

parent need not join in the petition with the adopting parent, but need only give his or her consent to the adoption, as provided elsewhere in this subtitle.

82.

The legal effect of an adoption of a person over [21] 18 years of age shall be the same as that of the adoption of a minor, except as to guardianship.

87.

(b) Except as otherwise provided herein, the adoption of an adult shall be governed by the laws applicable to adoption of a child, and an adopted adult shall have the same rights as if adopted [during minority] **WHILE UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE.**

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of Article 19A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1966 Replacement Volume and 1972 Supplement), title "Conflicts of Interest," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

1.

Except as permitted by Section 3 hereof, it shall be unlawful for any officer, employee, or agent of any department, board, commission, authority, or other public agency of the State of Maryland to participate personally and substantially as a State officer, employee, or agent through decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, the rendering of advice, investigation, or otherwise, in a judicial or other proceeding, application, request for a ruling or other determination, contract, claim, controversy, charge, accusation, arrest, or other particular matter in which, to his knowledge, he, his spouse, parent, [minor] child **UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE**, brother, or sister has a financial interest or to which any firm, corporation, association, or other organization in which he has a financial interest or in which he is serving as officer, director, trustee, partner, or employee, or any person or organization with whom he is negotiating or has any arrangement concerning prospective employment, is a party.

SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Sections 256, 264 and 299(a) of Article 23 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1966 Replacement Volume and 1972 Supplement), title "Corporations," subtitle "III. Particular Classes of Corporations," subheading "Religious Corporations," be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, and all to read as follows:

256.

In every church, religious society or congregation, of whatever sect, order or denomination, or which shall at any time hereafter be known and acknowledged in the State, and protected in the free and full exercise of its religion by the Constitution and the laws thereof, there shall be sufficient power and authority in all persons above [twenty-one] **EIGHTEEN** years of age belonging to any such church, society or congregation, to elect, at their discretion, certain sober and discreet persons, not less than four, which persons so elected, upon being registered, as hereinafter directed, shall be constituted a body politic or corporate to act as trustees in the name and behalf of the particular church, society or congregation for which they are respectively chosen, and manage the estate, property interest and inheritance of the same.