

may be found necessary to execute a continuing method of assessment which number shall be fixed by the County Commissioners, after consultation with the State Tax Commission, but if the County Commissioners shall find that in any County the work can be performed by the Supervisor alone, then no assessors shall be appointed; provided, however, that in Harford County the two assessors in office on June 1, 1943, shall constitute the first assessors holding positions under the provisions of this Act, without the necessity of examination or appointment. No appointment shall be made, however, except in the following manner:

(b) The County Commissioners shall submit to the State Tax Commission from the applicants for each position to be filled, a list of not less than three applicants for each position. The State Tax Commission shall interview, examine and grade said applicants, in order to determine their relative qualifications for the position or positions to be filled, and shall certify the list of applicants and their respective grades to the County Commissioners, who shall appoint an assessor for each position from the said list. Upon appointment, each assessor shall perform his duties under the direction of the Supervisor of Assessments, and shall hold his position during good behavior, subject only to removal by the State Tax Commission, after hearing, for incompetency or other cause. In the event of the resignation, death or removal of any assessor, the vacancy shall be filled by the County Commissioners in the manner hereinbefore set forth, within 60 days from the date when the vacancy occurs. The annual salaries of the County Assessors and all other expenses incident to local assessment shall be levied for and paid monthly by the several Boards of County Commissioners. Nothing herein shall affect the powers and duties of the Bureau of Assessments in Baltimore City, as prescribed by local law and ordinance.

(c) The annual salary of each assessor shall be determined by the classification of his respective county as established by the State Tax Commission and in accordance with the schedules of compensation herein set forth. The salaries of all assessors herein provided shall be paid monthly by the several counties. A sum equivalent to one-half of the annual salary shall be paid by the Comptroller for the State of Maryland from general funds to the several counties, such payments to be made to the said counties quarterly. The several counties are hereby directed to levy annually such sums as may be required to pay the remaining one-half of these salaries. The following classifications and their respective schedules prescribing a minimum and maximum salary rate with automatic increases from minimum to maximum, at the rate of 20% each year for a period of five years, shall apply to the assessors of each county: