

*and utilize effectively the assistance provided by the State. It shall initiate and coordinate plans and projects for the development of human and economic resources of the Southern Maryland region as a Southern Maryland planning and development agency.*

*The Council will cooperate with the State departments and agencies concerned, including, but not limited to the Department of State Planning, Department of Economic Development, the State Office of Economic Opportunity, the State Roads Commission and the Department of Natural Resources, and submit for approval plans and projects of the Council in which such departments or agencies have statutory functions and responsibilities.*

*(3) Area of Jurisdiction. The area of operation of the Tri-County Council shall be coterminous with the area of the Planning Region as herein defined.*

*(4) Powers and Duties. Without in any manner limiting or restricting the general powers conferred by this act, the Tri-County Council may:*

*(a) adopt and have a common seal and alter the same at pleasure;*

*(b) sue and be sued;*

*(c) adopt bylaws and make rules and regulations for the conduct of its business;*

*(d) make and enter into all contracts or agreements necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties;*

*(e) borrow money and apply for and accept advances, loans, grants, contributions and any other form of assistance from the federal government, the state, or other public body, or from any sources, public or private, for the purposes of this act, and give such security as may be required and enter into and carry out contracts or agreements in connection therewith; and include in any contract for financial assistance with the federal government such conditions imposed pursuant to federal laws as it may deem reasonable and appropriate and which are not inconsistent with the purposes of this act;*

*(f) prepare a comprehensive regional plan and functional plans for the guidance of the development of the Region;*

*(g) as hereinafter provided, review any applications to agencies of the state or Federal Government for loans or grants-in-aid for projects by governmental subdivisions within the Region;*

*(h) review local plans, proposals for projects, and ordinances having an impact outside the boundaries of the local government, subdivisions and within the Planning Region;*

*(i) employ a director, engineers, attorneys, planners, consultants and other employees, and prescribe their powers and duties and fix their compensation;*

*(j) prepare studies of the region's resources with respect to existing and emerging problems of industry, commerce, transportation, population, housing, agriculture, public services, local governments, and any other matters which are relevant to regional planning;*