

the appointing authority, the Commission, and, in instances where confirmation is required, to the Senate prior to confirmation;

(3) In extraordinary situations, as consistently as possible under similar facts and circumstances and subject to other provisions of law, including Title 3 of this article, the Commission may exempt a public official or employee from the prohibition of paragraph (1) of this subsection if the Commission, based upon the recommendation of the Governor upon request of the executive agency involved, concludes that:

(i) Failure to grant the exemption would reduce the ability of the State to:

1. Recruit and hire highly or uniquely qualified professional individuals for public service; or
2. Assure the availability of competent services to the public.

(ii) The number of exemptions granted hereunder has not tended to erode the purposes of paragraph (1) of this subsection or other provisions of this article.

Article - Agriculture

2-503.

(a) (1) The Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation shall be governed and administered by a board of trustees composed of the State Treasurer, who shall serve as an ex officio member, and the Secretary who shall serve as an ex officio member, and nine members from the State at-large to be appointed by the Governor, at least five of whom shall be farmer representatives from different areas of the State. One of the at-large members who is not a farmer representative shall be a representative of the Department of State Planning. All of the farmer representatives shall be actively engaged, or retired from active farming. Three of the five farmer representatives shall be appointed as follows:

(i) One from a list of three nominees submitted by the Maryland Agricultural Commission;

(ii) One from a list of three nominees submitted by the Maryland Farm Bureau; and

(iii) One from a list of three nominees submitted by the Maryland State Grange.

(2) The Governor shall appoint the chairman of the board, from among the nine at-large trustees. A majority of the