

Public Advocate

FOR the purpose of urging the Baltimore County Council to study the possibility of establishing an office of a public advocate to represent homeowners in assessment appeals; and requesting a report of the results of the study.

WHEREAS, The assessment of real property is a difficult and complicated process; and

WHEREAS, Many homeowners are not able to learn the methodology of the assessment process sufficiently well to properly and adequately challenge a higher assessment; and

WHEREAS, As a result, many homeowners are unable to effectively represent themselves in the appeal of an assessment which they believe unfair; and

WHEREAS, The Public Advocate could employ certain consultants and conduct such investigations as deemed necessary in performing the duties of such an office; and

WHEREAS, The Public Advocate would have access to all government records necessary to carry out the function of such an office; and

WHEREAS, The Public Advocate could advise residents and taxpayers of Baltimore County of their rights under State and county laws; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Baltimore County Council is urged to study the possibility of the creation of the office of Public Advocate in Baltimore County; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of Maryland requests that a copy of the findings and recommendations on the subject be sent to the members of the Baltimore County Delegation to the General Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be sent to: the Baltimore County Executive; and the Chairman and Council Members of the Baltimore County Council, County Office Building, Towson, Maryland 21204.

Signed June 1, 1982.

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No. 11

(Senate Joint Resolution No. 18)