

**68-2015. Operation of projects; restoration and repair of private property; agreements with political subdivisions; annual report and audit; employees contracting with authority; penalty.** Each turnpike project when constructed and opened to traffic shall be maintained and kept in good condition and repair by the authority. Each such 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.

All private property damaged or destroyed in laying out and constructing said turnpike project 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.

All counties, cities, towns and other political subdivisions and all public agencies and commissions of the state, notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, are hereby authorized and empowered to lease, lend, grant or convey to the authority at its request upon such terms and conditions as the proper authorities of such counties, cities, towns, political subdivisions, agencies or commissions of the state 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.

On or before the thirty-first day of March in each year the authority shall make an annual report of its activities for the preceding calendar year to the governor. 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.

Any member, agent or employee of the authority who contracts with the authority or is interested, either directly or indirectly, in any contract with the authority or in the sale of any property, either real or personal, to the authority shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by imprisonment for not more than one (1) year, or both.

**History:** L. 1953, ch. 308, § 15; L. 1957, ch. 369, § 1; L. 1979, ch. 213, § 1; July 1.