

(d) The Commissioner, from time to time, shall investigate and determine the prevailing hourly rate of wages in the localities. Pursuant to this authority the Commissioner shall divide the State and, from time to time, redivide the State into various localities or areas for the purpose of determining and fixing the prevailing rate of wages therein. In so dividing or redividing the State, the Commissioner shall not be restricted or confined to geographical or political subdivisions of the State. In determining prevailing wage rates, the Commissioner shall ascertain and consider, among other things, the applicable wage rates established by collective bargaining agreements.

[99.] 8-505.

(a) Any prospective bidder OR OFFEROR or his representative, any representative of any group of employers engaged in the particular type of construction involved, any representative of any classification of workmen, or the public body, within [ten (10)] 10 days after the call for bids OR PROPOSALS on the public work involved, may file with the Commissioner a verified petition, which sets forth the facts upon which it is based, to review the determination of any prevailing wage rate or rates. Within [two (2)] 2 days thereafter a copy of the petition shall be filed with the public body authorizing the public work. The Commissioner, upon notice to the petitioner, the public body authorizing the public work, and the recognized collective bargaining representatives for the particular classifications involved, and also to all persons entitled to receive notice pursuant to subsection (a) of § [98] 8-504 hereof, shall institute an investigation and hold a public hearing within [twenty (20)] 20 days after the filing of such petition. The Commissioner at his discretion may hear each petition separately or consolidate for hearing any two or more petitions. At the hearing the Commissioner shall introduce in evidence the investigation it instituted and the other facts which were considered at the time of the original determination which formed the basis for his determination. The Commissioner or any interested parties thereafter may introduce any evidence that is material to the issues. Within [ten (10)] 10 days of the conclusion of the hearing, the Commissioner shall make a determination and transmit it, in writing, to the public body and to the interested parties. Such determination shall be final.

(b) Upon receipt by the public body of the notice of the filing of such petition, the public body awarding the contract shall extend the closing date for the submission of bids until [five (5)] 5 days after the determination of the prevailing wage rates pursuant to this section and the publication of such findings.

(c) As to any matters of rate determination the applicable provisions of Article 41, [subtitle] SUBTITLE 24, of the Annotated Code of Maryland, "Administrative Procedure Act," shall prevail.