

[(2)] (3) All personal property directed in this article to be assessed shall be assessed at its full cash value on the date of finality. The term full cash value as used in this subsection means current value without any allowance for inflation. In determining this value, the assessing authority shall consider any sums paid in connection with the acquisition of the property when acquired through a purchase or lease purchase or other similar kind of agreement for transfer of title after a period of use of the property.

[(3)] (4) All operating property of railroads, public utilities, and contract carriers, and all shares of stock of domestic corporations the shares of which are subject to taxation by this article, shall be assessed in accordance with the provisions of §§ 16 and 20 of this article, subject, however, to the provisions of § 9 hereof. To the extent that the personal property of the classes of taxpayers mentioned in this subsection is subject to taxation by this article, said personal property shall be assessed in accordance with provisions of paragraph [(2)] (3) hereof.

[(4)] (5) In order to encourage the use and installation of solar energy heating and cooling units in existing or newly constructed buildings, solar energy heating and cooling units in residential or nonresidential buildings shall be [assessed] VALUED at no more than the value of a conventional heating and cooling unit necessary to serve the building. If a building has both conventional and solar heating and cooling units, the combined units shall be [assessed] VALUED at no more than the value of a conventional heating and cooling unit necessary to serve the building.

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(a) Before (1) any existing valuation of property for tax purposes shall be increased, or (2) any classification of any property changed, or (3) any new valuation of property made against any person; or (4) whenever any person applies for a change in an existing valuation or classification and there is a change or refusal to change an existing valuation or classification, or (5) whenever a valuation or classification for a given year, or part thereof, has been appealed, but not finally determined, and the same valuation or classification is made for a subsequent year, on property locally assessed, either by the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (acting within its original jurisdiction) or the supervisors of assessments for the county or Baltimore City, [it shall be the duty of] the appropriate authority [to] SHALL notify the person against whom it is proposed to make, increase, change or refuse to change [such] THE valuation or classification by a written or printed notice, appointing a day for [such] THE person to make answer thereto or present such proof as he