§ 143B-285.23. Powers and duties of the Secretary of Environmental Quality.
The Secretary of Environmental Quality shall:
> (1)   Establish an Office of Environmental Education and Public Affairs to:
>> a.   Serve as a clearinghouse of environmental information for the State.
>> b.   Plan for the Department's future needs for environmental education materials and programs.
>> c.   Maintain a computerized database of existing education materials and programs within the Department.
>> d.   Maintain a speaker's bureau of environmental specialists to address environmental concerns and issues in communities across the State.
>> e.   Evaluate opportunities for establishing regional environmental education centers.
>> f.   Administer the Project Tomorrow Award Program to encourage school children to discover and explore ways to protect the environment.
>> g.   Assist the Department of Public Instruction in integrating environmental education into course curricula.
>> h.   Develop and implement a grants and award program for environmental education projects in schools and communities.
> (2)   Coordinate, through technical assistance and staff support and with participation of the Department of Public Instruction and other relevant agencies, institutions, and citizens, the planning and implementation of a statewide program of environmental education.
> (3)   Be responsible for such matters as the purchase of educational equipment, materials, and supplies; the construction or modification of facilities; and the employment of consultants and other personnel necessary to carry out the provisions of this Part.
> (4)   Encourage coordination between the various State and federal agencies, citizens groups, and the business and industrial community, in the dissemination of environmental information and education.
> (5)   Utilize existing programs, educational materials, or facilities, both public and private, wherever feasible. (1993, c. 501, s. 28; 1997-443, s. 11A.119(a); 2010-31, s. 13.1A(d); 2015-241, s. 14.30(v).)