

SENATE BILL 222

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By: **Senator Muse**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2014

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Commission to Investigate the Treatment of Lender-Owned Properties

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

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

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

(b) The Commission consists of the following members:

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

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

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

(ii) one member who is a banker;

(iii) one representative of the NAACP; and

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

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

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

(e) A member of the Commission:

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

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

(f) The Commission shall:

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

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

(i) legislation;

(ii) litigation against the lenders; and

(iii) any other actions identified by the Commission.

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

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