

SENATE BILL 222

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4r1253
CF 4r1164

By: **Senator Muse**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2014

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission to Investigate the Treatment of Lender-Owned Properties**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission to Investigate the Treatment of
4 Lender-Owned Properties; providing for the composition, cochairs, and staffing
5 of the Commission; prohibiting a member of the Commission from receiving
6 certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses;
7 requiring the Commission to study and make recommendations regarding
8 certain matters; requiring the Commission to report its findings and
9 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a
10 certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to
11 the Commission to Investigate the Treatment of Lender-Owned Properties.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That:

14 (a) There is a Commission to Investigate the Treatment of Lender-Owned
15 Properties.

16 (b) The Commission consists of the following members:

17 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
18 of the Senate;

19 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
20 the House;

21 (3) the Secretary of Housing and Community Development, or the
22 Secretary's designee;

23 (4) the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, or the
24 Secretary's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (5) the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee; and

2 (6) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

3 (i) one member who is a licensed real estate broker;

4 (ii) one member who is a banker;

5 (iii) one representative of the NAACP; and

6 (iv) one representative of a nonprofit organization focused on
7 housing rights.

8 (c) The Senate representative and the House representative shall cochair the
9 Commission.

10 (d) The Department of Housing and Community Development and the Office
11 of the Attorney General shall provide staff for the Commission.

12 (e) A member of the Commission:

13 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

14 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
15 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

16 (f) The Commission shall:

17 (1) investigate the treatment of lender-owned properties in the State
18 to determine whether disparities exist based on zip code, income level, race, or
19 ethnicity; and

20 (2) make recommendations on ways to correct any disparities found by
21 the Commission, including:

22 (i) legislation;

23 (ii) litigation against the lenders; and

24 (iii) any other actions identified by the Commission.

25 (g) On or before June 30, 2015, the Commission shall report its findings and
26 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
27 Government Article, the General Assembly.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 July 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30,
3 2016, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
4 abrogated and of no further force and effect.