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The Maryland Health and Higher Education Facilities Authority was created by Chapter 408, Acts of 1970. The Authority consists of nine members, of whom the Treasurer of Maryland serves *ex officio*, and eight members appointed by the Governor for five-year terms. Members may be reappointed. The Governor designates the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson. The Authority appoints the Executive Director and a general counsel, neither of whom can be members.

The purpose of the Authority is to enable private health and higher educational facilities to use the Authority as a vehicle to issue bonds and thereby pay a lower rate of interest. The Authority was created to provide certain hospitals and institutions for higher education with the facilities and structures that are needed to carry out the purposes of the Maryland Health and Higher Facilities Authority Act of 1970 (Code 1957, Art. 43C).

HEALTH CLAIMS ARBITRATION OFFICE

Walter R. Tabler, *Director*

Anita S. Pasciullo, *Administrative Assistant*

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The Health Claims Arbitration Office was created by Chapter 235, Acts of 1976, as a unit within the Executive Department. It is headed by a Director appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Director is responsible for preparing three lists of qualified persons willing to serve as arbitrators of health care malpractice claims, one list consisting of attorneys, one of health care providers, and one of persons from the general public who are neither attorneys, health care providers, nor in the employ of insurance interests.

Any person asserting a claim against a health care provider, for damages in excess of \$5,000 and due to medical injury, must file the claim with this office. The Director is responsible for notifying all affected parties and for supplying a list of qualified arbitrators, five from each of the three categorical lists, from each of which one mutually agreed upon arbitrator is chosen to sit

on the three-person arbitration panel. That panel then must determine the issue of liability with respect to the claim and, if it determines that a health care provider is liable, it must consider and assess appropriate damages. The decision of the arbitration panel is final, unless rejected by any party, in which case the rejecting party must file an appeal action at the circuit court level to reverse or modify the award.

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Chairperson: James C. Fletcher, Jr., 1983

Vice-Chairperson: Susan P. Leviton, 1985

Clara Clow, 1981; Essom V. Ricks, Sr., 1981; Shoshana Cardin, 1983; Flozella E. R. Clark, 1985; Mary B. Malley, 1985; Rev. J. Edwin Pippin, 1985.

David L. Glenn, *Executive Director*

Carolyn I. Polowy, *Deputy Director*

Vernon C. Wingenroth, *Assistant Director*

Risselle R. Fleisher, *General Counsel*

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Baltimore 21215 Telephone: 383-3680

Cambridge Office:
514 Race Street
Cambridge 21613 Telephone: 228-0112

The Commission was established by Chapter 559, Acts of 1927, which added a new Article 49-1 (now 49B) to the Annotated Code of Maryland. By the statute a permanent "Interracial Commission" was established to consider matters concerning the "welfare of colored people residing in the State . . . , recommend legislation and sponsor movements looking to the welfare of said people, and to the improvement of interracial relations, and to cooperate with other State agencies to these ends." Subsequent amendments to Article 49B over the years changed the name of the Commission and expanded its authority and responsibilities.

The current Commission consists of nine members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for staggered six-year terms. The Commission designates one of its members as Chairperson. In the appointment of Commission members, consideration is given to