

(c) The commission shall be exempt from taxation by the State and local governments.

(d) The commission shall acquire at no cost to the State or the Commission necessary land from the mayor and council of Ocean City and arrange for having a suitable structure erected thereon for housing religious, business and professional conventions, cultural conferences, industrial exhibits, trade shows, such other events that might further stimulate the tourist trade and the economy of the State of Maryland. The structure shall be known as "Ocean City Convention Hall." After completion of the structure, the Commission, subject to approval of the Secretary of Economic and Community Development, shall establish policy and adopt rules and regulations as necessary to assure successful operation thereof.

(e) Members of the Commission shall receive no salary, but may be paid expenses incurred while actually engaged in the performance of their duties in accordance with the standard travel regulations, by adopting for the record an order or regulation setting forth the procedure and method for payment of such expenses. The expense allowances for the members of the Commission and for the operations of the Commission shall be as provided in the State budget from time to time or as approved from time to time by the Board of Public Works.

(f) The Commission in addition to the powers which are normally possessed by a commission of this type shall, subject to approval of the Secretary of Economic and Community Development, have the following express powers:

(1) To accept from the mayor and council of Ocean City an appropriate site for the structure and adjacent parking facilities, said site to be approved by the Director of the State Planning Department.

(2) To negotiate and contract for necessary planning, architectural and engineering services.

(3) To negotiate and contract for construction of the building and necessary equipment therefor; provided, however, that the location and building plans shall first be approved by the Secretary of State Planning of Maryland and the mayor and city council of Ocean City.

(4) To employ a manager or executive director, a secretary and such other necessary personnel, whose salaries shall be as set by the Commission, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Economic and Community Development.

(5) To employ such counsel as necessary in conducting the affairs of the Commission, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Economic and Community Development.