
By: **Washington County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2005

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Washington County Property Tax Commission**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Washington County Property Tax Commission;
4 specifying the membership of the Commission; specifying the duties of the
5 Commission; providing for the staffing of the Commission; provision that
6 members of the Commission may receive reimbursement for certain expenses;
7 requiring the Commission to hold a public hearing; requiring the Commission to
8 issue certain reports by certain dates to the Washington County Delegation and
9 the Washington County Board of County Commissioners; providing for the
10 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the establishment of a
11 Washington County Property Tax Commission.

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

14 (a) In this section, "Washington County Delegation" means the Senators and
15 Delegates in the General Assembly of Maryland who are elected to represent
16 Washington County or any portion of Washington County.

17 (b) There is a Washington County Property Tax Commission.

18 (c) The Commission shall consist of the following seven voting members:

19 (1) four members of the public appointed by the Washington County
20 Delegation; and

21 (2) three members of the public appointed by the Washington County
22 Board of County Commissioners.

23 (d) In addition to the seven voting members specified in subsection (c) of this
24 section, the Commission shall consist of the following two nonvoting members:

25 (1) the President of the Washington County Board of County
26 Commissioners, or the President's designee; and

27 (2) a representative of the Washington County Chapter of the Maryland
28 Municipal League.

1 (e) The Chairman of the Commission shall be appointed by the Washington
2 County Delegation from among the seven voting members serving on the
3 Commission.

4 (f) (1) The Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation shall
5 provide the staff for the Commission.

6 (2) The Washington County Finance Office and Washington County
7 Treasurer shall provide assistance at the request of the Commission.

8 (g) A member of the Commission may not receive compensation for serving on
9 the Commission, but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
10 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

11 (h) The responsibilities of the Commission include:

12 (1) analyzing the impact of increasing property assessments on
13 Washington County's population, including the impact on work-force housing, senior
14 citizens, and urban revitalization;

15 (2) studying the financial effects to the Washington County budget, with
16 regards to the impact of a property tax assessment cap, a tax credit for senior citizens,
17 or a property tax rate reduction;

18 (3) suggesting to the Washington County Board of County
19 Commissioners and the Washington County Delegation legislative or policy changes
20 that the Commission believes is necessary to implement its findings; and

21 (4) any other pertinent property tax issue that the Commission believes
22 it should analyze.

23 (i) (1) The Commission shall hold at least one public hearing at which the
24 public shall have the opportunity to speak to the issues the Commission is charged
25 with studying under subsection (h) of this section.

26 (2) At least 10 days before the public hearing provided for in paragraph
27 (1) of this subsection, the Commission shall publish notice of the time and place of the
28 a public hearing with a summary of the issues the Commission is charged with
29 studying, in at least one newspaper of general circulation in Washington County.

30 (j) The Commission shall submit a final report of its findings and
31 recommendations to the Washington County Delegation and the Washington County
32 Board of County Commissioners on or before November 30, 2005.

33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
34 effect July 1, 2005. It shall remain effective for a period of 6 months and, at the end of
35 December 31, 2005, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
36 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.