

ipalities, special districts, or other local governmental units within the region as well as neighboring regions and with the programs of federal departments and agencies;

(n) provide information to officials in state departments, agencies, and instrumentalities; to federal, and local governments and to the public at large, in order to foster public awareness and understanding of the objectives of the comprehensive plan and the functions of regional and local planning, and in order to stimulate public interest and participation in the orderly, integrated development of the region; and

(o) execute any and all instruments and do and perform any and all acts or things necessary, convenient, or desirable for its purposes or to carry out the powers expressly given in this section.

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(b) The Tri-County Council shall be a *tax-exempt* public body corporate and politic, and shall operate as a cooperative planning and development agency within the representative counties to foster the physical, economic and social development of the tri-county area and utilize effectively the assistance provided by the State. It shall initiate and coordinate plans and projects for the development of human and economic resources of the Southern Maryland region as a Southern Maryland planning and development agency.

The Council will cooperate with the State departments and agencies concerned, including, but not limited to the Department of State Planning, State Department of Economic Development, the State Office of Economic Opportunity, the State Roads Commission and the Department of Natural Resources, and submit for approval plans and projects of the Council in which such departments or agencies have statutory functions and responsibilities. *The Attorney General of Maryland shall serve as legal advisor to the Council in all matters pertaining to the Council's activities.*

(d) Without in any manner limiting or restricting the general powers conferred by this section, the Tri-County Council may:

(1) adopt and have a common seal and alter the same at pleasure;

(2) sue [and be sued] , *but shall be immune from being sued;*

(3) adopt bylaws and make rules and regulations for the conduct of its business;

(4) make and enter into all contracts or agreements necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties;

(5) borrow money and apply for and accept advances, loans, grants, contributions and any other form of assistance from the federal government, the state, or other public body, or from any sources, public or private, for the purposes of this section, and give such security as may be required and enter into and carry out contracts or agreements in connection therewith; and include in any contract for financial assistance with the federal government such conditions imposed pursuant to federal laws as it may deem reasonable and appropriate and which are not inconsistent with the purposes of this section;