

(b) The Office of People's Counsel may retain as necessary for a particular matter or hire experts in the field of utility regulation, including cost of capital experts, rate design experts, accountants, economists, engineers, transportation specialists, and lawyers.

Article—State Finance and Procurement

~~11-203.~~

(a) ~~Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, this Division II does not apply to:~~

(1) ~~procurement by:~~

~~(xv) the Forum for Rural Maryland; [and]~~

~~(xvi) the Maryland State Lottery Agency, for negotiating and entering into private sector cooperative marketing projects that directly enhance promotion of the Maryland State Lottery and its products, if the cooperative marketing project:~~

~~1. provides a substantive promotional or marketing value that the lottery determines acceptable in exchange for advertising or other promotional activities provided by the lottery;~~

~~2. does not involve the advertising or other promotion of alcohol or tobacco products; and~~

~~3. is reviewed by the Attorney General and approved by the Maryland Lottery Director or the Director's designee; AND~~

~~(XVII) THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.~~

(b) (1) ~~The following provisions of this Division II apply to each procurement enumerated in subsection (a) of this section:~~

~~(i) § 11-205 of this subtitle ("Fraud in procurement");~~

~~(ii) § 12-204 of this article ("Board approval for designated contracts");~~

~~(iii) Title 12, Subtitle 2 of this article ("Supervision of Capital Expenditures and Real Property Leases");~~

~~(iv) § 13-219 of this article ("Required clauses—Nondiscrimination clause");~~

~~(v) § 13-221 of this article ("Disclosures to Secretary of State");~~

~~(vi) Title 16 of this article ("Debarment of Contractors"); and~~

~~(vii) Title 17 of this article ("Special Provisions—State and Local Subdivisions").~~