

(ii) to augment the efforts of advanced technology centers AND SIMILAR PROGRAMS that serve agricultural and natural resources based small businesses in rural areas through community colleges.

(3) (i) The Fund is a continuing, nonlapsing fund which is not subject to § 7-302 of this article.

(ii) The Treasurer shall separately hold and the Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

(iii) The Treasurer may invest moneys in the Fund in the same manner as other State money may be invested.

(4) Expenditures from the Fund may only be made:

(i) pursuant to an appropriation approved by the General Assembly in the annual State budget; or

(ii) by the budget amendment procedure provided for in § 7-209 of this article, provided that:

1. the budget amendment and supporting information have been submitted to the budget committees for their review and comment; and

2. at least 45 days have elapsed from the time the budget amendment and supporting information were submitted to the budget committees.

[(d) The Board of Public Works shall designate the Department of Business and Economic Development as the agency to administer the grant funding under this section.]

[(e) (D) The [Department of Business and Economic Development] COUNCIL shall award grants on the basis of the BINDING recommendations of the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Board.

[(f) (E) (1) There is a Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Board.

(2) The Board shall consist of:

(i) the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary's designee;

(ii) the Secretary of Business and Economic Development or the Secretary's designee;

(III) THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

(IV) THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

[(iii) (V) the Secretary of Natural Resources or the Secretary's designee; and