

and registered voter of Maryland, to be the Chief Engineer of Maryland, who shall hold office for a term of four (4) years and until his successor shall be appointed and qualify. The Governor may remove the Chief Engineer for official misconduct, incompetency or neglect of duty. Any vacancy in the office of Chief Engineer shall be filled by the Governor for the unexpired portion of the term. The Governor, when appointing a Chief Engineer, shall give first consideration to the qualifications of those who are graduates in engineering of a recognized college or technical school of collegiate grade. The Chief Engineer shall be a person of broad experience and high standing in his profession, and shall have had responsible charge of engineering works over a period of at least ten years. If the person appointed as Chief Engineer is not a graduate in engineering of a recognized college or technical school of collegiate grade, he shall have had not less than eighteen years' experience in engineering, during ten years of which he shall have been in responsible charge of important engineering projects. The Chief Engineer shall devote his entire time to the duties of his office and shall be paid an annual salary of at least Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000) and such additional amount as may be provided for in the budget.

8E. The Chief Engineer shall appoint a Deputy Chief Engineer and such number of additional employees of the Department of Public Improvements as may be provided for in the budget. The appointment of all employees, other than the Deputy Chief Engineer, shall be from the Classified Service of the State of Maryland, and in accordance with the rules and practice of the Merit System. The Deputy Chief Engineer shall be appointed and hold office at the will of the Chief Engineer.

8F. Wherever used in this sub-title, the term "public improvement" shall include the construction, maintenance and repair of any and every building, structure or other public work now owned or hereafter constructed or acquired by the State of Maryland or any department, officer, board, commission or agency thereof, or constructed or acquired in whole or in part with State funds; except that nothing in this sub-title shall apply to public improvements made by the State Roads Commission of Maryland, Housing Authorities created pursuant to Article 44A of the Code of Public General Laws, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, Baltimore County Metropolitan Dis-