

## 361.

*The Governor shall appoint an Executive Director of the Office who shall be chief administrative and executive officer thereof. He shall not be subject to the provisions of Article 64A of this Code, and shall be selected because of his known experience and interest in the advancement and development of economic opportunity. He shall receive such salary as provided in the budget from time to time.*

## 362.

*(a) The Office shall maintain liaison with the Federal Office of Economic Opportunity, county and city Commissions on Economic Opportunity, citizens groups and all other Agencies of the State, federal, county and municipal governments and it shall consult with and advise these local groups on their programs on economic opportunity and shall work at all levels of Government to administer and implement the Federal Economic Opportunity Act and program.*

*(b) The Office shall collect and assemble pertinent information and data available from other departments and agencies of the State and Federal Governments and shall disseminate information in the interest of economic opportunity programs in this State by publication, advertisement, conferences, workshops, programs, lectures and other means.*

*(c) The Office may employ professional, technical, clerical, stenographic, and other personnel to carry out its duties and functions within the limits of budgetary appropriations from time to time. None of the employees, directory and supervisory personnel of the Office shall be subject to the provisions contained in Article 64A of the Code, title "Merit System".*

*(d) In the performance of its duties, the Office is hereby authorized and empowered to make and enter into contracts and to assume such other functions as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this subtitle that are not inconsistent with this or other Acts. The Office may make and enter into contracts with other boards, Commissions, agencies and institutions of this State, other States and the Federal Government, upon such terms as may be eventually agreed upon, to have such studies and research activities as may be necessary and proper, and is authorized to pay the cost thereof out of funds which may be appropriated to the Office.*

## 363.

*If and when the Federal Government or any agency thereof offers to the State or any political subdivision thereof services, equipment, supplies, materials or funds by way of gift or grant for purposes of economic opportunity or the advancement thereof under any federal or state program or legislation, the State of Maryland, acting through the State of Maryland Office of Economic Opportunity, may accept such offer and may authorize any Officer of the State or of one of the political subdivisions thereof as the case may be to receive and utilize such aid and assistance. Similarly, if any other person, firm or corporation offers to the State or to one or more of the political subdivisions thereof any such aid or assistance for purposes of economic opportunity, the offer may be accepted and the receiving and use of the aid and assistance may be authorized by the State of Maryland Office of Economic Opportunity.*