

(b) *Unless otherwise specifically provided in this Act, the responsibilities of the Police Board shall be as follows:*

(1) *To advise the Board of County Commissioners on matters pertaining to the administration of the Harford County Police Department.*

(2) *To advise and assist the Chief of the Harford County Police Department in the administration of his department.*

(c) *The Chief of the Harford County Police Department will be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners with the advice and consent of the Police Board. The Chief shall be chosen on the basis of his extensive experience in police work, executive ability, health, knowledge of law enforcement problems and procedures, character and reputation, and general fitness for the position.*

(d) *The Chief of Police shall hold his office during good behavior and shall be subject to removal by the Board of County Commissioners upon the recommendation of the Police Board for incompetence or neglect of duty; but before any Chief may be removed from office he shall be given a copy of the charge against him and an opportunity of being publicly heard in person or by counsel in his own defense, upon not less than ten days' notice.*

(e) *The Chief of Police with the advice and consent of the Police Board shall appoint such number of police officers and other employees from lists duly furnished under the Harford County merit system. ALL SUCH APPOINTEES SHALL BE UNDER THE HARFORD COUNTY MERIT SYSTEM TO THE EXTENT THAT THE SYSTEM IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH OTHER PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT. The number of officers and employees, the ranks, grades, and salary schedules shall be those established by the Board of County Commissioners, from time to time, upon the recommendation of the Police Board, CONSISTENT WITH THE HARFORD COUNTY MERIT SYSTEM. The Chief of Police with the approval of the Police Board and within limits of available appropriations, shall promote officers and employees to the rank, grade, and position of the Department, as it may deem necessary for efficient administration.*

(f) *All police officers and other employees shall be on probation for a period of two years from the date of appointment. The Chief of Police, with the approval of the Police Board, may discharge any probationer for cause he deems sufficient. The Chief of Police shall have the power and authority to suspend for a period of thirty (30) days, or less, without pay, any officer or employee of the Department for such cause as he may deem right and proper. The Chief of Police with the approval of the Police Board shall have full power and authority to demote in rank or remove any permanent officer or employee of the Department, provided that he shall immediately report such action and the reasons therefor in writing to the Board of County Commissioners. Any officer or employee shall have the right to request charges to be preferred against him by the Chief of Police in writing and to have a public hearing before the Board of County Commissioners in person or by counsel. The Board of County Commissioners shall have the right to affirm, alter, or reverse the action of the Chief of Police by such action as it may deem appropriate.*