

James R. Martin, Jr., Non-voting Governor's Youth Council representative.

Secretary: Michael R. Dobridge, 1977
Irene Olson, Director

Wilbert L. Walker, Deputy Director
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The Social Services Administration was originally established as the State Department of Public Welfare by Chapter 99, Acts of 1939 to supersede the Board of State Aid and Charities established by Chapter 679, Acts of 1900. By Chapter 148, Acts of 1967, the General Assembly modernized the law, bringing it into conformance with practice and clarifying the responsibilities of the boards and directors of the State and local departments. The name of the agency was changed to the Department of Social Services by Chapter 702, Acts of 1968. The Administration adopted its present name by Chapter 96, Acts of 1970 (Code 1957, 1971 Repl. Vol., 1972 Supp., Art. 41, sec. 205F(b)).

The State Director of Social Services is appointed by the Secretary of Employment and Social Services, with the approval of the Governor. The State Director is responsible for the organization and administration of the Social Services Administration and is responsible for the appointment, under the Merit System Law, of all its personnel (Code 1957, 1969 Repl. Vol., 1972 Supp., Art. 88A, sec. 2). The State Board of Social Services is composed of nine members appointed by the Secretary of Employment and Social Services with the approval of the Governor, one of whom the Secretary designates as Chairman. All members serve six-year terms so arranged that three terms expire on June 30 of every second year. The State Board gives advice and counsel and makes recommendations to the Secretary of Employment and Social Services and the State Director of Social Services. In Baltimore City, the Mayor appoints seven citizens to a social services commission for staggered six-year terms. The Mayor and the Commissioner of Health serve as ex officio members. In each county, the local governing body appoints the social services board from lists of names submitted by the State Administration, after consultation with the State Board and the local governing authority, containing twice the number of names to be selected. Each of these boards consists of nine members. One of these members must be a member of the local governing body, designated on July 1 of each year to serve as the ex-officio member of the local social services board. Members of the local social services boards are appointed for three-year terms. No appointee may serve for more than two consecutive terms (Code 1957, 1969 Repl. Vol., 1972 Supp., Art. 88A, secs. 1, 2, 4, 14, 14A).

The Social Services Administration is the central, coordinating, and directing agency of all social service and public assistance activities in the State, including aid to families with dependent children, old age assistance, public assistance to the needy blind, general public assistance, aid to the permanently and totally disabled, and any other social service and public assistance activities financed in whole or in part by the Social Services Administration. It has responsibility for the certification of low income families for medical assistance. In agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture, the Adminis-