

WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE, THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT THE PEOPLE'S COUNSEL.

(B) TERM.

THE PEOPLE'S COUNSEL SERVES AT THE PLEASURE OF THE GOVERNOR.

(C) QUALIFICATION.

THE PEOPLE'S COUNSEL SHALL HAVE BEEN ADMITTED TO PRACTICE LAW IN THE STATE.

(D) OATH.

BEFORE TAKING OFFICE, THE PEOPLE'S COUNSEL SHALL TAKE THE OATH REQUIRED BY ARTICLE I, § 9 OF THE MARYLAND CONSTITUTION.

(E) FULL TIME DUTY.

THE PEOPLE'S COUNSEL SHALL DEVOTE FULL TIME TO THE DUTIES OF OFFICE.

(F) COMPENSATION.

THE PEOPLE'S COUNSEL IS ENTITLED TO A SALARY OF AT LEAST \$35,000 A YEAR AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

REVISOR'S NOTE: This section is new language derived without substantive change from the first through fourth sentences of former Art. 78, § 14 and as it required the People's Counsel to take an oath, § 4.

In subsection (d) of this section, the reference to "Article I, § 9 of the Maryland Constitution" is added for clarity.

2-203. STAFF.

(A) IN GENERAL.

THE STATE BUDGET SHALL PROVIDE SUFFICIENT MONEY FOR THE OFFICE OF PEOPLE'S COUNSEL TO HIRE NECESSARY STAFF IN ADDITION TO THE STAFF ASSISTANCE THAT IS PROVIDED UNDER § 2-205(C)(2) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(B) EXPERTS.

THE OFFICE OF PEOPLE'S COUNSEL MAY RETAIN AS NECESSARY FOR A PARTICULAR MATTER OR HIRE EXPERTS IN THE FIELD OF UTILITY REGULATION, INCLUDING COST OF CAPITAL EXPERTS, RATE DESIGN EXPERTS, ACCOUNTANTS, ECONOMISTS, ENGINEERS, TRANSPORTATION SPECIALISTS, AND LAWYERS.

REVISOR'S NOTE: This section is new language derived without substantive change from the first and second sentences of former Art. 78, § 15B.

In subsection (a) of this section, the former reference to "perform[ing] its duties" is deleted as implicit in the reference to "staff assistance".

In subsection (b) of this section, the former reference to "any other experts"