

the public interest. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was appointed, shall be appointed for the remainder of such term. Members may serve a maximum of 2 terms. Of the members of said Commission there shall at all times be 1 member who shall be a member of a paid fire company; 3 members who shall be members of volunteer fire companies; 1 member who shall be an architect or engineer; 1 member who shall be a building contractor; 2 members of the Commission shall be representatives of industry, and one member shall be representative of the general public interest. In addition five of the 9 members of the Commission shall reside in the following five regions of the State: (1) Western Maryland -- the counties of Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Frederick and Carroll; (2) Central Maryland -- the counties of Harford, Baltimore, and Howard; (3) Southern Maryland -- the counties of Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's; (4) Washington Metropolitan Area -- the counties of Montgomery and Prince George's; and (5) Eastern Shore -- the counties of Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset, and Worcester. The remainder of the members shall be appointed to represent the State at large.

(b) The members of the State Fire Prevention Commission shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed, in accordance with standard travel regulations, for their necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

2.

(a) The State Fire Prevention Commission shall select a chairman and vice-chairman from among its members and shall hold regular meetings at least once every two months and special meetings when called by its chairman or the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services. In the absence of the chairman, the vice-chairman shall exercise the powers and duties of chairman.

(b) No business shall be transacted by the State Fire Prevention Commission in the absence of a quorum which shall be [four] 5 members, one of whom must be the chairman or vice-chairman.

(c) The exercise or performances of all powers, authority, duties and functions vested in the State Fire Prevention Commission or the State Fire Marshal by the provisions of this article, shall be subject to the powers and authority of the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services as set forth in Article 41 of this Code or elsewhere in the laws of this State.

(D) (1) THE STATE FIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION DOES NOT HAVE DIRECT LINE AUTHORITY OVER THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE.