

(b) The Secretary shall appoint the State Chemist, State Veterinarian, and Chief of Weights and Measures.

(c) The Department also includes any other position or unit which is declared within the Department pursuant to law.

10-105.

(a) The certified agency shall arrange and manage any referendum conducted under the provisions of this article and shall bear all expenses in connection with the referendum.

(b) Before calling and announcing a referendum, the certified agency shall determine and publicly announce through the public press at least 60 days before the date determined for the referendum:

- (1) The date, hours, polling places, and rules and regulations for voting;
- (2) The amount and basis of the assessment proposed to be collected;
- (3) The method by which the authorized assessment shall be collected; and
- (4) How the proceeds shall be administered and the general purposes to which they shall be applied.

(c) The agency also shall give direct written notice to every farm organization in the State and to the county agent in each county in which the agricultural commodity is grown.

~~(d) [No annual assessment levied under the provisions of this article may exceed 0.50 percent of the value of the year's production of the agricultural commodity grown by any person qualifying as a voter.] AN ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LEVIED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE MAY NOT EXCEED:~~

~~(1) 0.5 PERCENT OF THE VALUE OF THE YEAR'S PRODUCTION OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY GROWN BY ANY PERSON QUALIFYING AS A VOTER; OR~~

~~(2) IN THE CASE OF APPLES, 8 CENTS A BUSHEL FOR FRESH MARKET APPLES AND 5 CENTS PER 100 POUNDS FOR APPLES USED FOR PROCESSING.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 10-401 through 10-410, inclusive, and the subtitle "Subtitle 4, Maryland State Apple Commission" of Article - Agriculture of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, any money remaining in the Apple Merchandising Fund under § 10-403 of the Agriculture Article on the effective date of this Act shall remain in the Fund and shall be transferred to any apple producer certified agency approved by the Maryland Secretary of Agriculture as provided in § 10-101 of the Agriculture Article upon the certification of the provider, to be used to promote the use of apples as provided in § 10-110 of the Agriculture Article.