

Bill No. 35-07
Concerning: Consumer Protection -
Energy and Environmental Advocacy
Revised: 4/22/2008 Draft No. 10
Introduced: November 20, 2007
Enacted: April 22, 2008
Executive: May 5, 2008
Effective: August 4, 2008
Sunset Date: None
Ch. 12, Laws of Mont. Co. 2008

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Councilmembers Berliner, Ervin, Andrews, Elrich, Floreen, Leventhal, and Trachtenberg

AN ACT to:

- (1) require the Office of Consumer Protection to ~~[[represent]]~~ advocate for the County's interest in obtaining the lowest possible rates consistent with environmental stewardship for gas, electricity, and other energy sources by participating in matters pending before appropriate federal and state agencies; and
- (2) generally amend County law governing energy and the environment.

By amending

Montgomery County Code
Chapter 11, Consumer Protection
Section 11-2

Boldface	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>
[Single boldface brackets]	<i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i>
<u>Double underlining</u>	<i>Added by amendment.</i>
[[Double boldface brackets]]	<i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i>
* * *	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:

Sec. 1. Section 11-2 is amended as follows:

11-2. Office of Consumer Protection.

(a) Established. The Office of Consumer Protection is a department of County government.

(b) Authority. The Office may:

[(a)] (1) receive and investigate complaints and initiate its own investigation of deceptive, unfair, or unconscionable trade practices against consumers, hold hearings, compel the attendance of witnesses, administer oaths, take the testimony of any person under oath and require the production of any evidence relating to any matter under investigation or in question by the Office;

[(b)] (2) issue summonses and subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents, papers, books, records, and other evidence in any matter to which this Chapter applies;

[(c)] (3) issue cease and desist orders and bring enforcement actions regarding any trade practice that violates this Chapter;

[(d)] (4) report to any appropriate government agency with jurisdiction over real estate transactions or consumer protection matters any information concerning violation of any consumer protection law;

[(e)] (5) communicate the interests of consumers and merchants before administrative and regulatory agencies and legislative bodies to ensure that both are adequately represented;

