

(2) Adopt regulations for the operation of the Administration in a competitive manner within the port industry;

(3) Exercise those powers granted to the Commission and to the Maryland Port Administration by this title or by any other provision of law; [and]

(4) UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE SECRETARY, SERVE AS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ANY PRIVATE OPERATING COMPANY CREATED UNDER THIS TITLE; AND

[(4)] (5) In carrying out the provisions of this subtitle, seek information and advice from port labor and management groups.

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(q) (1) The Administration, with the approval of the Commission, may create private operating companies for the purpose of operating public port facilities.

(2) (I) THE COMMISSION MAY APPOINT UP TO A TOTAL OF 12 MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL EMPLOYEES TO PERFORM SERVICES FOR ANY ALL PRIVATE OPERATING COMPANIES CREATED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

(II) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, THE COMMISSION MAY DETERMINE THE QUALIFICATIONS, APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL, AND TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT, INCLUDING COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS, FOR EMPLOYEES APPOINTED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION QUALIFICATIONS AND APPOINTMENT, AS WELL AS COMPENSATION AND LEAVE, FOR EMPLOYEES APPOINTED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

(III) AT LEAST 10 DAYS BEFORE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE CHANGE, THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT TO THE SECRETARY OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT EACH CHANGE TO THE SALARIES OF THESE EMPLOYEES THAT INVOLVES INCREASES IN SALARY RANGES OTHER THAN THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH GENERAL SALARY INCREASES APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

(IV) THE SECRETARY OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT SHALL:

1. REVIEW THE PROPOSED CHANGES; AND
2. WITHIN 10 DAYS OF RECEIPT OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES, ADVISE THE COMMISSION WHETHER THE CHANGES WOULD HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON SPECIAL FUND EXPENDITURES.

(V) FAILURE OF THE SECRETARY OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT TO RESPOND IN A TIMELY MANNER IS DEEMED TO BE A STATEMENT THAT THE CHANGE WILL HAVE NO ADVERSE EFFECT.

~~(III)~~ (VI) EMPLOYEES APPOINTED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION ARE STATE EMPLOYEES AND SHALL BE ENTITLED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RETIREMENT AND PENSION SYSTEMS FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND AUTHORIZED UNDER DIVISION II OF THE STATE PERSONNEL AND PENSIONS ARTICLE.