

increase the valuation or change the classification ex parte according to their best judgment and information.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That new Section 29 (d-1) be and it is hereby added to Article 81 - Revenue and Taxes, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1975 Replacement Volume and 1975 Supplement) to read as follows:

Article 81 - Revenue and Taxes

29.

(D-1) [[IF A PERSON REQUESTS A LATER DATE FOR THE HEARING THAN THE DATE FIXED IN THE NOTICE, THE DATE AND THE TIME SHALL BE FIXED BY MUTUAL CONSENT OF THE ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY AND THE PERSON REQUESTING THE HEARING. THE HEARING SHALL BE SCHEDULED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE PROTEST IS RECEIVED AND NOT MORE THAN 15 DAYS AFTER THE RECEIPT OF THE PROTEST. FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF PERSONS REQUESTING HEARINGS, THE ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE SOME EVENING AND SATURDAY HOURS FOR HEARINGS. THE ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY ALSO SHALL SCHEDULE HEARINGS AT COMMUNITY LOCATIONS CONVENIENT TO THE PERSONS REQUESTING HEARINGS. AN ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY SHALL CONCLUDE A HEARING AT LEAST 90 DAYS PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE FISCAL YEAR FOR WHICH THE ASSESSMENT APPLIES.]]

THE DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION IS AUTHORIZED TO OFFER ALTERNATE DATES AND TIMES FOR PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT PROTEST HEARINGS. THESE DATES AND TIMES SHALL REFLECT, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT HEARING SCHEDULE AND MAY PROVIDE FOR SATURDAY AND EVENING HEARINGS. THE DEPARTMENT IS FURTHER AUTHORIZED, AT ITS DISCRETION, TO HOLD COMMON-TYPE HEARINGS BY BLOCK OR COMMUNITY WHERE SIMILAR PROPERTY AND ASSESSMENT CHARACTERISTICS ARE EVIDENCED.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1976.

Approved May 17, 1976.

CHAPTER 565

(Senate Bill 161)

AN ACT concerning

Safety and Conservation While Hunting