

and (b) of the Public Local Laws of St. Mary's County being Article 19 of the Public Local Laws of Maryland (1965 Edition and 1974 Supplement, as amended) be and they are hereby repealed and reenacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

Article 19

184.

The County Commissioners shall provide for the sheriff's office of the county all necessary materials and equipment, county-owned uniforms for all deputy sheriffs and such county-owned automobiles as they may deem necessary in carrying out the duties of the office. They shall establish and may change from time to time the compensation paid to the [chief deputy sheriff and the deputy sheriffs] PERSONNEL OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE, and shall annually appropriate such sums as are necessary for the proper administration of the affairs of the sheriff's office and the discharge of its responsibilities. [No expenditure shall be made in excess of \$250.00 by such office without their prior approval.]

185.

(a) [There shall be one Chief Deputy Sheriff for the county and such number (not less than six) of Deputy Sheriffs as may be determined by the County Commissioners from time to time, who shall be full time employees of the county appointed by the Sheriff] WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE SHERIFF, PERSONNEL OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE SHALL PARTICIPATE IN THE MERIT SYSTEM OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY AND SHALL BE HIRED AND GOVERNED BY THE RULES OF THAT SYSTEM. THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF DEPUTY SHERIFFS NECESSARY FOR THE COUNTY. [The Chief Deputy and the] Deputy Sheriffs SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE SHERIFF AND shall carry out their duties under the direction of the Sheriff. The [Chief Deputy and the] Deputy Sheriffs shall have the qualifications fixed by the County Commissioners, provided that as a minimum, the qualifications fixed shall not be less than the qualifications generally required for law enforcement officers[, providing, however, that it shall be optional whether or not to apply these qualification requirements to Deputies now holding office]. All Deputy Sheriffs shall attend and satisfactorily complete the training programs [specified in section 186(a) (3) in this subtitle] TO AID IN THE DISCHARGE OF THEIR OFFICE.

(b) The [Chief Deputy and] Deputy Sheriffs authorized in this sub-title shall have [the residence requirements required in this section. Three shall reside in any of the following election districts of the county: First, Second, Eighth or Ninth; two shall reside in either the Third or Sixth District; two shall reside in the Fourth, Fifth or Seventh Districts.] ESTABLISHED LEGAL RESIDENCE IN ST. MARY'S COUNTY PRIOR TO RECEIVING