

Extension, State of Maryland, the Comptroller of the State, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of General Services shall be ex officio members, and the tenure of their office shall coincide with the terms for which they hold the designated offices. In the event of a vacancy in any of the ex officio offices, the seat on the Authority is to be taken by the interim or permanent successor.

The Governor of the State of Maryland, with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint 5 members who shall be outstanding citizens of the State. Each member, excluding the ex officio members, shall be appointed for a term of five years from the dates of expiration of the member's respective term of office, except that any person appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve only for the unexpired term. Any member of the Authority is eligible for reappointment. The Governor, after notice in writing to a member 30 days in advance of the action, may remove any member other than the ex officio members for inefficiency, neglect, or misconduct. Any member so notified shall be entitled to a hearing before the Governor, provided that request for a hearing be made in writing to the Governor not later than ten days after receipt of the notice. In the event of removal the Governor shall promptly appoint a successor.]

(B) (1) (I) THE AUTHORITY CONSISTS OF 12 MEMBERS.

(II) 1. EACH MEMBER SHALL BE A RESIDENT OF THE STATE.

2. ONE MEMBER SHALL RESIDE IN HOWARD COUNTY.

(III) OF THE 12 MEMBERS:

1. FOUR SHALL BE EX OFFICIO VOTING MEMBERS:

A. THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION;

B. THE COMPTROLLER OF THE STATE;

C. THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE;

D. THE SECRETARY OF GENERAL SERVICES; AND

2. EIGHT SHALL BE OUTSTANDING RESIDENTS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE.

(2) (I) THE TERM OF AN APPOINTED MEMBER IS 5 YEARS.

(II) AT THE END OF A TERM, AN APPOINTED MEMBER CONTINUES TO SERVE UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.

(III) A MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED AFTER A TERM HAS BEGUN SERVES ONLY FOR THE REST OF THE TERM AND UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.

(3) (I) THIRTY DAYS AFTER GIVING WRITTEN NOTICE TO THE MEMBER, THE GOVERNOR MAY REMOVE AN APPOINTED MEMBER FOR INEFFICIENCY, NEGLIGENCE, OR MISCONDUCT.