

filled for the duration of the unexpired term in the same manner as is provided for the original appointment.

Members of the Council shall serve without compensation.

(b) Status. The Tri-County Council shall be a tax-exempt public body corporate and politic, and shall operate as a cooperative planning and development agency within the representative counties to foster the physical, economic and social development of the tri-county area 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, the State Office of Economic Opportunity, the Maryland Department of Economic and Community Development, the State Department of Transportation 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. The Attorney General of Maryland shall serve as legal advisor to the Council in all matters pertaining to the Council's activities.

(c) 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.

(d) Powers and duties. Without in any manner limiting or restricting the general powers conferred by this section, the Tri-County Council may:

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

(2) sue, but shall be immune from being sued;

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

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

(5) 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 section, and give such security as may be required and enter into and carry out contracts or agreements in connection therewith; and