

(t) *Exemptions from subtitle.*

The provisions of this subtitle shall not apply to the practice of general contracting or sub-contracting as defined in subparagraph (1) of subsection (b) by any authorized representative or representatives of the United States of America or any of its instrumentalities or agencies, the State of Maryland or its instrumentalities, agencies, or institutions, or any county, city, town or any other political subdivision of any district, zone, local subdivision or area in, the State of Maryland or the construction, reconstruction, repair or improvement of any highway or bridge, constructed, reconstructed or repaired by the State Roads Commission.

(u) *Penalty for violation of this subtitle.*

(1) Any person not being duly authorized who shall contract or bid upon the construction of any of the projects or works or any part thereof enumerated in subsection (b) (1), without having first complied with the provisions thereof, or who shall attempt to practice general contracting or sub-contracting in this State except as provided for in this subtitle, and any person presenting or attempting to file as his own the registration certificate of another or who shall give false or forged evidence of any kind to the Inspector in maintaining the registration or who falsely shall impersonate another or who shall use an expired or revoked certificate, and any awarding authority, who knowingly receives or considers a bid from anyone not properly registered under this subtitle, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

(2) No person shall be entitled to assert this subsection as a defense to any action at law or suit in equity unless such persons shall first affirmatively prove that notice of this subsection, prior to or upon execution of the contract, has been given to the party who seeks to recover from such person, provided that nothing herein contained shall affect any contract entered into prior to June 1, 1967.

(v) *Defraying expenses of prosecution.*

The State shall provide such funds as the Inspector may require to defray the expense, legal or otherwise, in the prosecution of any violations of the subtitle.

(w) *Investigation of violations.*

All alleged violations of this subtitle when reported to the Inspector and when duly substantiated by affidavits, or other satisfactory evidence, shall be investigated by him. The Inspector may employ ~~a special investigator who shall be paid out of the funds appropriated to the Comptroller~~ SUCH NUMBER OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATORS AS THE INSPECTOR DEEMS NECESSARY OR AS MAY BE PROVIDED IN THE ANNUAL STATE BUDGET. If the evidence of violations is substantiated, the inspector shall report the same to the Attorney General or State's Attorney of the political subdivision in which the violations are alleged to have occurred.

(x) *Prosecutions by attorneys for the State of Maryland.*

Upon receiving reports together with proper evidence, from the Inspector that any of the provisions of this subtitle have been violated, the Attorney General or the appropriate State's Attorney