

## CHAPTER 44

(House Bill 8)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 198 of the Montgomery County Code (1947 Edition, being Article 16 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland), title "Montgomery County", sub-title "County Commissioners and Treasurer", relating to the duties of the Public Utility Agent of Montgomery County as to taxicabs in said County.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 198 of the Montgomery County Code (1947 Edition, being Article 16 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland), title "Montgomery County", sub-title "County Commissioners and Treasurer", be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

198. The Board of County Commissioners of Montgomery County shall have the power and authority to employ a Public Utility Agent to advise and to represent said Board of County Commissioners and the residents of Montgomery County on all matters pertaining to public utilities and public transportation services affecting the said County and its residents, before the Public Service Commission of Maryland, the public utilities authorities of the District of Columbia, or the Federal Government, and before the various public and private utility agencies which now or may hereafter serve said County and the residents thereof. In addition to the duties hereinbefore prescribed said Public Utility Agent shall advise and represent said Board of County Commissioners on matters pertaining to rates of service, and in connection therewith to investigate the service given by, the rates charged by, and the valuation of the properties of, the various public utilities and transportation services now or hereafter serving said County and its residents. Such Public Utility Agent shall be a lawyer with reasonable public utility and corporate experience, as well as reasonable experience in governmental administration, and he shall serve on a part-time basis and hold office at the pleasure of and receive such salary as the said Board of County Commissioners of Montgomery County may provide.

It shall be requisite of said Public Utility Agent that he shall maintain regularly advertised office hours in either the Bethesda or Silver Spring County Buildings and shall make a continuous effort to coordinate, advise and guide the residents of the many separate communities within Montgomery County in their efforts to obtain improved public services, and he shall cooperate and assist in the preparation of all procedure and rules and regulations pertaining to the opera-