2003 SESSION

ENROLLED

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VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY - CHAPTER

2 An Act to amend and reenact §§ 15.2-717, 58.1-3256, 58.1-3260, 58.1-3374, 58.1-3378, 58.1-3379, 3 58.1-3380, 58.1-3384, and 58.1-3984 of the Code of Virginia; to amend and reenact § 2 of Chapter 4 261 of the Acts of Assembly of 1936 (which was continued in effect by § 58-769 of the Code of 5 Virginia; and now continued in effect by § 58.1-3260 of the Code of Virginia) as amended by Chapter 339 of the Acts of Assembly of 1958; to amend and reenact § 3 of Chapter 261 of the Acts 6 7 of Assembly of 1936 (which was continued in effect by § 58-769 of the Code of Virginia; and now 8 continued in effect by § 58.1-3260 of the Code of Virginia), as amended by Chapter 422 of the Acts 9 of Assembly of 1950, and as amended by Chapter 339 of the Acts of Assembly of 1958; relating to 10 appeals of real estate assessments.

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Approved

[H 2503]

13 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 15.2-717, 58.1-3256, 58.1-3260, 58.1-3374, 58.1-3378, 58.1-3379, 58.1-3380, 58.1-3384, and 14

- 15 58.1-3984 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:
- 16 § 15.2-717. Time in which to contest real property assessments.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law and instead of any other right to apply to court, Any 17 18 person aggrieved by an assessment of real estate made by the department of real estate assessments may 19 apply for relief to the circuit court of the county within one year from December 31 of the year in which such assessment is made for assessments made prior to January 1, 2005; within two years from 20 21 December 31 of the year in which such assessment is made for assessments made on and after January 1, 2005, but prior to January 1, 2007; and within the time frame as provided by general law pursuant 22 23 to § 58.1-3984 for assessments made on and after January 1, 2007. No person may make such 24 application for a year other than the current year unless such person has provided to the assessor, 25 commissioner of the revenue, or the governing body, written notice of disagreement with the assessment, 26 during the applicable tax year. The application shall be before the court when it is filed in the clerk's 27 office. In such proceeding the burden of proof shall be on the taxpayer to show that the property in 28 question is valued at more than its fair market value or that the assessment is not uniform in its 29 application, or that the assessment is otherwise invalid or illegal, but it shall not be necessary for the 30 taxpayer to show that intentional, systematic and willful discrimination has taken place. The proceedings 31 shall be conducted as an action at law before the court, sitting without a jury, and the court shall act 32 with the authority granted by §§ 58.1-3987 and 58.1-3988. 33

§ 58.1-3256. Reassessment in towns; appeals of assessments.

34 In any incorporated town there may be for town taxation and debt limitation, a general reassessment 35 of the real estate in any such town in the year designated, and every fourth year thereafter, that the 36 council of such town shall declare by ordinance or resolution the necessity therefor. Every such general 37 reassessment of real estate in any such town shall be made by a board of assessors consisting of three 38 resident freeholders residents, a majority of whom shall be freeholders, who hold no official office or 39 position with the town government, appointed by the council of such town for each general reassessment 40 and the compensation of the person so designated shall be prescribed by the council and paid out of the 41 town treasury. The assessors so designated shall assess the property in accordance with the general law 42 and Constitution of Virginia. If for any cause the board is unable to complete an assessment within the 43 year for which it is appointed, the council shall extend the time therefor for three months. Any vacancy in the membership of the board shall be filled by the council within thirty 30 days after the occurrence 44 45 thereof, but such vacancy shall not invalidate any assessment. The assessments so made shall be open for public inspection after notice of such inspection shall have been advertised in a newspaper of general 46 circulation within the town at least five days prior to such date or dates of inspection. Within thirty 30 47 48 days after the final date of inspection the assessors shall file the completed reassessments in the office 49 of the town clerk and at the same time forward to the Department of Taxation a copy of the 50 recapitulation sheets of such assessments.

Any person, firm, or corporation claiming to be aggrieved by any assessment may, within thirty 30 51 52 days after the filing of reassessments in the office of the town clerk, apply to the town board of 53 equalization for a correction of such assessment by filing with the town clerk a written statement setting 54 forth his grievances. The board of equalization of every such town shall, within thirty 30 days of the 55 filing of such complaint, fix a date for a hearing on such application and, after giving the applicant at 56 least ten 10 days' notice of the time fixed, shall hear such evidence as may be introduced by interested

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parties and correct the assessment by increasing or reducing the same. The circuit court having 57 58 jurisdiction within the town shall, in each tax year immediately following the year in which a general 59 reassessment was conducted, appoint for such town a board of equalization of real estate assessments 60 made up of three to five citizens of the town. Any such town board of equalization shall be subject to 61 the same member composition requirements and limits on terms of service as provided for boards of 62 equalization pursuant to § 58.1-3374. In addition, at least once in every four years of service on a town 63 board of equalization, each member of such board shall take continuing education instruction provided 64 by the Tax Commissioner pursuant to § 58.1-206. In equalizing real property tax assessments, such board of equalization shall hear complaints, including but not limited to, that real property is assessed 65 at more than fair market value. In hearing complaints, the board shall establish the value of real 66 property as provided in § 58.1-3378. The provisions of § 58.1-3379 shall apply to all complaints heard 67 68 by any town board of equalization.

69 Town taxes for each year on real estate subject to reassessment shall be extended on the basis of the 70 last general reassessment made prior to such year subject to such changes as may have been lawfully 71 made. The town tax assessor shall make changes required by new construction, subdivision and disaster 72 loss. The council of any town may provide by ordinance that it will have a general reassessment of real 73 estate in the town in the year designated by the town council and every year thereafter. The town 74 council may declare the necessity for such general reassessment by such ordinance, but in all other 75 respects this section shall be controlling. No county or district levies shall be extended on any 76 assessments made under the provisions of this section.

77 Any town which has failed to conduct a general reassessment within five years shall use only those 78 assessed values assigned by the county.

79 § 58.1-3260. Acts authorizing, in certain cities and counties, provision for the annual general 80 reassessment of real estate and equalization of assessments, by continuing assessors, conferring upon 81 assessors certain duties of commissioners of the revenue, etc. 82

The following acts are continued in effect as amended from time to time:

83 1. Chapter 261 of the Acts of Assembly of 1936, approved March 25, 1936, as amended by Chapter 84 64 of the Acts of Assembly of 1938, approved March 4, 1938, Chapter 234 of the Acts of Assembly of 85 1942, approved March 14, 1942, Chapter 422 of the Acts of Assembly of 1950, and Chapter 339 of the Acts of Assembly of 1958, and as amended by the 2003 Regular Session of the General Assembly, 86 87 authorizing provision for the annual general reassessment of real estate and the election of assessors in 88 cities of more than 175,000; transferring to the assessors in such cities the duties in regard to the 89 assessment of real estate formerly devolved upon the commissioners of the revenue; repealing all 90 provisions of law relating to the equalization of real estate assessments insofar as they applied to such 91 cities; and relating to other connected matters.

92 2. Chapter 29 of the Acts of Assembly of 1947, approved January 29, 1947, authorizing provision 93 for the annual general reassessment of real estate, the appointment of assessors, and the appointment of 94 boards of review, in cities of not less than 125,000 nor more than 190,000; conferring on such boards of 95 review the powers exercised by boards of equalization; and relating to other connected matters.

96 3. Chapter 211 of the Acts of Assembly of 1944, amended by Chapter 167 of the Acts of Assembly 97 of 1946 (Repealed by Acts of Assembly of 1952, Chapter 636).

98 4. Chapter 65 of the Acts of Assembly of 1944, approved February 26, 1944, as amended by Chapter 99 80 of the Acts of Assembly of 1954, and Chapter 624 of the Acts of Assembly of 1968, authorizing, in 100 cities of not less than 40,000 nor more than 50,000, provision for the general reassessment of real estate 101 and equalization of assessments every 4 one, 2 two, 3 three or 4 four years, and the appointment of 102 assessors to perform these duties; conferring on the assessors certain duties formerly imposed upon 103 commissioners of the revenue; and relating to other connected matters.

104 5. Chapter 17 of the Acts of Assembly of 1947, approved January 29, 1947, as amended by Chapter 105 29 of the Acts of Assembly of 1952, Ex. Sess., authorizing, in cities having a population of not less 106 than 30,000 nor more than 31,000, provision for the annual general reassessment of real estate and 107 equalization of assessments, and the appointment of assessors to perform these duties; conferring on the 108 assessors certain duties formerly imposed upon commissioners of the revenue; and relating to other 109 connected matters.

110 6. Chapter 146 of the Acts of Assembly of 1942, approved March 9, 1942, authorizing, in any city 111 adjoining a county having a density of more than 1,000 per square mile, provision for the annual 112 general reassessment of real estate and equalization of assessments, and the appointment of assessors to 113 perform these duties; conferring on the assessors certain duties formerly imposed upon commissioners of 114 the revenue; and relating to other connected matters.

7. Chapter 189 of the Acts of Assembly of 1946, approved March 15, 1946, as amended by Chapter 115 325 of the Acts of Assembly of 1950, authorizing, in any county adjoining a county having a population 116 density of 1,000 or more per square mile, provision for the annual general reassessment of real estate 117

118 and equalization of assessments, and the appointment of assessors to perform these duties; conferring on 119 the assessors certain duties formerly imposed upon commissioners of the revenue; and relating to other

120 connected matters.

121 8. Chapter 237 of the Acts of Assembly of 1942, amended by Chapter 44 of the Acts of Assembly122 of 1946 and Chapter 59 of the Acts of Assembly of 1948.

9. Chapter 345 of the Acts of Assembly of 1942, approved March 31, 1942, authorizing, in any county adjoining a city of more than 190,000, and any county with an area of less than seventy 70 square miles of highland, provision for the annual general reassessment of real estate and the equalization of assessments, and the appointment of assessors to perform such duties; conferring upon the assessors certain duties imposed by general law on commissioners of the revenue; and relating to other connected matters.

129 10. Chapter 237 of the Acts of Assembly of 1946, approved March 25, 1946, authorizing, in counties
130 having an area of more than 135 square miles but less than 152 square miles, and a population of more
131 than 4,000 but less than 8,000, provision for boards for the annual general reassessment of real estate
132 and equalization of assessments; conferring on the assessors certain duties imposed by general law upon
133 commissioners of the revenue; and relating to other connected matters.

134 11. Chapter 85 of the Acts of Assembly of 1948, approved March 3, 1948, codified in Michie
135 Supplement 1948 as Tax Code § 348b, as amended by Chapter 266 of the Acts of Assembly of 1952, providing, in counties of not more than 30,000 adjoining cities of not less than 100,000 and not more
136 than 150,000, for continuing boards of assessors to meet annually and perform the duties imposed upon
138 boards of assessors of real estate assessments by general law, and relating to other connected matters, is
139 incorporated in this Code by this reference.

140 § 58.1-3374. Qualifications of members; vacancies; maximum terms.

141 Except as provided in § 58.1-3371 or § 58.1-3373, every board of equalization shall be composed of 142 not less than three nor more than five members who shall be freeholders in the county or city for which 143 they are to serve and who shall be selected by the court or judge from the citizens of the county or city. 144 All members of every board of equalization shall be residents, a majority of whom shall be freeholders, 145 in the county or city for which they are to serve and shall be selected from the citizens of the county or 146 city. Appointments to the board of equalization shall be broadly representative of the community. Thirty 147 percent of the members of the board shall be commercial or residential real estate appraisers, other 148 real estate professionals, builders, developers, or legal or financial professionals, and at least one such 149 member shall sit in all cases involving commercial, industrial or multi-family residential property, unless 150 waived by the taxpayer. No member of the board of assessors shall be eligible for appointment to the 151 board of equalization for the same reassessment. In order to be eligible for appointment, each 152 prospective member of such board shall attend and participate in the basic course of instruction given by 153 the Department of Taxation under § 58.1-206. In addition, at least once in every four years of service 154 on a board of equalization, each member of a board of equalization shall take continuing education instruction provided by the Tax Commissioner pursuant to § 58.1-206. Any vacancy occurring on any 155 156 board of equalization shall be filled for the unexpired term by the authority making the original 157 appointment.

158 In no case shall a person serve as a member of a board of equalization for more than nine
159 consecutive years, and upon the expiration of such nine consecutive years such person shall not be
160 eligible for reappointment for a period of three years.

161 § 58.1-3378. Sittings; notices thereof.

162 Each board of equalization shall sit at and for such time or times as may be necessary to discharge the duties imposed and to exercise the powers conferred by this chapter. Of each sitting public notice 163 164 shall be given at least ten 10 days beforehand by publication in a newspaper having general circulation 165 in the county or city and, in a county, also by posting the notice at the courthouse and at each public library, voting precinct or both. Such posting shall be done by the sheriff or his deputy. Such notice 166 167 shall inform the public that the board shall sit at the place or places and on the days named therein for 168 the purpose of equalizing real estate assessments in such county or city and for the purpose of hearing 169 complaints of inequalities wherein the property owners allege a lack of uniformity in assessment, or 170 errors in acreage in such real estate assessments. The board also shall hear complaints that real 171 property is assessed at more than fair market value. Except as otherwise provided by the Code of 172 Virginia:

173 1. The fair market value of real property shall be established by the board as of January 1 of the 174 applicable year; or

175 2. If a county or city has adopted July 1 as its tax day for real property pursuant to § 58.1-3011, **176** then, for other than public service corporation property, the fair market value of real property shall be

177 established by the board as of July 1 of the applicable year.

178 The governing body of any county or city may provide by ordinance the date by which applications

179 must be made by property owners or lessees for relief. Such date shall not be earlier than thirty 30 days 180 after the termination of the date set by the assessing officer to hear objections to the assessments as 181 provided in § 58.1-3330. If no applications for relief are received by such date, the board of equalization 182 shall be deemed to have discharged its duties. Such governing body may also provide by ordinance the 183 deadline by which all applications must be finally disposed of by the board of equalization. All such 184 deadlines shall be clearly stated on the notice of assessment.

185 § 58.1-3379. Hearing complaints and equalizing assessments.

186 A. The board shall hear and give consideration to such complaints and shall adjust and equalize such 187 assessments and shall, moreover, be charged with the especial duty of increasing as well as decreasing 188 assessments, whether specific complaint be laid or not, if in its judgment, the same be necessary to 189 equalize and accomplish the end that the burden of taxation shall rest equally upon all citizens of such 190 county or city.

191 B. In all cases brought before the board, there shall be a presumption that the valuation determined 192 by the assessor is correct, and the board shall be advised that it is not necessary that the taxpayer show 193 that the assessment is a result of manifest error or disregard of controlling evidence, but rather that the 194 standard of proof is in accordance with subsection C.

195 C. The burden of proof shall be upon a taxpayer seeking relief to show that the property in question 196 is valued at more than its fair market value, that the assessment is not uniform in its application, or 197 that the assessment is otherwise not equalized. In order to receive relief, the taxpayer must produce 198 substantial evidence that the valuation determined by the assessor is erroneous and was not arrived at 199 in accordance with generally accepted appraisal practice. Mistakes of fact, including computation, that 200 affect the assessment shall be deemed not to be in accordance with generally accepted appraisal 201 practice.

202 D. The commissioner of the revenue or other local assessing officer of such county or city shall, 203 when requested, attend the meetings of the board, without additional compensation, and shall call the 204 attention of the board to such inequalities in real estate assessments in his county or city as may be 205 known to him.

206 E. Every board of equalization may go upon and inspect any real estate subject to adjustment or 207 equalization by it.

208 F. The burdens and standards set out in subsections B and C shall apply in hearings before the 209 board and nothing contained in this section shall be construed to change or have any effect upon the 210 burdens and standards applicable to applications to correct erroneous assessments filed with circuit 211 courts pursuant to §§ 58.1-3984 through 58.1-3987.

§ 58.1-3380. Taxpayer or local authorities may apply for equalization.

213 Any taxpayer may apply to the board of equalization for the adjustment to fair market value and 214 equalization of his assessment, including errors in acreage, and any county or city through its appointed 215 representative or attorney may apply to the board of equalization to adjust an assessment of real 216 property to its fair market value and to equalize the assessment of any taxpayer. 217

§ 58.1-3384. Minutes and copies of orders.

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218 The board shall keep minutes of its meetings and enter therein all orders made and transmit promptly 219 copies of such orders as relate to the increase or decrease of assessments to the taxpayer and 220 commissioner of the revenue. The orders shall be recorded on forms prepared by the Tax Commissioner 221 and provided to localities by the Department of Taxation or on forms prepared by the board that 222 contain, at a minimum, all the information required on the forms prepared by the Tax Commissioner. 223

§ 58.1-3984. Application to court to correct erroneous assessments of local levies generally.

224 A. Any person assessed with local taxes, aggrieved by any such assessment, may, unless otherwise 225 specially provided by law (including, but not limited to, as provided under (i) § 15.2-717 and (ii) § 3 of 226 Chapter 261 of the Acts of Assembly of 1936 (which was continued in effect by § 58-769 of the Code of 227 Virginia; and now continued in effect by § 58.1-3260), as amended by Chapter 422 of the Acts of Assembly of 1950, as amended by Chapter 339 of the Acts of Assembly of 1958, and as amended by the 228 229 2003 Regular Session of the General Assembly), (i a) within three years from the last day of the tax year for which any such assessment is made, (ii b) within one year from the date of the assessment, (iii 230 231 c) within one year from the date of the Tax Commissioner's final determination under § 58.1-3703.1 A 5 232 or \S 58.1-3983.1 D, or (iv d) within one year from the date of the final determination under 233 § 58.1-3981, whichever is later, apply for relief to the circuit court of the county or city wherein such 234 assessment was made. The application shall be before the court when it is filed in the clerk's office. In 235 such proceeding the burden of proof shall be upon the taxpayer to show that the property in question is 236 valued at more than its fair market value or that the assessment is not uniform in its application, or that 237 the assessment is otherwise invalid or illegal, but it shall not be necessary for the taxpayer to show that 238 intentional, systematic and willful discrimination has been made. The proceedings shall be conducted as 239 an action at law before the court, sitting without a jury. The county or city attorney, or if none, the

240 attorney for the Commonwealth, shall defend the application.

B. In the event it comes or is brought to the attention of the commissioner of the revenue of the locality that the assessment of any tax is improper or is based on obvious error and should be corrected in order that the ends of justice may be served, and he is not able to correct it under § 58.1-3981, the commissioner of the revenue shall apply to the appropriate court, in the manner herein provided for relief of the taxpayer. Such application may include a petition for relief for any of several taxpayers.

246 2. That § 2 of Chapter 261 of the Acts of Assembly of 1936 (which was continued in effect by § 58-769 of the Code of Virginia; and now continued in effect by § 58.1-3260 of the Code of Virginia) as amended by Chapter 339 of the Acts of Assembly of 1958 is amended and reenacted as follows:

250 § 2. All duties now devolved upon the commissioner of the revenue with respect to the assessment of 251 real estate and making up the land books in such cities, shall be transferred to and devolved upon the 252 assessor or assessors to be appointed pursuant to this act, *including the duty and power to assess omitted* 253 real estate taxes for the then current year or any tax year of the three tax years last past as provided in 254 § 58.1-3904 of the Code of Virginia. All such real estate shall be assessed at its fair market value, and 255 taxes for each year on such real estate shall be extended by such assessor or assessors on the basis of 256 the last assessment made prior to such year, subject to such changes as may have been lawfully made. 257 The assessor or assessors, upon completion of each annual assessment and final recordation thereof in 258 the land book, shall certify thereon in writing on oath that all real estate subject to taxation by such 259 cities has been assessed by him or them at the fair market value thereof and that there are no errors on 260 the face of the land book. In case of the absence, incapacity, death, resignation or removal from office 261 of the assessor or assessors or failure, refusal or neglect so to do, and because thereof, the land book is 262 not so certified when or after such assessment is finally recorded therein, the governing body of such 263 cities shall designate a person in the office of the assessor or assessors who can make such certification 264 on oath to make the certification within thirty 30 days from the final recordation of such annual 265 assessment in the land book.

3. That § 3 of Chapter 261 of the Acts of Assembly of 1936 (which was continued in effect by
§ 58-769 of the Code of Virginia; and now continued in effect by § 58.1-3260 of the Code of
Virginia), as amended by Chapter 422 of the Acts of Assembly of 1950, and as amended by
Chapter 339 of the Acts of Assembly of 1958, is amended and reenacted as follows:

270 § 3. The corporation or hustings *circuit* court of any such city or the judge thereof in vacation shall 271 before the first day of July in each year appoint for such city a board of review of real estate 272 assessments, to be composed of three members, who shall be freeholders residents, a majority of whom 273 shall be freeholders, of the city for which they serve, any two of whom shall have authority to act for 274 the board. One member of the board shall be a real estate broker as defined by § 54-730 54.1-2100 of 275 the Code of Virginia, one member of the board shall be a contractor as defined in § 58-297 58.1-3714 276 of the Code of Virginia, and one member of the board shall be a person who shall have had at least five 277 years' experience in appraising the value of real estate. The terms of such members shall commence on 278 the date of their appointment and shall expire on the thirtieth day of November of the year in which 279 they are appointed unless such terms are extended. The *circuit* court or the judge thereof in vacation 280 may extend the terms of the members of the said board of review and shall fill any vacancy therein for 281 the unexpired term. The members of the board shall receive per diem compensation for the time actually 282 engaged in the duties of the board, to be fixed by the *circuit* court or the judge thereof in vacation and 283 to be paid out of the treasury of such city; provided, however, the said *circuit* court or judge may limit 284 the per diem compensation to such number of days as in its or his judgment is sufficient for the 285 completion of the work of the board. Such board of review shall have and may exercise the power to 286 review any assessment of real estate made by the assessor or assessors appointed pursuant to § 1 of this 287 chapter in the year in which they serve upon the complaint of the owner of the real estate, and to 288 change, revise, correct and amend any such assessment, and to that end shall have all the powers 289 conferred upon the said assessor or assessors. The board may adopt any regulations providing for the 290 oral presentation, without formal petition or other pleadings or request for review, and looking to the further facilitation and simplification of proceedings before the board. The assessor or one of the 291 292 assessors appointed pursuant to § 1 of this chapter shall attend and participate in the proceedings of, but 293 shall not vote in, the meetings of the board. Any person or any such city aggrieved by any assessment 294 made by the assessor or assessors appointed pursuant to § 1 of this chapter or by the board of review 295 may apply for relief to the corporation or hustings circuit court of such city within one year from the 296 thirty-first day of December of the year in which such assessment is made, and the procedure in such 297 cases shall be in the manner prescribed by §§ 58-1145 to 58-1151, both inclusive, of the Code of 298 Virginia for assessments made prior to January 1, 2005; within two years from December 31 of the 299 vear in which such assessment is made for assessments made on and after January 1, 2005, but prior to 300 January 1, 2007; and within the timeframe as provided by general law pursuant to § 58.1-3984 of the

- 301 Code of Virginia for assessments made on and after January 1, 2007. No person may make such
 302 application for a year other than the current year unless such person has provided to the assessor,
 303 commissioner of the revenue, or the governing body, written notice of disagreement with the assessment,
 304 during the applicable tax year. All other procedures in such cases shall be in the manner prescribed by
- **305** §§ 58.1-3984 through 58.1-3989, both inclusive, of the Code of Virginia.
- 306 4. That the provisions of this act shall apply to complaints filed with a board of equalization 307 beginning with each county's, city's and town's first tax year commencing on or after January 1, 308 2004.
- 309 5. That the Tax Commissioner, pursuant to § 58.1-3384 of the Code of Virginia, shall, by no later
- 310 than January 1, 2004, design order forms to be used by boards of equalization. The provisions of
- 311 the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.) shall not apply to the development of such 312 order forms.
- 313 6. That the Tax Commissioner shall, by no later than January 1, 2004, update his basic course of
- 314 instruction for board of equalization members to incorporate the provisions of this act, including, 315 but not limited to, what constitutes evidence of generally accepted appraisal practice and fair 316 market value.
- 7. That the Tax Commissioner shall monitor the results of appeals of assessments of real property
 to boards of equalization and shall provide a report to the General Assembly by October 1, 2006,
- 319 and such report shall be posted on the General Assembly's website. For purposes of such report, 320 every board of equalization shall provide, upon request of the Tax Commissioner, information as
- 321 necessary to evaluate the impact of the provisions of this act. The Tax Commissioner shall meet 322 with interested parties to determine the elements to be included in such report to the General 323 Assembly.
- In addition, each board of equalization shall prepare an annual written report of their actions and shall make such report available, upon request, to the public, the local governing body of the respective county, city, or town and to the Tax Commissioner.
- 327 8. That any member of a board of equalization who, as of January 1, 2004, has not met 328 continuing education requirements as provided under this act shall take such educational courses 329 as soon as practical.
- 330 9. That, subject to the provisions of the tenth enactment clause of this act, any current member of 331 a board of equalization who has served at least nine consecutive years immediately prior to 332 January 1, 2004, shall be allowed to complete his current term of service, and upon completion of 333 such term, shall not be eligible for reappointment for a period of three years.
- 10. That in any county, city or town where less than 30 percent of the members of the board of equalization are commercial or residential real estate appraisers, other real estate professionals, builders, developers, or legal or financial professionals, the appointing authority shall ensure that at least one member of such board so qualifies no later than January 1, 2004, and shall thereafter, as soon as possible, in accordance with prevailing law, change the membership of such board of equalization to meet this 30 percent requirement.
- 340 11. That in any locality in which, prior to July 1, 2003, a person aggrieved by a real estate tax 341 assessment was required to make an application for correction of such assessment to the board of 342 equalization of such locality and in which the board was required to make a final determination 343 on such application, both as a prerequisite for jurisdiction of the circuit court of such locality in 344 any application for relief of such assessment, such requirements shall continue in effect in such 345 locality as a prerequisite for jurisdiction of the circuit.
- 346 12. That the fifth, sixth, and tenth enactments of this act are effective July 1, 2003. All other 347 provisions of this act are effective January 1, 2004.