

Department of Economic and Community Development, to be the Maryland Energy Financing Administration, shall be empowered to establish programs for the purpose of providing financial assistance to Maryland citizens for energy projects utilizing, where appropriate, existing State programs, and taking maximum advantage of federal energy financing programs, by creating the Authority as a public instrumentality of the State of Maryland, providing that the Authority shall consist of the Secretaries of Natural Resources, Economic and Community Development, and Agriculture, the State Treasurer and three public members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate to serve at the pleasure of the Governor, providing for a chairman, an executive director, and an assistant attorney general to serve as full-time counsel to the Authority; providing for a director of the Administration to be appointed by the Secretary of Economic and Community Development with the approval of the Governor; providing that employees of the Authority Administration shall be deemed contractual employees exempt from the provisions of Article 64A, Section 15A of the Code limiting the employment of contractual employees; exempting the Authority from State laws relating to public employees other than laws relating to conflicts of interest, public records and meetings, and employees' liability protection, authorizing the Authority to purchase materials, supplies, and services pursuant to the rules and regulations promulgated by the Authority without approval by any other board, agency, or department, exempting the Authority from the provisions of Article 21 of the Code, providing that the interest rate on Authority Administration loans, together with other moneys available, shall be sufficient to make the program loan programs self supporting to the extent permitted by law; authorizing the Authority Administration to enter into contracts or agreements with any person and to apply for, receive, or accept grants, loans, loan guarantees or other forms of financial assistance from any person; authorizing the Authority Administration to provide financial assistance for energy projects and making decisions of its Board of Directors the Secretary of Economic and Community Development in this regard conclusive; authorizing the Authority Administration to acquire, purchase, manage, operate, hold, and dispose of real and personal property, take assignments, rentals and leases, and make and enter into all necessary contracts, leases, agreements, or arrangements; authorizing the Authority Administration to acquire stock or purchase, acquire, or take assignments of notes, mortgages, and other forms of security in evidence of its indebtedness or titles; authorizing the Authority Administration to take title to any energy project by conveyance or foreclosure, and to sell, lease, or rent energy projects; authorizing the Authority Administration to borrow money, to issue