

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY

make such investigation as the Executive Director deems appropriate to ascertain facts and issues. In making such investigations and determinations the Executive Director may use the authority granted to the office in Section 11-2 of this Chapter. Whenever appropriate, the Executive Director shall refer a complaint to the Maryland State Real Estate Commission, the State Consumer Protection Division of the State Attorney General's Office or to the Federal Trade Commission. If the Executive Director determines that there are reasonable grounds to believe a violation has occurred, the Executive Director shall attempt to conciliate the matter by methods of initial conference and persuasion with all interested parties and such representatives as the parties may choose to assist them. In attempting such conciliation to assist a complaining consumer in resolving the consumer's individual dispute, the Executive Director may utilize the good offices of the Advisory Committee on Consumer Affairs. Conciliation conferences shall be informal, and nothing said or done during such initial conferences shall be made public by the Office, the Committee or its members unless the parties agree thereto in writing.

**Sec. 5. Severability.**

The provisions of this Chapter are severable and if any provision, sentence, clause, section or part thereof is held illegal, invalid or unconstitutional or inapplicable to any person or circumstance, such illegality, invalidity, unconstitutionality or inapplicability shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, sentences, clauses, sections or parts of the Chapter or their application to other persons and circumstances. It is hereby declared to be the legislative intent that this Chapter would have been adopted if such illegal, invalid or unconstitutional provision, sentence, clause, section or part had not been included therein, and if the person or circumstances to which the chapter or any part thereof is inapplicable had been specifically exempted therefrom.

**Sec. 6. Effective date.**

This Act shall take effect on the 76th day following the date on which it becomes law.

Approved October 15, 1973