

appropriate cases, and including the power to summon and compel attendance of witnesses.

The members of the Board of Zoning Appeals shall be residents and taxpayers of Baltimore County; the term of office of those first appointed shall expire on December 31, 1941, and their successors shall be appointed for the terms of three years each, subject, however, to removal for cause by the County Commissioners, after written charges are filed and a public hearing thereon is held.

(f) Any person or persons, jointly or severally, aggrieved by any decision of the Board of Zoning Appeals, or any taxpayer, or any officer, department, board or bureau of the county, may present to the Circuit Court of the County, a petition, duly verified, setting forth such decision is illegal, in whole or in part, specifying the ground of the illegality. Such petition shall be presented to the court within thirty (30) days after the filing of the decision in the office of the Board.

Upon the presentation of such petition the court may allow a writ of certiorari directed to the Board of Zoning Appeals to review such decision of the Board of Zoning Appeals and shall prescribe therein the time within which a return thereto must be made and served upon the relator's attorney, which shall not be less than ten (10) days and may be extended by the court. The allowance of the writ shall not stay proceedings upon the decision appealed from, but the court may, on application, on notice to the Board and on due cause shown, grant a restraining order.

The Board of Zoning Appeals shall not be required to return the original papers acted upon by it, but it shall be sufficient to return certified or sworn copies thereof or of such portions thereof as may be called for by such writ. The return shall concisely set forth such other facts as may be pertinent and material to show the grounds of the decision appealed from and shall be verified.

(g) If, upon the hearing, it shall appear to the court that testimony is necessary for the proper disposition of the matter, it may take evidence or appoint a referee to take such evidence as it may direct and report the same to the court with his findings of fact and conclusions of law, which shall constitute a part of the proceedings upon which the determination of the court shall be made.

The court shall have the power to affirm the decision of the Board of Zoning Appeals, or reverse the same, in whole or in part, and may remand any case for the entering of a proper order or for further proceedings, as the court shall determine. All issues in any proceedings under this section shall have the preference over all other civil actions and proceedings.