

# HOUSE BILL 996

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By: **Delegate White Holland**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2024

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 1, 2024

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Consumer Protection – Consumer Council – Name Change and Other**  
3 **Modifications**

4 FOR the purpose of changing the name of the Consumer Council in the Division of  
5 Consumer Protection in the Office of the Attorney General to the Consumer  
6 Protection Commission; ~~authorizing the members of the Commission to receive~~  
7 ~~certain per diem compensation~~; and generally relating to consumer protection.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
9 Article – Commercial Law  
10 Section 13–201  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article – Commercial Law  
15 Section 13–202 and 13–205(a)(1)  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Commercial Law**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 13-201.

2 (a) There is a Division of Consumer Protection in the Office of the Attorney  
3 General.

4 (b) The Division shall administer this subtitle.

5 13-202.

6 (a) **(1)** There is a Consumer [Council] **PROTECTION COMMISSION** in the  
7 Division.

8 **(2)** The [Council] **COMMISSION** shall advise the Division on general goals  
9 for the development of programs, undertake studies and issue reports, and foster  
10 cooperation among federal, State, and local agencies and private groups.

11 (b) **(1)** The [Council] **COMMISSION** consists of:

12 (i) The Division Chief; and

13 (ii) Nine members appointed by the Governor with the advice and  
14 consent of the Senate.

15 **(2)** The members appointed by the Governor shall be divided into three  
16 categories, as follows:

17 (i) Three members to represent consumer groups or interests;

18 (ii) Three members to represent business groups or interests; and

19 (iii) Three members to represent the public sector.

20 **(3) (I)** The term of membership is six years, except that, of the original  
21 appointees, one of each category shall serve a six-year term, one of each category shall  
22 serve a four-year term, and one of each category shall serve a two-year term.

23 **(II)** A member serves until his successor is appointed and qualified.

24 **(III)** An appointment to a vacancy in an unexpired term is limited to  
25 the remainder of that term.

26 **(4)** The members [shall serve without compensation] ~~MAY RECEIVE PER~~  
27 ~~DIEM COMPENSATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE BUDGET~~, but shall be  
28 reimbursed for all expenses reasonably incurred.

1           **(5)** The [Council] **COMMISSION** shall elect annually a [chairman] **CHAIR**  
2 from among its members and appoint a secretary.

3 13-205.

4           (a) (1) After obtaining the advice of the Consumer [Council] **PROTECTION**  
5 **COMMISSION** and holding a public hearing, the Division may adopt reasonable rules,  
6 regulations, and standards appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this subtitle, including  
7 rules, regulations, or standards which further define specific unfair or deceptive trade  
8 practices.

9           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
10 October 1, 2024.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.