

(1998 Volume and 2004 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Public Utility Companies

10-110.

(a) (1) There is a position of license hearing officer.
(2) The license hearing officer shall be appointed by the Commission.
(3) The license hearing officer serves at the pleasure of the Commission.
(4) The license hearing officer is entitled to compensation in accordance with the State budget.

(b) The license hearing officer may hold a hearing involving a violation of this article or the Commission's regulations:

(1) by a for-hire driver licensed by the Commission; and
(2) except for a violation relating to rates, by a holder of a taxicab permit issued by the Commission.

[(c) The license hearing officer may recommend to the Commission:

(1) the imposition of a civil penalty under § 10-402 of this title or § 13-202 of this article;
(2) the suspension of a for-hire driver's license or taxicab permit for the period of time that appears justified by the nature of the offense; or
(3) the revocation of a for-hire driver's license or taxicab permit.

(d) (1) The Commission may affirm, deny, or modify the recommendation of the license hearing officer.

(2) The Commission need not grant an additional hearing before acting on the license hearing officer's recommendation, but the Commission may hear additional testimony as necessary before it acts on the license hearing officer's recommendation.]

(C) THE LICENSE HEARING OFFICER SHALL FILE WITH THE COMMISSION, AND SIMULTANEOUSLY SERVE ON ALL PARTIES, A PROPOSED ORDER AND FINDINGS OF FACT.

(D) THE PROPOSED ORDER SHALL BECOME FINAL UNLESS APPEALED AS PROVIDED IN § 3-113(D) OF THIS ARTICLE.

(e) Whenever a for-hire driver's license or taxicab permit is suspended or revoked, or a civil penalty is imposed on the for-hire driver or taxicab permit holder, the for-hire driver or taxicab permit holder: