

## DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Ruth Massinga, *Secretary of Human Resources*

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The oldest function of the Department of Human Services involves public assistance. In Maryland, from the seventeenth century, county government provided public relief. The State, however, did not assume public assistance responsibilities until the twentieth century. The Department's responsibilities for public assistance originated with the Board of State Aid and Charities in 1900 (Chapter 679, Acts of 1900). This board was superseded by the Department of Public Welfare in 1939 (Chapter 99, Acts of 1939). In 1968, the Department was renamed the Department of Social Services (Chapter 702, Acts of 1968) and, in 1970, it became the Department of Employment and Social Services (Chapter 96, Acts of 1970). It was renamed the Department of Human Resources in 1975 (Chapter 382, Acts of 1975).

The Department's former responsibilities in the area of employment were transferred in 1983 to the Department of Employment and Training, and are now assigned to the Department of Economic and Employment Development.

The Department of Human Resources consists of four administrations: Social Services, Child Support Enforcement, Income Maintenance, and Community Services. Within the Community Services Administration are the Maryland Commission for Women, the Governor's Commission on Migratory and Seasonal Labor, and the Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs (Code 1957, Art. 41, secs. 6-101 through 6-407).

### DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES ADVISORY COUNCIL

*Chairperson:* Samuel J. Kecker, 1987

Rev. William E. Johnson; Bishop John Ricard; Edward E. Watkins; James L. Zamoiski. *Terms expire 1987.*

Bailey E. Fine; Miles G. Harrison, Jr., M.D.; Barbara L. Himmelrich; Betty S. Hornstein; Darielle Linehan; Dr. William Troxler. *Terms expire 1988.*

Arnold E. Gillespie; Winette Sherrard Hynson; Ruth U. Keeton; Sheila K. Riggs; Carl William Struever; Richard B. Willson. *Terms expire 1989.*

The Advisory Council was created in 1984 (Chapter 421, Acts of 1984). The Council advises the Secretary of Human Resources on program

plans, grant levels, eligibility requirements, and the Department budget. The Council also acts as a forum for public comment and implements procedures to keep local boards informed of Council and other local board activities.

The Council consists of from fifteen to twenty-five members. They are appointed by the Secretary with the approval of the Governor.

### OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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The Office of Public Information coordinates contacts between the communications media and the Department, issues news releases and other