

(i) to make directly, or through the hiring of expert consultants, investigations and surveys of whatever nature, including studies of business conditions, freight rates, port services, physical surveys of the conditions of channels and structures, and the necessity for additional port facilities for the development and improvement of commerce and for the more expeditious handling of such commerce, and to make such studies, surveys and estimates as may be necessary for the execution of its powers under this Article;

(j) to issue its special obligation bonds and its revenue bonds as hereinafter provided;

(k) to fix and revise from time to time and charge and collect rates, fees, rentals or other charges for the use of any project under its control;

(l) to appear in its own behalf before boards, commissions, departments or other agencies of the Federal government or of any State or international conference and before committees of the Congress of the United States and the General Assembly of Maryland in all matters relating to the design, establishment, construction, extension, operation, improvement, repair or maintenance of any project operated and maintained by the Authority under the provisions of this Article, and to appear before any Federal or state agencies in matters relating to rail rates, water rates, port services and charges, demurrage, switching, wharfage, towage, pilotage, differentials, discriminations, labor relations, trade practices, river and harbor improvements, aids to navigation, permits for structures in navigable waters, and all other matters affecting the physical development of and the business interest of the Authority and those it serves;

(m) to make application for, receive and accept from any Federal agency grants for or in aid of the planning, construction, operation or financing of any port facility, and to receive and accept contributions from any source of either money, property, labor or other things of value, to be held, used and applied for the purposes for which such grants and contributions may be made;

(n) to appoint an executive director, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Authority, be responsible to it and receive such salary as may be fixed by the Authority from time to time; he shall be the chief administrative officer of the Authority, and the Authority may delegate to him any of its administrative powers and authorizations; he shall be a man of good character, integrity and business experience, and during the time of his employment as such he shall have no financial interest in any port facilities or projects with respect to which the Authority has jurisdiction or any power or authorization to act;

(o) to employ consulting engineers, bond counsel, accountants, construction and financial experts, superintendents, traveling representatives, managers, clerks, stenographers, laborers, and such other agents and employees as may be necessary in its judgment, and to fix their compensation; the employment and tenure of all full-time employees, except the executive director and traveling representatives, shall be subject generally to the provisions and restrictions of Article 64A of the Annotated Code of Maryland, title "Merit System," and such employees, together with the executive director and traveling