

12. 13. THE AUTHORITY MAY EMPLOY SUCH ENGINEERING, TECHNICAL, LEGAL, CLERICAL, AND OTHER PERSONNEL ON A REGULAR, PART-TIME, OR CONSULTING BASIS AS IN ITS JUDGMENT MAY BE NECESSARY FOR THE DISCHARGE OF ITS DUTIES. THE AUTHORITY SHALL NOT BE BOUND BY ANY STATUTE OR REGULATION OF ANY SIGNATORY IN THE EMPLOYMENT OR DISCHARGE OF ANY OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE OF THE AUTHORITY, EXCEPT AS MAY BE CONTAINED IN THIS COMPACT.

13. 14. THE AUTHORITY SHALL ESTABLISH ITS OFFICE FOR THE CONDUCT OF ITS AFFAIRS AT A LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED BY THE AUTHORITY AND SHALL PUBLISH RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF ITS OPERATIONS.

15. A. EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS CHAPTER I, THE AUTHORITY SHALL BE SUBJECT TO MARYLAND LAWS PERTAINING TO GOVERNMENTAL PROCEDURES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT, THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW, AND THE MARYLAND PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT.

B. THE AUTHORITY SHALL ADOPT AN ETHICS CODE, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, PROVISIONS GOVERNING CONFLICT OF INTEREST, EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES, FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE, AND ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS WHICH SHALL BE SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME AS THAT PROVIDED UNDER THE MARYLAND PUBLIC ETHICS LAW.

ARTICLE IV

NOTHING IN THIS COMPACT SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO AMEND, ALTER, OR IN ANY WAY AFFECT THE POWER OF THE SIGNATORIES AND THEIR POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS TO LEVY AND COLLECT TAXES ON PROPERTY OR INCOME OR UPON THE SALE OF ANY MATERIAL, EQUIPMENT, OR SUPPLIES PURCHASED BY SUCH PERSON OR COMPANIES OR TO LEVY, ASSESS, AND COLLECT FRANCHISE OR OTHER SIMILAR TAXES OR FEES FOR THE LICENSING OF VEHICLES AND THE OPERATION THEREOF.

ARTICLE V

THIS COMPACT SHALL BE ADOPTED BY THE SIGNATORIES IN THE MANNER PROVIDED BY LAW. THIS COMPACT SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE 90 DAYS AFTER ITS ADOPTION BY THE SIGNATORIES.

ARTICLE VI

1. ANY SIGNATORY MAY WITHDRAW FROM THE COMPACT UPON ONE YEAR'S WRITTEN NOTICE TO THAT EFFECT TO THE OTHER SIGNATORIES. IN THE EVENT OF A WITHDRAWAL OF ONE OF THE SIGNATORIES FROM THE COMPACT, THE COMPACT SHALL BE TERMINATED; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT NO REVENUE BONDS, NOTES, OR OTHER EVIDENCE OF OBLIGATION ISSUED PURSUANT TO