

The Task Force on Hospital Regulations was created in 1980 (Joint Resolution no. 20, Acts of 1979). The Task Force examined regulatory compliance activities, including surveys, inspections, visits, and formal and informal reports effecting health facilities and provider enterprises. The objective of the study was to recommend means to eliminate, consolidate, and otherwise reduce such regulatory activities, initiate regulations revision as necessary, recommend changes in law where appropriate, and, while concentrating initially on general hospitals, involve other health facilities, such as nursing homes.

The Task Force report of September 1982 notes significant accomplishments, including the passage of legislation to recognize the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Certification for State licensure purposes in hospitals. The report is available upon request.

Because of the complexity of subject matter, the Task Force is continuing its study, particularly in regard to quality assurance, utilization review, and equal access.

## HUMANE PRACTICES COMMISSION

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At the request of the General Assembly, the Governor appointed the Humane Practices Commission in 1971 (Joint Resolution no. 47, Acts of 1971). The Commission investigates and oversees the treatment, care, and condition of patients in hospitals for the mentally ill and mentally retarded. It reports regularly to the Governor and General Assembly on its findings.

## MARYLAND HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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Naomi F. Collins, *Executive Director*

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The Maryland Humanities Council was formed in 1970 in response to the federal law creating the National Endowment for the Humanities (P.L. 89-209). It is a private, nonprofit Maryland corporation funded by the federal government, foundations, corporations, and individuals. The Governor appoints four of its twenty-one to twenty-six volunteer members. The Council reports regularly to the Governor.

To promote the understanding and appreciation of the humanities in Maryland, the Council awards grants for humanities projects for the public. The humanities include the study and knowledge of history, languages, literature, jurisprudence, ethics, philosophy, archaeology, linguistics, comparative religion, cultural anthropology, the history and criticism of the arts, and those aspects of the social and natural sciences that use historical and philosophical approaches. The humanities are concerned chiefly with ideas, the meanings of languages, and values. As bodies of knowledge, they differ from quantitative or value-free aspects of the social and natural sciences and the creation or performance of the fine arts.

Brochures, grant information, and newsletters are available upon request.

## LANDLORD-TENANT LAWS STUDY COMMISSION

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Michele Gilligan, *Reporter*