

Chapter 301

(House Bill 480)

AN ACT concerning

Office of the Attorney General – Establishment of a Consumer Affairs Satellite Office in Prince George's County

FOR the purpose of requiring the Office of the Attorney General to establish a consumer affairs satellite office in Prince George's County; providing for the purpose of establishing the consumer affairs satellite office; requiring the consumer affairs satellite office to provide consumers with certain resources; requiring the Office of the Attorney General to give priority to a certain site in determining where to locate the consumer affairs satellite office; requiring the Office of the Attorney General, on or before a certain date, to report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the operations of the consumer affairs satellite office; and generally relating to the establishment by the Office of the Attorney General of a consumer affairs satellite office in Prince George's County.

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

(a) On or before October 1, 2014, the Office of the Attorney General shall establish a consumer affairs satellite office in Prince George's County.

(b) The purpose of establishing the consumer affairs satellite office is to broaden the reach of the Office of the Attorney General in order to better serve the needs of residents of the Washington metropolitan area for consumer protection services.

(c) The consumer affairs satellite office shall provide consumers with a variety of resources, including allowing a consumer to:

(1) file a complaint with a representative of the Office of the Attorney General; and

(2) receive counseling from a representative of the Office of the Attorney General.

(d) In determining where to locate the consumer affairs satellite office in Prince George's County, the Office of the Attorney General shall give priority to a site that is centrally located in the Washington metropolitan area.

(e) On or before December 31, 2014, the Office of the Attorney General shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on the operations of the consumer affairs satellite office, including the number of consumers the office has served.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2014.

Approved by the Governor, May 5, 2014.