

(e) "Law enforcement agency" means any law enforcement agency of any department, county or municipality of the State, including sheriffs, and unless otherwise limited also includes similar agencies of other states and the United States of America.

(f) "Merit System" means the Merit System Law as established and administered pursuant to Article 64A of this Code, and includes all provisions of said Article.

(g) "Motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle as defined in Article 66½ of this Code.

(h) "Rank" means the status of one or more police employees having the same relative position in the chain of command established by rule. "Grade" means the status of one or more police employees having the same primary areas of duty and responsibility within a rank.

(i) "Rule" means any rule, regulation, order or other directive adopted by the Superintendent pursuant to this Article. A rule is not for any purpose a rule within the meaning of the Administrative Procedure Act or Article 41, Section 9, of this Code.

Law Enforcement Duties

3. Duties of Department.

The Department shall have the general duty to safeguard the lives and safety of all persons within the State, to protect property, and to assist in securing to all persons the equal protection of the laws. Specifically, this duty includes the responsibilities: to preserve the public peace; to detect and prevent the commission of crime; to enforce the laws and ordinances of the State and local subdivisions; to apprehend and arrest criminals and those who violate or are lawfully accused of violating such laws and ordinances; to preserve order at public places; to maintain the safe and orderly flow of traffic on public streets and highways; to cooperate with and assist law enforcement agencies in carrying out their respective duties; and to discharge its duties and responsibilities with the dignity and manner which will inspire public confidence and respect.

4. Powers of police employees.

(a) Generally. The Superintendent, the Deputy Superintendent, and employees designated by the Superintendent as police employees shall have throughout the State the same powers, privileges, immunities, and defenses as sheriffs, constables, police officers, and other peace officers possessed at common law and may now or hereafter exercise within their respective jurisdictions. Any warrant of arrest may be executed by a police employee in any part of the State without further endorsement.

(b) In incorporated municipalities. Police employees shall not act within the limits of any incorporated municipality which maintains a police force except (1) when in pursuit of an offender or suspected offender; (2) when in search of an offender or suspected offender wanted for a crime committed outside of the limits of the municipality, or when interviewing or seeking to interview a witness or supposed witness to such a crime; (3) when requested to act by the chief executive officer or the chief police officer of the municipi-