

authority and powers of the Secretary of Economic and Community Development [as] set forth [in Article 41 of this Code or elsewhere] in the laws of Maryland, THE AUTHORITY MAY:

(1) Adopt bylaws for the regulation of its affairs and the conduct of its business;

(2) Adopt an official seal and alter the same at pleasure;

(3) Maintain an office at [such place or] places within the State as it may designate;

(4) Sue and be sued in its own name and plead and be impleaded; service of process in any action shall be made by service upon the manager of the Authority either in hand or by leaving a copy of the process at the office of the manager with some person having charge thereof;

(5) Employ [such] THE assistants, agents, and other employees as may be necessary or desirable for its purposes, all of whom shall be in the classified service of the State; to contract for and engage consultants; and to utilize the services of other governmental agencies;

(6) Accept from a federal agency loans or grants for use in carrying out its purpose, and enter into agreement with [such] THE agency respecting any loans or grants;

(7) Request for its guidance a finding of the planning board of the municipality or county[, ] or, if there is no planning board, [a finding] of the municipal or county officers of the municipality or county in which the industrial project is proposed to be located[, ] or of the regional planning board of which such municipality or county is a member, as to the expediency and advisability of such project;

(8) Enter into agreements with prospective mortgagees and mortgagors, for the purpose of planning, designing, constructing, acquiring, altering, and financing industrial projects;

(9) Acquire, purchase, manage and operate, and hold and dispose of real and personal property, take assignments of rentals and leases, and make and enter into all contracts, leases, agreements, and arrangements necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties;

(10) Purchase, acquire, or take assignments of notes, mortgages, and other forms of security and evidences of indebtedness; purchase, acquire, attach, seize, accept, or take title to any industrial project by conveyance or, when an insured or partially insured