

provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act and other rule-making requirements imposed by law. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to grant any power to change or modify any law enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland either before or after the passage of this subheading.

(f) To review the annual budget request of the Department and to **[approve or disapprove]** *advise the Director with respect to* any items reflecting changes in established programs or objectives before October 1 of each year.

(g) To assist the Director in fostering public awareness and understanding of the objectives and functions of the Department, and in stimulating public participation and interest in orderly integrated resource development within the Chesapeake Bay and coastal regions.

(h) To hold public hearings and to sponsor meetings *subject to the approval of the Director*, when deemed necessary or useful in the execution of its duties.

(i) *Except as provided in this Section, all other powers and duties exercised and performed by the Commission or its chairman pursuant to any provisions of law shall, from and after July 1, 1969, be exercised and performed by the Director.*

10.

(a) The Governor shall appoint, *upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Natural Resources*, **[with the advice and consent of the senate,]** a competent person with the qualifications prescribed herein as Director of the Department of *Chesapeake Bay Affairs*. The Director shall be the **[administrative]** head of the Department and shall personally direct its operations and activities. The Director shall be a person with executive ability and experience, and shall have an academic degree and knowledge of the general principles involved in the administration, improvement, planning, management and conservation of the fish, shellfish and other natural resources of the Chesapeake Bay and other tidal waters of the State. The Director shall devote his full time to the work of the Department and shall receive such salary as may be provided in the annual State Budget. The **[present]** Director **[who is holding office on June 1, 1964,]** shall hold office under and subject to the provisions of **[Article 64A of this Code title "Merit System."]** *Section 234(c) of Article 41 of this Code.* **[After the departure from office of the existing Director, any subsequent director appointed under the provisions of this subheading shall hold office at the pleasure of the Governor. The Director shall from time to time at the request of the Governor or as may be necessary, report to the Governor on the functions and operations of the Department.]** Wherever reference is made in this or any other section of the Code to the chairman of the Commission of Tidewater Fisheries, it shall hereafter mean the Director of the Department.

(b) As the **[administrative]** head of the Department of *Chesapeake BAY Affairs*, the Director shall, *subject to the authority of the Secretary of Natural Resources as provided by law*, be responsible for the exercise of all the powers and duties conferred upon the Department by the provisions of this article.