

Article IX

This compact shall continue in force and remain binding on each state ratifying it until the legislature or the Governor of such state takes action to withdraw therefrom. Such action shall not be effective until six months after notice thereof has been sent by the chief executive of the state desiring to withdraw to the chief executives of all states then parties to the compact.

(b) When the Governor has executed the compact on behalf of the State and caused a verified copy to be filed with the Secretary of State, and when it has been ratified by one or more of the states named in subsection (a) OF THIS SECTION, then the compact becomes operative and effective as between this State and the other state. The Governor may take the necessary action to complete the exchange of official documents between this State and any other state which ratifies the compact.

(c) The Secretary, or someone designated by him, shall act as compact administrator for the State and perform the functions required under subsection (a) OF THIS SECTION.

(d) The Department [of Natural Resources] shall take the necessary action to integrate the State forest fire plan with the regional forest fire plan formulated by the compact administrators, and adjust and expand the plan as necessary to comply with subsection (a) OF THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly authorizes and directs the Governor of the State of Maryland:

(1) To execute and deliver on behalf of the State of Maryland all agreements and modifications of agreements that relate to the Middle Atlantic Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact; and

(2) To take those actions which may be necessary to effectuate the Middle Atlantic Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact on behalf of the State of Maryland.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act may not take effect until a similar Act is passed by the General Assemblies of Delaware, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia; that the States of Delaware, New Jersey, Ohio, and West Virginia and the Commonwealths of Pennsylvania and Virginia are requested to concur in this Act of the General Assembly of Maryland by the passage of a similar Act; that the Department of Legislative Reference shall notify the appropriate officials of the States of Delaware, New Jersey, Ohio, and West Virginia and the Commonwealths of Pennsylvania and Virginia of