

and opportunities for the citizens of this State;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, HARRY HUGHES, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, HEREBY ISSUE THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER:

1. The Secretaries of Economic and Community Development, Transportation and Agriculture, or their designees, shall meet at least quarterly and as needed to:
 - (a) Coordinate existing departmental programs and develop new strategies to improve economic development, tourism, international trade and export efforts. This coordination shall be carried out in conjunction with appropriate federal agencies to include, but not limited to, the United States Departments of Commerce, Transportation and Agriculture.
 - (b) Address issues of mutual concern respecting economic development and trade with emphasis on overseas operations and marketing efforts and the provision of comprehensive service and assistance to local government and private sector businesses;
 - (c) Coordinate the marketing and promotional efforts of the three departments to provide more leverage and efficiency in connection with international trade shows and expositions, promotional literature and media advertising, trade missions, seminars and training sessions for Maryland exporters and assistance with financing;
 - (d) Coordinate, where appropriate, the operations of overseas agency offices to provide a unified Maryland approach to overseas international trade, tourism, and transportation marketing efforts;
 - (e) Coordinate, in conjunction with the University of Maryland, other institutions of higher learning, and appropriate local, federal and private sector organizations, information gathering and analysis in support of economic development, international trade and export efforts and to provide for greater sharing of trade data; and
 - (f) Coordinate delivery of technical assistance to Maryland businesses seeking to enter or expand in the export area.
2. The Secretaries shall submit semi-annual reports to the Governor regarding implementation of this Executive Order.