

1995 RECONVENED SESSION

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE

LD3291812

HOUSE BILL NO. 1962

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Governor
on March 27, 1995)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Brickley)

A BILL to establish by compact with the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and Tunnel Compact, which creates the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and Tunnel Authority for the purpose of owning, constructing, maintaining, and operating a bridge or tunnel or a bridge and tunnel project across the Potomac River and authorizing the Authority to exercise various powers, including authority to issue revenue bonds and collect tolls.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. The Governor is hereby authorized and directed to execute, on behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia, an interstate compact with the District of Columbia and the State of Maryland, which compact shall be in a form substantially as it appears in § 2 of this Act.

§ 2. Preamble; Woodrow Wilson Bridge and Tunnel Compact.

Whereas, traffic congestion imposes serious economic burdens in the Washington metropolitan area, costing commuters an estimated \$1000 each per year; and

Whereas, the average length of commute in the Washington metropolitan area is second only to metropolitan New York, demonstrating the severity of traffic congestion; and

Whereas, the Woodrow Wilson Bridge was designed to carry 70,000 vehicles a day, but carries an actual load of 160,000 per day; and

Whereas, the volume of traffic in the Washington metropolitan area is expected to increase by more than seventy percent between 1990 and 2020; and

Whereas, the deterioration of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and the growing population in the Washington metropolitan area account for a large part of the area's traffic congestion, and identifying alternatives to this vital link in the interstate highway system and the Northeast corridor is critical to addressing the area's traffic congestion; and

Whereas, the Woodrow Wilson Bridge is the only drawbridge on the regional interstate network, the only piece of the Capital Beltway with only six lanes and the only segment with a remaining lifespan of only ten years; and

Whereas, the existing Woodrow Wilson Bridge is the only part of the interstate system owned by the federal government, and while the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia maintain and operate the bridge, no entity has ever been granted full and clear responsibility for all aspects of this facility; and

Whereas, continued federal government ownership of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge will impede cohesive regional transportation planning as it relates to identifying alternative solutions for resolving problems of the existing Woodrow Wilson Bridge; and

Whereas, any change in the status of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge must take into account the interest of nearby communities, the commuting public, and other interested groups, as well as the interest of the federal government and state and local governments involved; and

Whereas, in recognition of a need for a limited federal role in the management of this bridge and the growing local interest, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation has recommended a transfer of authority and ownership from the federal to the local/state level, consistent with the management of other bridges elsewhere in the nation; and

Whereas, a commission comprised of congressional, state, and local officials and transportation representatives has recommended transfer of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge to an independent authority to be created by the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia; and

Whereas, a coordinated approach without regard to political and legal jurisdictional boundaries, through the cooperation of the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia by and through a common agency similar to other Washington metropolitan area authorities, is a proper and necessary step looking towards the alleviation of traffic problems related to the inadequacy of the existing Woodrow Wilson Bridge; now, therefore,

The State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia, hereinafter referred to as signatories, do hereby covenant and agree as follows:

WOODROW WILSON BRIDGE AND TUNNEL COMPACT.

CHAPTER I.

General Compact Provisions.

Article I.

There is hereby created the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and Tunnel Authority, hereinafter referred to as

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60 the "Authority," which shall embrace the District of Columbia; the Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, and
61 Falls Church, the Counties of Arlington and Fairfax, and the political subdivisions of the
62 Commonwealth of Virginia located within those counties; and the Counties of Montgomery and Prince
63 Georges in the State of Maryland and the political subdivisions of the State of Maryland located within
64 said counties.

65 Article II.

66 The Authority shall be an instrumentality and common agency of the District of Columbia, the
67 Commonwealth of Virginia and the State of Maryland, and shall have the powers and duties set forth in
68 this compact and such additional powers and duties as may be conferred upon it by subsequent action
69 of the signatories.

70 Article III.

71 1. The Authority shall be governed by a board of thirteen members appointed as follows:

72 a. Four members shall be appointed by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia;

73 b. Four members shall be appointed by the Governor of the State of Maryland;

74 c. Four members shall be appointed by the Mayor of the District of Columbia; and

75 d. One member shall be appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation.

76 2. Members, other than members who are elected officials, shall have backgrounds in finance,
77 construction lending, and infrastructure policy disciplines. At least one member from each signatory
78 shall be an incumbent elected official of a political subdivision within the jurisdiction of the Authority
79 stated in Article I of this chapter. No other member shall hold elective or appointive public office.

80 3. a. No Board member, officer or employee shall:

81 i. be financially interested, either directly or indirectly, in any contract, sale, purchase, lease or
82 transfer of real or personal property to which the Board or the Authority is a party;

83 ii. in connection with services performed within the scope of his official duties, solicit or accept
84 money or any other thing of value in addition to the compensation or expenses paid to him by the
85 Authority; or

86 iii. offer money or any thing of value for or in consideration of obtaining an appointment, promotion
87 or privilege in his employment with the Authority.

88 b. Any Board member, officer or employee who shall willfully violate any provision of this section
89 shall, in the discretion of the Board, forfeit his office or employment.

90 c. Any contract or agreement made in contravention of this section may be declared void by the
91 Board.

92 d. Nothing in this section 3 shall be construed to abrogate or limit the applicability of any federal or
93 state law which may be violated by any action prescribed by this section.

94 4. The Chairperson of the Authority shall be elected biennially by its members.

95 5. The members may also biennially elect a secretary and a treasurer, or a secretary-treasurer, who
96 may be members of the Authority, and prescribe their duties and powers.

97 6. Each member shall serve a six-year term, except that each signatory shall make its initial
98 appointments as follows:

99 a. Two members shall each be appointed for a six-year term;

100 b. One member shall be appointed for a four-year term; and

101 c. One member shall be appointed for a two-year term.

102 7. The failure of a signatory or the Secretary of Transportation to appoint one or more members
103 shall not impair the Authority's creation or operations when the signatories and Authority are in
104 compliance with the other terms of this compact.

105 8. Any person appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the unexpired term. No member of the
106 Authority shall serve for more than two terms.

107 9. The members of the Authority shall not be personally liable for any act done or action taken in
108 their capacities as members of the Authority, nor shall they be personally liable for any bond, note, or
109 other evidence of indebtedness issued by the Authority.

110 10. Seven members shall constitute a quorum and at least a majority of the quorum shall be required
111 for any Authority action, with the following exceptions:

112 a. Eight affirmative votes shall be required to approve bond issues and the annual budget of the
113 Authority.

114 b. Two affirmative votes by members from the affected signatory shall be required to approve
115 operations or matters solely intrastate or solely within the District of Columbia.

116 11. Any sole source procurement of property, services or construction in excess of \$100,000 shall
117 require the prior approval of a majority of all of the members of the Authority.

118 12. Members shall serve without compensation and shall reside within the jurisdiction of the
119 Authority stated in Article I of this chapter. Members shall be entitled to reimbursement for their
120 expenses incurred in attending the meetings of the Authority and while otherwise engaged in the
121 discharge of their duties as members of the Authority.

13. The Authority may employ such engineering, technical, legal, clerical, and other personnel on a regular, part-time, or consulting basis as in its judgment may be necessary for the discharge of its duties. The Authority shall not be bound by any statute or regulation of any signatory in the employment or discharge of any officer or employee of the Authority, except as may be contained in this compact.

14. The Authority may fix and provide for the qualification, appointment, removal, term, tenure, compensation, pension and retirement rights of its officers and employees without regard to the laws of any of the signatories and may establish, in its discretion, a personnel system based on merit and fitness and, subject to eligibility, participate in the pension and retirement plans of any signatory, or political subdivision or agency thereof, upon terms and conditions mutually acceptable.

15. The Authority shall establish its office for the conduct of its affairs at a location to be determined by the Authority within the jurisdiction of the Authority stated in Article I of this chapter and shall publish rules and regulations governing the conduct of its operations.

Article IV.

Nothing in this compact shall be construed (i) to amend, alter, or in any way affect the power of the signatories and the political subdivisions thereof to levy and collect taxes on property or income or to levy, assess and collect franchise or other similar taxes or fees for the licensing of vehicles and the operation thereof or (ii) to confer any exemption from taxes related to any material, equipment or supplies purchased by or on behalf of the Authority.

Article V.

This compact shall be adopted by the signatories in the manner provided by law therefor and shall be signed and sealed in four duplicate original copies. One such copy shall be filed with the Secretary of State of each of the signatory parties or in accordance with laws of the state in which the filing is made, and one copy shall be filed and retained in the archives of the Authority upon its organization. This compact shall become effective ninety days after the enactment of concurring legislation by or on behalf of the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia and consent thereto by the Congress and all other acts or actions have been taken, including the signing and execution of this compact by the Governors of Maryland and Virginia and the Mayor of the District of Columbia.

Article VI.

1. Any signatory may withdraw from the compact upon one year's written notice to that effect to the other signatories. In the event of a withdrawal of one of the signatories from the compact, the compact shall be terminated; provided, however, that no revenue bonds issued pursuant to Chapter II, Article VI or any other financial obligations of the Authority remain outstanding and that the withdrawing signatory has made a full accounting of its financial obligations, if any, to the other signatories.

2. Upon the termination of this compact, the jurisdiction over the matters and persons covered by this compact shall revert to the signatories and the federal government, as their interests may appear.

Article VII.

Each of the signatories pledges to each of the other signatory parties faithful cooperation in the solution and control of traffic problems associated with the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and, in order to effect such purpose, agrees to consider in good faith and request any necessary legislation to achieve the objectives of the compact to the mutual benefit of the citizens living within the Washington metropolitan area and for the advancement of the interests of the signatories hereto.

Article VIII.

The Authority shall not undertake the ownership of the existing Woodrow Wilson Bridge, or any duties or responsibilities associated therewith, until the Governors of Maryland and Virginia and the Mayor of the District of Columbia have entered into an agreement with the U.S. Secretary of Transportation establishing the federal share of the cost of a new Woodrow Wilson bridge or tunnel. Upon all parties' approval of this agreement, the Authority shall have sole responsibility for duties concerning ownership, construction, operation and maintenance of the project as hereinafter defined.

Article IX.

1. If any part or provision of this compact or the application thereof to any person or circumstances be adjudged invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall be confined in its operation to the part, provision or application directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered and shall not affect or impair the validity of the remainder of this compact or the application thereof to other persons or circumstances, and the signatories hereby declare that they would have entered into this compact or the remainder thereof had the invalidity of such provision or application thereof been apparent.

2. In accordance with the rules for construction of interstate compacts, this compact shall be liberally construed to effectuate the purposes for which it is created.

CHAPTER II.

Woodrow Wilson Bridge and Tunnel Revenue Bond Act.

Article I.

Definitions.

As used in this Act the following words shall have the following meanings:

"Bonds" or "revenue bonds" means bonds and notes or refunding bonds and notes or bond anticipation notes or other obligations of the Authority issued under the provisions of this Act.

"Cost," as applied to the project, means the cost of acquisition of all lands, structures, rights-of-way, franchises, easements and other property rights and interests; the cost of lease payments; the cost of construction; the cost of demolishing, removing or relocating any buildings or structures on lands acquired, including the cost of acquiring any lands to or on which such buildings or structures may be moved, relocated, or reconstructed; the cost to relocate residents or businesses from properties acquired for the project; the cost of any extensions, enlargements, additions and improvements; the cost of all labor, materials, machinery and equipment, financing charges, and interest on all bonds prior to and during construction and, if deemed advisable by the Authority, of such construction; the cost of engineering, financial and legal services, plans, specifications, studies, surveys, estimates of cost and of revenues, and other expenses necessary or incident to determining the feasibility or practicability of constructing the project, administrative expenses, provisions for working capital, and reserves for interest and for extensions, enlargements, additions and improvements; the cost of bond insurance and other devices designed to enhance the creditworthiness of the bonds; and such other expenses as may be necessary or incidental to the construction of the project, the financing of such construction and the planning of the project.

"Owner" includes all persons as defined in § 1-13.19 of the Code of Virginia having any interest or title in and to property, rights, franchises, easements and interests authorized to be acquired by this Act.

"Project" means the existing Woodrow Wilson Bridge and a bridge or tunnel, or a bridge and tunnel project, adjacent to the existing Woodrow Wilson Bridge and associated rail transit facilities; administration, storage and other buildings and facilities which the Authority may deem necessary for the operation of such project; and all property, rights, franchises, easements and interests which may be acquired by the Authority for the construction or the operation of such project. Such project shall be substantially the same as that recommended by the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Study Coordination Committee established in 1992 by the Federal Highway Administration and as included in the adopted Long Range Plan and Transportation Improvement Program of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board.

*Article II.**Bonds Not to Constitute a Debt or Pledge of Taxing Power.*

Revenue bonds issued under the provisions of this Act shall not be deemed to constitute a debt or a pledge of the faith and credit of the Authority or of any signatory government or political subdivision thereof, but such bonds shall be payable solely from the funds herein provided therefor from tolls and other revenues. The issuance of revenue bonds under the provisions of this Act shall not directly or indirectly or contingently obligate the Authority, or any signatory government or political subdivision thereof, to levy or to pledge any form of taxation whatever therefor. All such revenue bonds shall contain a statement on their face substantially to the foregoing effect.

*Article III.**Additional Powers of the Authority.*

Without in any manner limiting or restricting the powers heretofore given to the Authority, the Authority is hereby authorized and empowered:

- 1. To establish, finance, construct, maintain, repair and operate the project;*
- 2. Subject to approval of the Governors of Maryland and Virginia and the Mayor of the District of Columbia, to assume full rights of ownership of the existing Woodrow Wilson Bridge;*
- 3. To determine the location, character, size and capacity of the project; to establish, limit and control such points of ingress to and egress from the project as may be necessary or desirable in the judgment of the Authority to ensure the proper operation and maintenance of the project; and to prohibit entrance to such project from any point or points not so designated;*
- 4. To secure all necessary authorizations, permits and approvals for the construction, maintenance, repair and operation of the project;*
- 5. To adopt and amend bylaws for the regulation of its affairs and the conduct of its business;*
- 6. To adopt and amend rules and regulations to carry out the powers granted by this section;*
- 7. To acquire, by purchase or condemnation, in the name of the Authority, and to hold and dispose of real and personal property for the corporate purposes of the Authority;*
- 8. To acquire full information to enable it to establish, construct, maintain, repair and operate the project;*
- 9. To employ consulting engineers, a superintendent or manager of the project, and such other engineering, architectural, construction and accounting experts, and inspectors, attorneys, and such other employees as may be deemed necessary; and within the limitations prescribed in this Act, to prescribe their powers and duties and to fix their compensation;*

10. To pay, from any available moneys, the cost of plans, specifications, surveys, estimates of cost and revenues, legal fees and other expenses necessary or incident to determining the feasibility or practicability of financing, constructing, maintaining, repairing and operating the project;

11. To issue revenue bonds of the Authority, for any of its corporate purposes, payable solely from the tolls and revenues pledged for their payment, and to refund its bonds, all as provided in this Act;

12. To fix and revise from time to time and to charge and collect tolls and other charges for the use of the project;

13. To make and enter into all contracts or agreements, as the Authority may determine, which are necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties and to the execution of the powers granted under this Act;

14. To accept loans and grants of money, materials or property at any time from the United States of America, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of Maryland, the District of Columbia or any agency or instrumentality thereof;

15. To adopt an official seal and alter the same at its pleasure;

16. To sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, all in the name of the Authority;

17. To exercise any power usually possessed by private corporations performing similar functions, including the right to expend, solely from funds provided under the authority of this Act, such funds as may be considered by the Authority to be advisable or necessary in advertising its facilities and services to the traveling public; and

18. To do all acts and things necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties and the execution of its powers under this Act.

Article IV.

A. Acquisition of Property.

The Authority is hereby authorized and empowered to acquire by purchase, whenever it shall deem such purchase expedient, solely from funds provided under the authority of this Act, such lands, structures, rights-of-way, property, rights, franchises, easements and other interest in lands, including lands lying under water and riparian rights, which are located within the Washington metropolitan area, as it may deem necessary or convenient for the construction and operation of the project, upon such terms and at such prices as may be considered by it to be reasonable and can be agreed upon between it and the owner thereof; and to take title thereto in the name of the Authority.

All counties, cities, towns and other political subdivisions and all public agencies and authorities of the signatories, notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, are hereby authorized and empowered to lease, lend, grant or convey to the Authority at the Authority's request, upon such terms and conditions as the proper authorities of such counties, cities, towns, political subdivisions, agencies or authorities may deem reasonable and fair and without the necessity for any advertisement, order of court or other action or formality, other than the regular and formal action of the authorities concerned, any real property which may be necessary or convenient to the effectuation of the authorized purposes of the Authority, including public roads and other real property already devoted to public use.

Whenever a reasonable price cannot be agreed upon, or whenever the owner is legally incapacitated or is absent, unknown or unable to convey valid title, the Authority is hereby authorized and empowered to acquire by condemnation or by the exercise of the power of eminent domain any lands, property, rights, rights-of-way, franchises, easements and other property deemed necessary or convenient for the construction or the efficient operation of the project or necessary in the restoration of public or private property damaged or destroyed.

B. Procurement.

1. Except as provided in subsections 2 and 5 of this section B, and except in the case of procurement procedures otherwise expressly authorized by statute, the Authority in conducting a procurement of property, services, or construction shall:

a. obtain full and open competition through the use of competitive procedures in accordance with the requirements of this section; and

b. use the competitive procedure or combination of competitive procedures that is best suited under the circumstances of the procurement.

In determining the competitive procedure appropriate under the circumstances, the Authority shall:

a. solicit sealed bids if:

(i) time permits the solicitation, submission, and evaluation of sealed bids;

(ii) the award will be made on the basis of price and other price-related factors;

(iii) it is not necessary to conduct discussions with the responding sources about their bids; and

(iv) there is a reasonable expectation of receiving more than one sealed bid; or

b. request competitive proposals if sealed bids are not appropriate under clause a of this sentence.

2. The Authority may use procedures other than competitive procedures if:

a. the property, services, or construction needed by the Authority is available from only one

306 responsible source, and no other type of property, services, or construction will satisfy the needs of the
307 Authority; or

308 b. the Authority's need for the property, services, or construction is of such an unusual and
309 compelling urgency that the Authority would be seriously injured unless the Authority limits the number
310 of sources from which it solicits bids or proposals; or

311 c. the Authority determines that it is necessary in the public interest to use procedures other than
312 competitive procedures in the particular procurement.

313 3. For the purpose of applying subdivision 2 a of this section B:

314 a. In the case of a contract for property, services, or construction to be awarded on the basis of
315 acceptance of an unsolicited proposal, the property, services, or construction shall be deemed to be
316 available from only one responsible source if the source has submitted an unsolicited proposal that
317 demonstrates a concept:

318 (i) that is unique and innovative or, in the case of a service, for which the source demonstrates a
319 unique capability to provide the service; and

320 (ii) the substance of which is not otherwise available to the Authority and does not resemble the
321 substance of a pending competitive procurement.

322 b. In the case of a follow-on contract for the continued development or production of a major system
323 or highly specialized equipment or the continued provision of highly specialized services, the property,
324 services, or construction may be deemed to be available from only the original source and may be
325 procured through procedures other than competitive procedures if it is likely that award to a source
326 other than the original source would result in:

327 (i) substantial duplication of cost to the Authority that is not expected to be recovered through
328 competition; or

329 (ii) unacceptable delays in fulfilling the Authority's needs.

330 4. If the Authority uses procedures other than competitive procedures to procure property, services,
331 or construction under subdivision 2 b of this section B, the Authority shall request offers from as many
332 potential sources as is practicable under the circumstances.

333 5. a. To promote efficiency and economy in contracting, the Authority may use simplified acquisition
334 procedures for purchases of property, services and construction.

335 b. For the purposes of this subsection, simplified acquisition procedures may be used for purchases
336 for an amount that does not exceed the simplified acquisition threshold adopted by the federal
337 government.

338 c. A proposed purchase or contract for an amount above the simplified acquisition threshold may not
339 be divided into several purchases or contracts for lesser amounts in order to use the procedures under
340 subdivision a of this subsection.

341 d. In using simplified acquisition procedures, the Authority shall promote competition to the
342 maximum extent practicable.

343 6. The Board shall adopt policies and procedures to implement this section. The policies and
344 procedures shall provide for publication of notice of procurements and other actions designed to secure
345 competition where competitive procedures are used.

346 7. The Authority in its discretion may reject any and all bids or proposals received in response to a
347 solicitation.

348 Article V.

349 Incidental Powers.

350 The Authority shall have power to construct grade separations at intersections of the project with
351 public highways and to change and adjust the lines and grades of such highways so as to accommodate
352 the same to the design of such grade separation. The cost of such grade separations and any damage
353 incurred in changing and adjusting the lines and grades of such highways shall be ascertained and paid
354 by the Authority as a part of the cost of the project.

355 If the Authority shall find it necessary to change the location of any portion of any public highway,
356 it shall cause the same to be reconstructed at such location as the Authority shall deem most favorable
357 and of substantially the same type and in as good condition as the original highway. The cost of such
358 reconstruction and any damage incurred in changing the location of any such highway shall be
359 ascertained and paid by the Authority as a part of the cost of the project.

360 Any public highway affected by the construction of the project may be vacated or relocated by the
361 Authority in the manner now provided by law for the vacation or relocation of public roads, and any
362 damages awarded on account thereof shall be paid by the Authority as a part of the cost of the project.

363 In addition to the foregoing powers, the Authority and its authorized agents and employees may
364 enter upon any lands, waters and premises in the Commonwealth for the purpose of making surveys,
365 soundings, drillings and examinations as they may deem necessary or convenient for the purposes of this
366 Act, and such entry shall not be deemed a trespass, nor shall an entry for such purposes be deemed an
367 entry under any condemnation proceedings which may be then pending. The Authority shall make

reimbursement for any actual damage resulting to such lands, waters and premises as a result of such activities.

The Authority shall also have power to make regulations for the installation, construction, maintenance, repair, renewal, relocation and removal of tracks, pipes, mains, conduits, cables, wires, towers, poles and other equipment and appliances (herein called "public utility facilities") of any public utility in, on, along, over or under the project. Whenever the Authority shall determine that it is necessary that any such public utility facilities which now are, or hereafter may be, located in, on, along, over or under the project should be relocated in the project, or should be removed from the project, the public utility owning or operating such facilities shall relocate or remove the same in accordance with the order of the Authority, provided that the cost and expenses of such relocation or removal, including the cost of installing such facilities in a new location or new locations, and the cost of any lands, or any rights or interests in lands, and any other rights, acquired to accomplish such relocation or removal, shall be ascertained and paid by the Authority as a part of the cost of the project. In case of any such relocation or removal of facilities, the public utility owning or operating the same, its successors or assigns, may maintain and operate such facilities, with the necessary appurtenances, in the new location or new locations, for as long a period, and upon the same terms and conditions, as it had the right to maintain and operate such facilities in their former location or locations.

The Commonwealth of Virginia hereby consents to the use of all lands owned by it, including lands lying under water, which are deemed by the Authority to be necessary for the construction or operation of the project.

Article VI. Revenue Bonds.

The Authority is hereby authorized to provide by resolution, at one time or from time to time, for the issuance of revenue bonds of the Authority to pay all or a part of the cost of all or a part of the project.

Article VII. Trust Indenture.

In the discretion of the Authority, any bonds issued under the provisions of this Act may be secured by a trust indenture by and between the Authority and a corporate trustee, which may be any trust company or bank having the powers of a trust company within or without the Commonwealth. Such trust indenture or the resolution providing for the issuance of such bonds may pledge or assign the tolls and other revenues to be received, but shall not convey or mortgage the project or any part thereof.

Article VIII. Revenues.

The Authority is hereby authorized to fix, revise, charge and collect tolls for the use of the project; to contract with any person, partnership, association or corporation desiring the use thereof; and to fix the terms, conditions, rents and rates of charges for such use.

Such tolls shall be so fixed and adjusted in respect of the aggregate of tolls from the project as to provide a fund sufficient with other revenues, if any, to pay (i) the cost of maintaining, repairing and operating such project and (ii) the principal of and the interest on such bonds as the same shall become due and payable, and to create reserves for such purposes. Such tolls shall not be subject to supervision or regulation by any other authority, board, bureau or agency of the Commonwealth. The tolls and all other revenues derived from the project in connection with which the bonds of any issue shall have been issued, except such part thereof as may be necessary to pay such cost of maintenance, repair and operation and to provide such reserves therefor as may be provided for in the resolution authorizing the issuance of such bonds or in the trust indenture securing the same, shall be set aside at such regular intervals as may be provided in such resolution or such trust indenture in a sinking fund which is hereby pledged to, and charged with, the payment of the principal of and the interest on such bonds as the same shall become due, and the redemption price or the purchase price of bonds retired by call or purchase as therein provided. Such pledge shall be valid and binding from the time when the pledge is made; the tolls or other revenues or other moneys so pledged and thereafter received by the Authority shall immediately be subject to the lien of such pledge without any physical delivery thereof or further act, and the lien of any such pledge shall be valid and binding as against all parties having claims of any kind in tort, contract or otherwise against the Authority, irrespective of whether such parties have notice thereof. Neither the resolution nor any trust indenture by which a pledge is created need be filed or recorded except in the records of the Authority. The use and disposition of moneys to the credit of such sinking fund shall be subject to the provisions of the resolution authorizing the issuance of such bonds or of such trust indenture. Except as may otherwise be provided in such resolution or such trust indenture, such sinking fund shall be a fund for all such bonds without distinction or priority of one over another.

Article IX.

Trust Funds.

All moneys received pursuant to the authority of this Act, whether as proceeds from the sale of bonds or as revenues, shall be deemed to be trust funds to be held and applied solely as provided in this Act. The resolution authorizing the bonds of any issue or the trust indenture securing such bonds shall provide that any officer with whom, or any bank or trust company with which, such moneys shall be deposited shall act as trustee of such moneys and shall hold and apply the same for the purposes thereof, subject to such regulations as this Act and such resolution or trust indenture may provide.

Article X.

Remedies.

Any holder of bonds issued under the provisions of this Act or any of the coupons appertaining thereto, and the trustee under any trust indenture, except to the extent the rights herein given may be restricted by such trust indenture or the resolution authorizing the issuance of such bonds, may, either at law or in equity, by suit, action, mandamus or other proceeding, protect and enforce any and all rights under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia or granted hereunder or under such trust indenture or the resolution authorizing the issuance of such bonds, and may enforce and compel the performance of all duties required by this Act or by such trust indenture or resolution to be performed by the Authority or by any officer thereof, including the fixing, charging and collecting of tolls.

Article XI.

Tax Exemption.

The exercise of the powers granted by this Act will be in all respects for the benefit of the people of the Commonwealth and for the increase of their commerce and prosperity, and as the operation and maintenance of the project will constitute the performance of essential governmental functions, the Authority shall not be required to pay any taxes or assessments upon the project or any property acquired or used by the Authority under the provisions of this Act or upon the income therefrom, and the bonds issued under the provisions of this Act, and the income therefrom, shall at all times be free from taxation within the Commonwealth.

Article XII.

Bonds Eligible for Investment.

Bonds issued by the Authority under the provisions of this Act are hereby made securities in which all public officers and public bodies of the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions, insurance companies, trust companies, banking associations, investment companies, executors, administrators, trustees and other fiduciaries may properly and legally invest funds, including capital in their control or belonging to them. Such bonds are hereby made securities which may properly and legally be deposited with and received by any Commonwealth or municipal officer or any agency or political subdivision of the Commonwealth for any purpose for which the deposit of bonds or obligations is now or may hereafter be authorized by law.

Article XIII.

Miscellaneous.

Any action taken by the Authority under the provisions of this Act may be authorized by resolution at any regular or special meeting, and each such resolution shall take effect immediately and need not be published or posted.

The project when constructed and opened to traffic shall be maintained and kept in good condition and repair by the Authority. The project shall also be policed and operated by such force of police, toll-takers and other operating employees as the Authority may in its discretion employ. The Authority shall comply with all laws, ordinances, and regulations of the signatories and political subdivisions and agencies thereof with respect to the use of streets, highways, and all other vehicular facilities, traffic controls and regulations, signs and buildings.

All other police officers of the signatory parties and of each county, city, town or other political subdivision of the Commonwealth through which any project, or portion thereof, extends shall have the same powers and jurisdiction within the limits of such projects as they have beyond such limits and shall have access to the project at any time for the purpose of exercising such powers and jurisdiction.

All private property damaged or destroyed by the construction of the project or any part thereof shall be restored or repaired and placed in its original condition as nearly as practicable or adequate compensation made therefor out of funds provided under the authority of this Act.

On or before the last day of August in each year, the Authority shall make an annual report of its activities for the preceding calendar year to the Governors of Maryland and Virginia and the City Council of the District of Columbia. Each such report shall set forth a complete operating and financial statement covering its operations during the year. The Authority shall cause an audit of its books and accounts to be made at least once in each year by certified public accountants and the cost thereof may be treated as a part of the cost of construction or operation of the project. The records, books and accounts of the Authority shall be subject to examination and inspection by duly authorized

491 *representatives of the governing bodies of Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia and of the*
492 *political subdivisions constituting the Authority and by any bondholder or bondholders at any*
493 *reasonable time, provided the business of the Authority is not unduly interrupted or interfered with*
494 *thereby.*

495 *Any member, agent or employee of the Authority who contracts with the Authority or is interested,*
496 *either directly or indirectly, in any contract with the Authority or in the sale of any property, either real*
497 *or personal, to the Authority shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished*
498 *by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.*

499 *Any person who uses the project and fails or refuses to pay the toll provided therefor shall be guilty*
500 *of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100 or by*
501 *imprisonment for not more than thirty days, or both.*

502 *When one signatory adopts an amendment or supplement to an existing section of this compact, that*
503 *amendment or supplement shall not be immediately effective, and the previously enacted provision or*
504 *provisions shall remain in effect in each jurisdiction until the amendment or supplement is approved by*
505 *the other signatories and is consented to by Congress.*