

(2) -- EXPERIENCED -- IN -- HEALTH -- MATTERS -- AND -- LITIGATION INVOLVING HEALTH MATTERS.

(c) -- BEFORE -- TAKING OFFICE, THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE FOR HEALTH SHALL TAKE THE OATH REQUIRED BY ARTICLE I, § 9 -- OF -- THE -- MARYLAND CONSTITUTION.

(D) -- THE -- PEOPLE'S -- ADVOCATE FOR HEALTH SHALL HOLD OFFICE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE GOVERNOR.

(E) -- THE GOVERNOR -- MAY -- REMOVE -- THE -- PEOPLE'S -- ADVOCATE -- FOR INCOMPETENCE, MISCONDUCT, OR OTHER CAUSE.

2-110-

(A) -- THE -- OFFICE OF THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE MAY EMPLOY A STAFF IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE BUDGET.

(B) -- THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE FOR HEALTH AND THE STAFF -- OF -- THE OFFICE OF THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE ARE ENTITLED TO:

(1) -- COMPENSATION AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET, AND

(2) -- REIMBURSEMENT -- FOR -- EXPENSES -- UNDER -- THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

2-111-

(A) -- THE PURPOSE OF THE OFFICE OF THE PEOPLE'S -- ADVOCATE -- IS TO -- ACT -- AS -- AN -- OMBUDSMAN -- FOR -- THE -- PROTECTION -- OF -- THE -- PUBLIC CONCERNING ANY HEALTH RELATED MATTER.

(B) -- THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE FOR HEALTH SHALL:

(1) -- ANSWER ANY QUESTION ASKED BY THE PUBLIC AS TO THE REASONABLENESS -- OF -- ANY -- HEALTH RELATED PROBLEM, INCLUDING HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS, FEES, AND TREATMENT PLANS, AND

(2) -- TAKE ANY NECESSARY -- ACTION -- TO -- ASSURE -- THAT -- THE PUBLIC -- IS -- PROTECTED AND DEFENDED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE CONCERNING ANY HEALTH RELATED PROBLEM, INCLUDING PROVIDING -- LEGAL ADVICE AND LEGAL REPRESENTATION.

2-112-

IN -- THE -- INTERESTS -- OF -- ADVOCACY -- OF -- THE HEALTH CARE OF THE PUBLIC, THE OFFICE OF PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE SHALL:

(1) -- EVALUATE ALL MATTERS -- PENDING -- BEFORE -- THE -- STATE HEALTH -- RESOURCES -- PLANNING COMMISSION, THE STATE HEALTH SERVICES COST REVIEW COMMISSION, AND THE INSURANCE COMMISSION THAT -- RELATE TO THE COST AND QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE TO DETERMINE IF THE PUBLIC INTEREST IS AFFECTED.