

Chapter 56

(Senate Bill 240)

AN ACT concerning

**Maryland Insurance Commissioner – Responsibility for Holding Hearings
– Delegation**

FOR the purpose of altering the authority of the Maryland Insurance Commissioner to delegate to certain persons the responsibility for holding a hearing under certain provisions of law; and generally relating to the authority of the Maryland Insurance Commissioner to hold hearings.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Insurance
 Section 2–210
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2011 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

Article – Insurance

2–210.

(a) (1) The Commissioner may hold hearings that the Commissioner considers necessary for any purpose under this article.

(2) The Commissioner shall hold a hearing:

(i) if required by any provision of this article; or

(ii) except as otherwise provided in this article, on written demand by a person aggrieved by any act of, threatened act of, or failure to act by the Commissioner or by any report, regulation, or order of the Commissioner, except an order to hold a hearing or an order resulting from a hearing.

(b) (1) A demand for a hearing shall state the grounds for the relief to be demanded at the hearing.

(2) Within 30 consecutive days after receiving a demand for a hearing, the Commissioner shall:

(i) grant and, unless postponed by mutual consent of the parties, hold the hearing; or

(ii) issue an order refusing the hearing.

(3) If the Commissioner does not grant or refuse a hearing within the 30-day period, the hearing is deemed to have been refused.

(c) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a hearing held under this section shall be conducted in accordance with Title 10, Subtitle 2 of the State Government Article (Administrative Procedure Act – Contested Cases).

(2) A hearing held under this section is not subject to § 10-216 of the State Government Article.

(d) The Commissioner may delegate to the Deputy Commissioner, ~~an~~ an associate deputy commissioner, ~~or~~ an associate commissioner, **OR ANY OTHER PERSON DESIGNATED BY THE COMMISSIONER ONE OTHER ADMINISTRATION EMPLOYEE WHO IS DESIGNATED BY THE COMMISSIONER AND ADMITTED TO THE PRACTICE OF LAW IN THE STATE** the responsibility for holding a hearing under this section or § 4-114 of this article.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2016.

Approved by the Governor, April 12, 2016.