

(D) -- THE OMBUDSMAN:(1) -- SHALL:

(1) -- RECEIVE -- A -- COPY -- OF -- AND -- REVIEW -- ANY -- WRITTEN CLAIM FILED WITH THE WSSC AS PROVIDED IN 5-6-111(A) OF THIS SUBTITLE;

(2) -- INVESTIGATE -- THE -- MERITS -- OF -- THE -- CLAIM;

(3) -- ATTEND -- ANY -- HEARING -- HELD -- AS -- PROVIDED -- IN -- 5-6-111(B)(3) -- OF -- THIS -- SUBTITLE -- AND -- PRESENT -- ANY -- FINDINGS -- AND -- RECOMMENDATIONS -- ON -- THE -- MERITS -- OF -- THE -- CLAIM -- DURING -- THE -- HEARING; AND

(4) -- PREPARE -- A -- WRITTEN -- STATEMENT -- OF -- FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE CLAIM AND PROVIDE COPIES OF THE STATEMENT TO THE WSSC AND THE CLAIMANT; AND

(5) -- MAY -- REPRESENT -- THE -- RESIDENT -- IN -- ANY -- APPEAL -- PROCESS.

(E) -- NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS ARTICLE, AS TO MONTGOMERY COUNTY RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS, IF ALL UNDISPUTED BILLS FOR WATER AND SEWER USAGE CHARGES ARE PAID WHEN DUE, THE WSSC MAY NOT INTERRUPT SERVICE DURING THE PENDENCY OF A WRITTEN CLAIM FILED FOR A REDUCTION IN AN EXCESSIVE BILL FOR WATER AND SEWER USAGE CHARGES.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act may not be construed or interpreted to suggest the illegality or inadequacy of the activities of, or the studies conducted by, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission before the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That if any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason in a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or any other application of this Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and for this purpose the provisions of this Act are declared severable.

SECTION 2 4 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1989.

Approved May 25, 1989.