs provided under Article 41, § 6-406(2) of the Code;
- (iii) for energy assistance and weatherization programs provided under Article 83B, [§§ 4-202 and 4-701 through 4-704] §4-202, AND ARTICLE 41, §§ 10-701 THROUGH 10-704 of the Code;