

view boards. It also makes recommendations to the General Assembly on foster care policies and procedures (Code 1957, Art. 88A, secs. 114-120).

The State Board is composed of nine members. Each local review board of the eight judicial circuits elects a member to the State Board. The Governor also appoints one member from his staff. Members serve four-year terms concurrent with their individual terms on the local review board.

The Administrator is appointed by the State Board with the approval of the Secretary of Human Resources and serves at their pleasure. The Administrator is responsible for the administration of the Foster Care Review Board program and for the appointment, under the Merit System Law, of its personnel.

Local review boards are appointed by the Governor for four-year terms. There are five members and two alternates on each local board.

Every six months, the local citizen review boards review the cases of children who have resided in foster care for more than six months to determine what efforts have been made to acquire permanent and stable placement for the children. For each child reviewed, a recommendation is sent to the local department of social services and to the juvenile court.

INCOME MAINTENANCE ADMINISTRATION

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The Income Maintenance Administration, formerly part of the Social Services Administration, was established by Executive Order on January 17, 1980, and subsequently approved by the General Assembly.

The Executive Director of the Income Maintenance Administration is appointed by the Secretary of Human Resources and serves at his pleasure. The Executive Director is responsible for the organization and administration of the Income Maintenance Administration and for the appointment, under the Merit System Law, of all its personnel. The central office includes the following major units: the Office of Public Assistance, Office of Child Support, Office of Administrative Services, Office of Program Integrity, Office of Program Support, and Office of Automated Income Maintenance System (AIMS).

The Income Maintenance Administration is the central coordinating and directing agency of all

public assistance activities in the State, including Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Medical Assistance, General Public Assistance, and Food Stamps. It has responsibility for the certification of low income families for Medical Assistance. In agreement with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the Income Maintenance Administration administers the Food Stamp program, which is available in all political subdivisions of the State. The Income Maintenance Administration also includes Fair Hearings, Quality Control, and Welfare Fraud units.

In Baltimore City and in each county there is a local department of social services whose director administers these public assistance activities within the respective locality subject to the supervision, direction, and control of the State Administration.

The Income Maintenance Administration is responsible for the development and coordination of its programs and the dissemination of policy to local departments of social services for purposes of determining eligibility for financial assistance, Medical Assistance, and Food Stamps. In carrying out this responsibility, the Income Maintenance Administration calls upon the local departments of social services for leadership within their communities and for participation in statewide activities.

The Income Maintenance Administration has responsibility for child support activities for families receiving public assistance. All recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children must assign to the State all rights to support. The Income Maintenance Administration, through local departments of social services, uses local, State and federal locator services to find absent parents owing such support, and court orders are then established requiring payment to the State. Monies collected through this program are used to reimburse the State and the federal government for assistance costs.

The Income Maintenance Administration also serves as the public agency through which child support payments are channeled. Prior to January 1, 1979, such payments were handled by the Division of Parole and Probation of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

LOCAL OFFICES PROVIDING SOCIAL SERVICES AND INCOME MAINTENANCE

State Administrative Office

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