

7-202.

(a) The Authority consists of [eight] SIX members appointed by the Governor as follows:

- (1) A person familiar with the economics and marketing of tobacco in the State to be selected from three nominees submitted by the Secretary;
- (2) A person in the business of selling leaf tobacco in the State;
- (3) A person in the business of buying leaf tobacco; and
- (4) [Five] THREE persons who produce leaf tobacco at the time of their selection and do not have any direct or indirect financial or other interest in the buying or selling of leaf tobacco, except a producer's interest.

(B) [They] THE MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY APPOINTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (A)(4) OF THIS SECTION shall be selected from a list of [15] nominees submitted by the [Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.] DEPARTMENT. [At least two of the five members shall be members of the political party which received the second highest number of votes in the preceding gubernatorial election. No two producer members of the Authority may be residents of the same county.]

[(b)](C) The term of each member is three years or until his successor is selected and qualifies.

[(c)](D) If a vacancy occurs for any reason, the Governor shall appoint another person to serve for the remaining portion of the unexpired term. Any new appointee for an expired or unexpired term shall be a person with qualifications similar to those of the next previous incumbent, so as to preserve the balance of representation for the several groups provided in this section.

7-203.

(b) [Each member shall be paid \$750 annually except that any member who is a regular employee of the State shall serve without compensation. Any] A member of the Authority may be reimbursed for the member's reasonable traveling expenses incurred on behalf of the Authority in accordance with the Standard State Travel Regulations.

7-206.

(c) The Authority shall[[:

(1) Conduct studies and investigations covering each phase of the production and marketing of tobacco in the State and collaborate with any person or government agency, including the University System of Maryland; and

(2) Report] REPORT, in consultation with the Department and subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly by December 1 annually on the status of tobacco growing in the State, including:

[(i)] (1) The number of acres being farmed;