

*any federal or State agencies in matters relating to airline schedules, airport services and charges, discriminations, labor relations, trade practices, and all other matters affecting the physical development of and the business interest of the Authority and those it serves.*

*(m) Federal agency grants; contributions. 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 airport 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 made.*

*(n) Executive director. 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 have no financial interest in any airport facilities or projects with respect to which the Authority has jurisdiction or any power or authorization to act.*

*(o) Agents and employees. To employ consulting engineers, bond counsel, accountants, construction and financial experts, superintendents, managers, clerks, stenographers, laborers, and such other agents and employees as necessary. The employment, compensation and tenure of all full-time employees as necessary, except the executive director, and other key personnel as the Authority determines, with the approval of the Governor, who require engineering, scientific or expert training and qualifications, are subject generally to the provisions and restrictions of Article 64A of the Annotated Code of Maryland, title "Merit System," and the full-time employees, together with the executive director and other key personnel, are subject also to the rights and benefits of Article 73B of said Code, title "Pensions"; but the power to set the salaries and compensation of all employees not covered by the provisions of said Article 64A is vested solely in the Authority and in no way is subject to the control or jurisdiction of the Standard Salary Board or of any other officer or agency.*

*(p) Promotion of air carrier service. To do all things necessary and proper to promote and increase air carrier service within its territorial jurisdiction, including the purchase of advertising, engaging upon public relation programs, publication of literature, solicitation of business, and cooperation with governmental, civic, technical, professional and business organizations and associations.*

*(q) Contracts. To make and enter into all contracts and agreements necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties and execution of its powers under this article; but all projects involving construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvement, and repair of airport facilities, which contracts involve the expenditure of five thousand dollars or more, shall be performed by private industry, and contracts for these expenditures shall be awarded on the basis of the lowest responsible bid received therefor in response to an invitation for bids published at least twice in two newspapers having general circulation in the State of Maryland. Development work not susceptible to accurate bidding may be awarded by negotiation.*