

~~AND PLANNING COMMISSION.~~

~~(C) "AGENCY'S COUNTY" MEANS:~~

~~(1) FOR A COUNTY AGENCY, THE COUNTY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF WHICH THE AGENCY IS A PART.~~

~~(2) FOR A MUNICIPALITY, THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE MUNICIPALITY OR ANY PART OF IT LIES.~~

~~(D) (C) "CONTESTED CASE" MEANS A PROCEEDING BEFORE AN AGENCY IN WHICH THE LEGAL RIGHTS, DUTIES, OR PRIVILEGES OF SPECIFIC PARTIES ARE REQUIRED BY LAW OR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO BE DETERMINED AFTER AN AGENCY HEARING.~~

~~(E) "CIRCUIT COURT" INCLUDES THE SUPREME BENCH OF BALTIMORE CITY.~~

~~(F) "COUNTY" INCLUDES BALTIMORE CITY.~~

~~(G) (D) "RULE" INCLUDES EVERY REGULATION, STANDARD, OR STATEMENT OF POLICY OR INTERPRETATION OF GENERAL APPLICATION AND FUTURE EFFECT, INCLUDING THE AMENDMENT OR REPEAL THEREOF, ADOPTED BY AN AGENCY, WHETHER WITH OR WITHOUT PRIOR HEARING, TO IMPLEMENT OR MAKE SPECIFIC THE LAW ENFORCED OR ADMINISTERED BY IT OR TO GOVERN ITS ORGANIZATION OR PROCEDURE, BUT DOES NOT INCLUDE REGULATIONS CONCERNING ONLY THE INTERNAL MANAGEMENT OF THE AGENCY AND NOT DIRECTLY AFFECTING THE RIGHTS OF OR PROCEDURES AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.~~

233.

(A) BEFORE PROMULGATING OR ADOPTING A RULE AN AGENCY SHALL PUBLISH THE PROPOSED RULE IN A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION IN ~~THE AGENCY'S WASHINGTON~~ COUNTY AT LEAST 45 DAYS BEFORE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE RULE.

(B) AT LEAST 15 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION AND NOT LESS THAN 15 DAYS BEFORE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE RULE, THE AGENCY SHALL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE RULE.

(C) NOTICE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING SHALL BE PUBLISHED IN A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION IN ~~THE AGENCY'S WASHINGTON~~ COUNTY AT LEAST 15 DAYS BEFORE THE HEARING. THIS NOTICE MAY BE INCLUDED IN THE PUBLICATION OF THE PROPOSED RULE.

(D) IN ADDITION TO THE PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION, AN AGENCY SHALL TAKE EVERY MEANS IT DEEMS PROPER TO PUBLICIZE THE PROPOSED RULE AND TO SOLICIT PUBLIC COMMENT ON IT.

(E) THE AGENCY SHALL ACCEPT FROM ANY PERSON WRITTEN COMMENTS OR TESTIMONY ON A PROPOSED RULE ANY TIME BEFORE ITS EFFECTIVE DATE.

(F) IF SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES ARE MADE IN THE PROPOSED