

HOUSE BILL 50

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II

1999 Regular Session  
9lr0428  
CF 9lr0674

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By: **Delegate Wood (Task Force to Study Bank Charter Modernization)**

Introduced and read first time: January 18, 1999

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 16, 1999

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Financial Institutions - Bank Charter Modernization and Other Banking**  
3 **Law Reforms**

4 FOR the purpose of consolidating certain laws relating to real estate appraisal  
5 policies; repealing the requirement that commercial banks file a list of  
6 stockholders with the Commissioner of Financial Regulation; allowing banking  
7 institution directors to serve staggered terms; repealing the requirement that a  
8 copy of a trust company's common trust plan be filed with the Commissioner;  
9 repealing certain obsolete requirements relating to bills payable that limit the  
10 borrowing authority and flexibility of State-chartered banks in comparison to  
11 national banks; altering requirements regarding the filing of a copy of a bank's  
12 Community Reinvestment Act statement with the Commissioner; altering  
13 provisions relating to the amount of real property and furnishings that a  
14 banking institution may buy and hold, relative to paid-in capital and surplus;  
15 expanding the scope of the provisions of law relating to authorized additional  
16 banking activities and bank-related services to allow the Commissioner greater  
17 power and flexibility to approve, for State-chartered banks, any activities that  
18 are allowed for national banks; and generally relating to modifications of State  
19 laws relating to bank charters and the powers, duties, and responsibilities of  
20 bank regulators and officials.

21 BY repealing  
22 Article - Financial Institutions  
23 Section 3-313, 3-405, 3-406, 3-603, 4-505, and 4-506  
24 Annotated Code of Maryland  
25 (1998 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

26 BY adding to

1 Article - Financial Institutions  
2 Section 1-208, 3-405, and 4-505  
3 Annotated Code of Maryland  
4 (1998 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
6 Article - Financial Institutions  
7 Section 2-110, 3-508, 5-206.1, 5-503, and 5-504  
8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
9 (1998 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
11 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

12 **Article - Financial Institutions**

13 1-208.

14 (A) THE DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF A FINANCIAL INSTITUTION SHALL  
15 DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT WRITTEN:

16 (1) POLICIES GOVERNING REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL; AND

17 (2) PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE HIRING AND PERFORMANCE OF REAL  
18 ESTATE APPRAISERS.

19 (B) THE PROCEDURES REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(2) OF THIS SECTION  
20 SHALL SET FORTH SPECIFIC FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE FINANCIAL  
21 INSTITUTION'S DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS, INCLUDING:

22 (1) WHETHER THE APPRAISER IS LICENSED OR CERTIFIED UNDER THE  
23 BUSINESS OCCUPATIONS AND PROFESSIONS ARTICLE; AND

24 (2) THE REAL ESTATE APPRAISER'S:

25 (I) PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION; AND

26 (II) EXPERIENCE IN REAL ESTATE APPRAISING.

27 (C) PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTATION, A FINANCIAL INSTITUTION SHALL SUBMIT  
28 ITS REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO THE COMMISSIONER  
29 FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

30 2-110.

31 (a) The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner shall devote full time to  
32 their duties.

33 (b) The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner may not:

1 (1) Be an officer or director of any State banking institution or national  
2 banking association, or in any entity engaged in the business of making loans; or

3 (2) Engage in any other business relating to banks and financial  
4 institutions or lending.

5 [(c) Directors and officers of financial institutions shall develop and  
6 implement, by December 31, 1989, written:

7 (1) Real estate appraisal policies; and

8 (2) Procedures pertaining to the hiring and performance of real estate  
9 appraisers.

10 (d) The procedures required under subsection (c)(2) of this section shall set  
11 forth specific factors to be considered by the financial institution's directors and  
12 officers, including but not limited to:

13 (1) Whether the appraiser is licensed or certified under the Business  
14 Occupations and Professions Article; and

15 (2) The real estate appraiser's:

16 (i) Professional education; and

17 (ii) Experience in real estate appraising.

18 (e) Real estate appraisal policies and procedures shall be submitted by the  
19 financial institutions to the Commissioner for review and approval.]

20 [3-313.

21 (a) Each commercial bank shall report to the Commissioner on its  
22 stockholders:

23 (1) At least once a year, at the time that the Commissioner specifies; and

24 (2) At any other time that the Commissioner considers necessary.

25 (b) Each report made under this section shall:

26 (1) List the names and residence addresses of the stockholders of the  
27 commercial bank and the amount of stock each holds; and

28 (2) Be signed and verified by an officer of the commercial bank.]

29 [3-405.

30 (a) The stockholders of a commercial bank shall elect directors at each annual  
31 meeting of the stockholders.

1 (b) If the election of the directors is not held at the annual meeting, an election  
2 may be held at a later meeting called for that purpose. Notice of the later meeting  
3 shall be given as the bylaws provide.]

4 3-405.

5 (A) UNTIL SUCCESSORS ARE ELECTED AND QUALIFY, THE BOARD OF  
6 DIRECTORS OF A COMMERCIAL BANK CONSISTS OF THE INDIVIDUALS NAMED AS  
7 DIRECTORS IN THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION.

8 (B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AT  
9 EACH ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS, THE STOCKHOLDERS SHALL ELECT  
10 DIRECTORS TO HOLD OFFICE UNTIL THE EARLIER OF:

11 (I) THE NEXT ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS AND UNTIL  
12 THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE ELECTED AND QUALIFY; OR

13 (II) THE TIME PROVIDED IN THE TERMS OF ANY CLASS OR SERIES  
14 OF STOCK PURSUANT TO WHICH THE DIRECTORS ARE ELECTED.

15 (2) (I) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPHS (II) AND (III) OF THIS  
16 PARAGRAPH, IF THE DIRECTORS ARE DIVIDED INTO CLASSES, THE TERM OF OFFICE  
17 MAY BE PROVIDED IN THE BYLAWS.

18 (II) THE TERM OF OFFICE OF A DIRECTOR MAY NOT BE LONGER  
19 THAN 5 YEARS OR, IN THE CASE OF AN INITIAL OR SUBSTITUTE DIRECTOR, SHORTER  
20 THAN THE PERIOD BETWEEN ANNUAL MEETINGS.

21 (III) THE TERM OF OFFICE OF AT LEAST ONE CLASS OF DIRECTORS  
22 SHALL EXPIRE EACH YEAR.

23 [3-406.

24 A director of a commercial bank serves until the next annual meeting of the  
25 stockholders and until a successor is elected and qualifies.]

26 3-508.

27 (a) A copy of the fund plan and any amendments to it shall be filed[:

28 (1) With the Commissioner, as a public record; and

29 (2) At] AT the principal banking office of the trust company, where it  
30 shall be available during regular business hours for inspection by any cofiduciary or  
31 person who has an interest in a participating account.

32 (b) On a reasonable request, a copy of the fund plan shall be provided to any  
33 cofiduciary or person who has an interest in a participating account.

1 [3-603.

2 Unless the Commissioner gives written approval for an extension of time, a  
3 commercial bank may not carry for more than 90 days a total of bills payable and  
4 rediscounts that exceeds the unimpaired capital and surplus of the commercial  
5 bank.]

6 [4-505.

7 The members of a savings bank or the stockholders of a subsidiary savings bank  
8 shall elect directors at each annual meeting of the members.]

9 4-505.

10 (A) UNTIL SUCCESSORS ARE ELECTED AND QUALIFY, THE BOARD OF  
11 DIRECTORS OF A SAVINGS BANK CONSISTS OF THE INDIVIDUALS NAMED AS  
12 DIRECTORS IN THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION.

13 (B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AT  
14 EACH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF A SAVINGS BANK OR THE  
15 STOCKHOLDERS OF A SUBSIDIARY SAVINGS BANK, THE MEMBERS OR  
16 STOCKHOLDERS SHALL ELECT DIRECTORS TO HOLD OFFICE UNTIL THE NEXT  
17 ANNUAL MEETING AND UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE ELECTED AND QUALIFY.

18 (2) (I) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPHS (II) AND (III) OF THIS  
19 PARAGRAPH, IF THE DIRECTORS ARE DIVIDED INTO CLASSES, THE TERM OF OFFICE  
20 MAY BE PROVIDED IN THE BYLAWS.

21 (II) THE TERM OF OFFICE OF A DIRECTOR MAY NOT BE LONGER  
22 THAN 5 YEARS OR, IN THE CASE OF AN INITIAL OR SUBSTITUTE DIRECTOR, SHORTER  
23 THAN THE PERIOD BETWEEN ANNUAL MEETINGS.

24 (III) THE TERM OF OFFICE OF AT LEAST ONE CLASS OF DIRECTORS  
25 SHALL EXPIRE EACH YEAR.

26 [4-506.

27 A director of a savings bank serves until the next annual meeting of the  
28 members and until a successor is elected and qualifies.]

29 5-206.1.

30 (a) Within 30 days of [adoption] RECEIPT, a national banking association  
31 located in the State, a banking institution, or an other-state bank that maintains a  
32 branch in this State shall submit to the Commissioner a copy of [its most recently  
33 adopted federal Community Reinvestment Act statement.

34 (b) Within 30 days of receipt, the association, institution, or bank shall submit  
35 to the Commissioner a copy of] the public portion of its most recent Community  
36 Reinvestment Act performance evaluation prepared by the federal regulatory agency

1 that examines the association, institution, or bank, together with a copy of any  
2 written response to the evaluation prepared by the association, institution, or bank  
3 for its public Community Reinvestment Act file.

4 [(c)] (B) (1) Upon request, the Commissioner shall make available to the  
5 public a copy of the documents submitted under this section.

6 (2) The Commissioner may charge a reasonable fee to a person  
7 requesting a copy to help defray the costs of providing copies of the documents to the  
8 public.

9 5-503.

10 (a) A banking institution may buy and hold real property only as provided in  
11 this section.

12 (b) (1) Subject to the limitations in paragraph (3) of this subsection, a  
13 banking institution may buy or hold any real property that is necessary for the  
14 convenient transaction of its business.

15 (2) In addition to its offices, this property may include:

16 (i) A parking lot that the banking institution provides, with or  
17 without charge, primarily for the use of its customers; and

18 (ii) Any rental space that is located in the bank building or on  
19 adjoining land.

20 (3) [A] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION,  
21 A banking institution may not invest in its bank building and furnishings more than  
22 an amount that equals 50 percent of its unimpaired capital and surplus or guaranty  
23 fund [unless, under conditions that the Commissioner sets, the Commissioner  
24 authorizes a greater amount].

25 (4) IF A BANKING INSTITUTION IS RATED CAMELS 1 OR 2 AND REMAINS  
26 WELL CAPITALIZED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FEDERAL  
27 DEPOSIT INSURANCE ACT, IT MAY INVEST IN ITS BANK BUILDING AND FURNISHINGS  
28 AN AMOUNT EQUIVALENT TO 75 PERCENT OF ITS:

29 (I) UNIMPAIRED CAPITAL, SURPLUS, AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS; OR

30 (II) GUARANTY FUND AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS.

31 (c) (1) Subject to the limitations in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection,  
32 a banking institution may hold any real property that the banking institution  
33 acquires:

34 (i) In satisfaction of a debt contracted in the course of its business;  
35 or

1 (ii) At sale on a judgment, decree, or mortgage foreclosure under a  
2 security that it holds.

3 (2) At a sale, a banking institution may not bid more than the amount of  
4 money that is necessary to satisfy the secured debts and costs.

5 (3) A banking institution:

6 (i) May not hold property acquired under this subsection for more  
7 than:

8 1. 8 years; and

9 2. Under conditions that the Commissioner sets, 2 additional  
10 years; and

11 (ii) Within 1 year after that period, shall:

12 1. Sell the property; or

13 2. Reduce the value of the property on its books to a value  
14 that the Commissioner approves.

15 5-504.

16 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of [Titles 1 through 5 of this article]  
17 THE LAWS OR REGULATIONS OF THIS STATE, if the Commissioner approves, banking  
18 institutions may engage in any additional [banking activity or bank-related service]  
19 ACTIVITY, SERVICE, OR OTHER PRACTICE in which, under federal law, national  
20 banking associations may engage.

21 (b) The Commissioner may [approve an additional activity or bank-related  
22 service] GRANT AN APPROVAL UNDER THIS SECTION only if:

23 (1) The Commissioner determines that approval is:

24 (i) Reasonably required to protect the welfare of the general  
25 economy of this State and of banking institutions; ~~and~~ OR

26 (ii) Not detrimental to the public interest or to banking  
27 institutions; and

28 (2) The approval imposes the same conditions that federal law requires  
29 or permits as to national banking associations.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
31 October 1, 1999.

