

Independent Agencies

Executive

THE COMMISSION ON THE AGING

Chairman: Margaret C. Schweinhaut, 1975

Ex officio members: Neil Solomon, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene; Irene Olson, D.S.W., Director of the Social Services Administration; James A. Sensenbaugh, State Superintendent of Schools; *Vacancy*, Executive Director of the Employment Security Administration; Vladimir A. Wahbe, Secretary of State Planning; David T. Mason, Secretary of Employment and Social Services.

Appointed members: Andrew J. Lewis, Jr., 1974; Melvin T. Pugatch, 1974; Nathan W. Shock, 1975; Wilson A. Heaps, 1976; Matthew L. Tayback, 1976; William E. Henry, 1977; M. Shakman Katz, 1977; David J. Williams, 1977. John Collins Harvey, M.D., 1979; William Reichel, M.D., 1979.

Harry F. Walker, Executive Director

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The Commission on the Aging, originally known as the State Coordinating Commission on the Problems of the Aging, was created by Chapter 1, Acts of 1959, in response to problems created by the rapidly increasing population of older persons. It adopted its present name by Chapter 595, Acts of 1971. The Commission consists of seventeen members, of whom eleven are appointed by the Governor for staggered six-year terms. Of these eleven, one must be a member of the Maryland State Senate, and one, a member of the Maryland House of Delegates. One must represent the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty, and one the Baltimore City Medical Society. In addition, one must represent labor, one must represent industry, one must be especially knowledgeable in research, one must be associated with the work of charitable organizations, and three must be selected because of their interest in the problems of the aging. The remaining six members must be, ex officio, the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Director of the Social Services Administration, the State Superintendent of Schools, the Executive Director of the Employment Security Administration, the Secretary of State Planning, and the Secretary of Employment and Social Services. The Governor designates the Chairman. Members are eligible for re-appointment. The Commission appoints the Executive Director.

Under Executive Order #1, the Commission on the Aging, which had been placed in the Department of Employment and Social Services in September, 1970, was transferred to the Executive Department, effective May 1, 1973.

The Commission is responsible for promoting the welfare of older persons in every possible manner. It is the designated unit of government to carry out the planning, coordination, and evaluation of programs and activities related to the purposes of the Older Americans Act of 1965 as amended. The Commission also has the responsibility for research, special studies, selected data gathering, and the dissemination of information. It further reviews and evaluates programs and services, coordinates and cooperates with all other units and agencies