

than the Maryland Port Administration and therefore hold a competitive advantage over the Maryland Port Administration; and

WHEREAS, The special committee recommended steps to streamline the Maryland Port Administration's procurement process to increase budgetary flexibility, and to develop a personnel system that allows the Maryland Port Administration to recruit, retain, and compensate employees to meet the increasingly competitive challenge facing the ports of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Administration and the General Assembly to ensure that the Maryland Port Administration is managed in a manner consistent with good business practices and consistent with the best interests of the citizens of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of a Board of Port Commissioners and certain administrative and budgetary mechanisms are intended to increase the Maryland Port Administration's operational efficiency and effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Administration and the General Assembly by enactment of this legislation to further strengthen and enhance the statewide resources of the ports of Maryland and their resulting economic benefits for all of the citizens of Maryland; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Transportation

2-102.

(c) (1) With the approval of the Governor, the Secretary shall appoint a deputy secretary who has the duties provided by law or delegated by the Secretary.

(2) The deputy secretary is the acting secretary during periods when the Secretary is absent or disabled.

(3) The deputy secretary serves at the pleasure of the Secretary and is entitled to the salary provided in the State budget.

(4) THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SHALL SERVE AS ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY AND ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE MARYLAND PORT COMMISSION DURING PERIODS WHEN THE SECRETARY IS ABSENT OR DISABLED.

2-103.