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§9–1A–35.

(a) There is a Small, Minority, and Women–Owned Businesses Account under the authority of the Board of Public Works.

(b) (1) The Account shall receive money as required under § 9–1A–27 of this subtitle.

(2) Money in the Account shall be invested and reinvested by the Treasurer and interest and earnings shall accrue to the Account.

(3) The Comptroller shall:

(i) account for the Account; and

(ii) on a properly approved transmittal prepared by the Board of Public Works, issue a warrant to pay out money from the Account in the manner provided under this section.

(4) The Account is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7–302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

(5) Expenditures from the Account shall only be made on a properly approved transmittal prepared by the Board of Public Works as provided under subsection (c) of this section.

(c) (1) In this subsection, “eligible fund manager” means an entity that has significant financial or investment experience, under criteria developed by the Board of Public Works.

(2) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (3) of this subsection, the Board of Public Works shall make grants to eligible fund managers to provide investment capital and loans to small, minority, and women–owned businesses in the State.

(3) The Board of Public Works shall ensure that eligible fund managers allocate at least 50% of the funds from this Account to small, minority, and women–owned businesses in the jurisdictions and communities surrounding a video lottery facility.

(d) Fund managers receiving grants under this section shall:

(1) keep proper records of funds and accounts;

(2) provide an annual report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1246 of this article, the General Assembly on investment capital and loans made

pursuant to subsection (c) of this section; and

(3) be subject to audit by the Office of Legislative Audits of the Department of Legislative Services.

(e) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, an eligible fund manager may use money from grants received under this section to pay expenses for administrative, actuarial, legal, and technical services.

(2) The Board of Public Works shall set the maximum amount of grant money that each eligible fund manager may use under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(f) Each fiscal year the Legislative Auditor shall audit and evaluate the utilization of the funds that are allocated to small, minority, and women-owned businesses by eligible fund managers under subsection (c)(3) of this section.

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