

(L) FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTIONS (M) THRU (T), THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED:

(1) "CONSUMER" MEANS A PURCHASER, LESSEE OR RECIPIENT OR PROSPECTIVE PURCHASER, LESSEE OR RECIPIENT OF CONSUMER GOODS OR SERVICES OR CONSUMER CREDIT.

(2) "CONSUMER GOODS, SERVICES, CREDIT AND DEBTS" ARE GOODS, SERVICES, CREDIT, DEBTS AND OBLIGATIONS WHICH ARE PRIMARILY FOR PERSONAL, HOUSEHOLD, FAMILY OR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

(3) "TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL" MEANS THE TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL FOR SOUTHERN MARYLAND WHICH IS COMPRISED OF CALVERT, CHARLES AND SAINT MARY'S COUNTY.

(M) THERE IS AN ADVISORY BOARD ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS SERVING THE CALVERT, CHARLES AND SAINT MARY'S TRI-COUNTY AREA TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE CONSUMER PUBLIC OF THE AREA. THE BOARD IS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL.

(N) THE BOARD SHALL BE COMPRISED OF ~~[[FIVE]]~~ THREE PERSONS APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL AND CHOSEN FROM THE STAFF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL. THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL. THE DIRECTOR OF THE ADVISORY BOARD ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS SHALL BE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL. THE MEMBERS SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION.

(O) THE BOARD SHALL MEET AS FREQUENTLY AS REQUIRED TO PERFORM ITS DUTIES BUT NO LESS THAN ONCE A MONTH.

(P) THE BOARD SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING DUTIES, POWERS AND AUTHORITY:

(1) TO RECEIVE AND INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS AND INITIATE ITS OWN INVESTIGATION OF DECEPTIVE OR UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES AGAINST CONSUMERS.

(2) TO REPORT TO APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES HAVING JURISDICTION OVER CONSUMER PROTECTION MATTERS ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING VIOLATION OF ANY CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW.

(3) TO PRESENT THE INTEREST OF CONSUMERS BEFORE ADMINISTRATIVE AND REGULATORY AGENCIES AND LEGISLATIVE BODIES.

(4) TO ASSIST, ADVISE AND COOPERATE WITH THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAUS OF THE TRI-COUNTY AREA AND LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS TO PROTECT AND