

therein, provided the action is brought within three years after the cause of action accrued. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the power of the authority to construct any project, or portion thereof, or any addition, betterment or extension thereto, directed by the officers, agents and employees of the authority, or by agreement with the federal and state governments, or any agency or department of either. Subject to the aforesaid, the authority may (but without intending by this provision to limit any powers of such authority) enter into and carry out such contracts, or establish or comply with such rules and regulations concerning labor and materials and other related matters in connection with any project, or portion thereof as the authority may deem desirable, or as may be requested by any federal agency that may assist in the financing of such project or any part thereof.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) above, the authority may establish reasonable rules and regulations governing emergency purchases and contracts and those involving single or limited source services or materials and services or materials and equipment of an unusual or noncompetitive nature THAT CAN BE PURCHASED ONLY FROM A SINGLE SOURCE AND which shall not be subject to competitive bidding; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT NO SINGLE EMERGENCY PURCHASE OR CONTRACT SHALL EXCEED TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$20,000).

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1971.*

Approved April 23, 1971.

CHAPTER 138

(House Bill 271)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact with amendments Section 37(c) of Article 87 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1969 Replacement Volume and 1970 Supplement), title "Sheriffs," subtitle "Compensation and Duties," providing that employees appointed by the Sheriff of Baltimore County shall be under the merit system of the Baltimore County Charter.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Section 37(c) of Article 87 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1969 Replacement Volume and 1970 Supplement), title "Sheriffs," subtitle "Compensation and Duties," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted with amendments to read as follows:*

37.

(c) The Sheriff of Baltimore County shall receive an annual salary of \$18,500. He shall appoint a chief deputy, [at an annual salary of \$12,500 and deputy sheriffs employed as of July 1, 1968, shall each receive an annual salary of \$8,500. and shall receive such sum for necessary expenses as shall be authorized by the County Council of said county. He shall also appoint] a deputy sheriff's