

(c) (1) In consultation with the Secretary of the State Police and the Maryland Police Training Commission, the Secretary of Transportation shall adopt standards, qualifications, and prerequisites of character, training, education, human and public relations, and experience for Maryland Transportation Authority police officers, including standards for the performance of their duties.

(2) To the extent practicable, the Secretary of Transportation shall adopt standards that are similar to the standards adopted for the Department of State Police.

(3) Standards adopted on or after July 1, 1974, on minimum hiring qualifications of Maryland Transportation Authority police officers may not affect the status of any individual who was a qualified toll facilities police officer on that date.

(d) The Authority shall adopt rules and regulations governing the operation and conduct of the Maryland Transportation Authority Police Force and of Maryland Transportation Authority police officers. These rules and regulations shall be consistent with the standards established by the Secretary.

[(e) (1) A member of the Maryland Transportation Authority Police Force is entitled to the salary provided in the State budget.

(2) (i) A member of the Maryland Transportation Authority Police Force is a special appointment in the State Personnel Management System.

(ii) However, a member of the Maryland Transportation Authority Police Force is subject to Division I of the State Personnel and Pensions Article to the same extent that a member of the Department of State Police is subject to that law.]

[(f) (E) The Maryland Transportation Authority Police Force shall provide police services to the Authority and to the Maryland Aviation Administration.

[(g) (F) (1) Any person who was a member in good standing, as of July 1, 1977, of the Maryland Aviation Administration Police Force of the Department of Transportation and subsequently an airport police employee of the State Police, shall become a member of the Maryland Transportation Authority Police Force, and shall continue as such without diminution in salary, except for shift differential, until retirement, resignation, or termination, and shall be paid in accordance with the Maryland Transportation Authority Police Force pay plan.

(2) Each employee described in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall remain a member of the Baltimore City fire and police employees retirement system. The Authority shall reimburse the City for the employer's cost of the pension coverage.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1998.

Approved May 12, 1998.