

Appropriations	1961	1962
General Funds	\$73,799	\$73,774
Staff: 8.		

STATE DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION

Director: Albert W. Ward

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The General Assembly created the State Department of Assessments and Taxation by Chapter 757, Acts of 1959. The law required that the Governor appoint the first director of the Department; thereafter, the office is to be held under the provisions of the Merit System. Except for appeals, which are a function of the new Maryland Tax Court, the State Department of Assessments and Taxation supersedes the State Tax Commission, established in 1914, which in its turn had superseded the State Tax Commissioner, an office created in 1878. The functions of the early Commissioners had been limited to the assessment of the shares of domestic corporations and national banks, assessment of the gross receipts of certain classes of corporations, and the valuation of distilled spirits for the purpose of State and local taxation. The Director of the present Department in addition supervises the administration of the assessment and tax laws of Maryland, and of each county or city thereof; enforces a continuing method of assessment, and requires that all property in the State be reviewed for assessment each year; assesses the operating property, except land, of railroads and other public utilities and contract carriers; and participates in any proceeding in Court wherein any assessment or taxation question is involved (Code 1957, Art. 81, sec. 232; Art. 41, sec. 318).

For each of the counties the Director appoints a Supervisor of Assessments from a list of five nominees submitted by the County Commissioners. The Supervisors serve during good behavior and are removable by the Director for incompetency or other cause. The cost of their salaries, which are fixed by law, is shared 60% by the State and 40% by the counties. The Director also appoints a Supervisor for Baltimore City, with important duties of investigation. The Supervisor of Assessments is the chief assessor and acts as such over local assessors.

The County Commissioners appoint the local assessors for an indefinite period from a list of applicants examined and graded by the Director. The assessors' salaries are fixed and paid in a manner similar to those of the Supervisors. They review for reassessment the property in each county of Maryland each year (Code 1957, Art. 81, secs. 234-37).

The Director has charge of the qualifications and registration of foreign corporations doing business in Maryland. In addition to collecting an annual filing fee and accounting monthly for all such collections to the Treasurer, the Director assesses the tangible personal property of foreign corporations and distributes the proceeds to the localities in which the property is located. He also approves and records charters and amendments to charters of domestic corporations. By Chapter 1, Acts of the Special Session of 1961, the Department is responsible for the regulation of the savings and loan associations until such time as Chapter 205, Acts of the 1961 Regular Session becomes effective (Code 1957, 1961 Supp., Art. 23, secs. 160A-160KK.)

Appropriations	1961	1962
General Funds	\$932,756	\$975,050
Staff: 65.		