

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

Independent agencies are those offices, commissions, boards, departments, and other agencies of State government established by statute as independent units of government. Generally, the law establishing an independent agency originates with the Maryland General Assembly, but occasionally an agency is created pursuant to a mandate of the U.S. Congress.

While independent agencies are statutorily distinct from the fifteen principal departments of State government, they may receive budgetary or administrative support from them.

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY

Chairperson: James J. Traglia

Barbara L. Bagli; Howard A. Denis; Marilyn Goldwater; David R. Pile; Richard Rowe; Margaret E. Shultz; Rosalie F. Streett; Althea J. Truitt, D.S.W.; Vivian I. Washington; Doris W. Welcher; Kathleen Wise.

Ex officio: Ruth Massinga, *Secretary of Human Resources*; Adele Wilzack, *Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene*; J. Randall Evans, *Secretary of Economic and Employment Development*; H. Louis Stettler III, *Secretary of Budget and Fiscal Planning*; David W. Hornbeck, *State Superintendent of Schools*; Wendy R. Sherman, *Director, Office for Children and Youth*.

c/o Social Services Administration
300 W. Preston St.
Baltimore 21201 Telephone: 576-5200

The Governor's Council on Adolescent Pregnancy was established in 1986 (Chapter 121, Acts of 1986). It is an independent agency located in the Department of Human Resources for budgetary and administrative purposes only.

The Council works to reduce unplanned adolescent pregnancies in Maryland. To ensure the development of a coordinated and comprehensive approach to social, educational, economic, health and legal problems of adolescent pregnancy and parenthood, the Council is to prepare a statewide plan for reducing adolescent pregnancy and improving services to at-risk, pregnant and parenting teenagers. The plan will include estimates of public and private funding needs.

The Council promotes interdepartmental as well as joint public and private coordination of policies

and programs. In addition, the Council advises local agencies and makes recommendations to the Governor on community incentive grants concerning adolescent pregnancy.

The Council consists of eighteen members. These include a member of the Senate; a member of the House of Delegates; three persons with extensive programmatic or academic experience with pregnant or parenting adolescents and their families; five representatives of community, parent or religious groups; two representatives of local governments that have high rates of teenage pregnancy; and six *ex officio* members. Appointed members serve three-year terms.

Authorization for the Council continues until July 1, 1990 (Code Family Law Article, secs. 15-101 through 15-301).

THE OFFICE ON AGING

Rosalie S. Abrams, *Director on Aging*

Richard F. Kirchner, *Deputy Director*

301 W. Preston St., Room 1004
Baltimore 21201 Telephone: 225-1100
TTY for Deaf: 333-7555

The Office on Aging was established in 1975 as an independent agency to administer, consolidate, and coordinate statewide programs and activities to meet the needs of older Marylanders (Chapter 261, Acts of 1975). Its predecessor agency, the State Coordinating Commission on the Problems of the Aging, was created in 1959 (Chapter 1, Acts of 1959) and renamed in 1971 as the Commission on the Aging (Chapter 595, Acts of 1971). In 1974 the Governor established the Governor's Coordinating Office on Problems of the Aging. The creation of the Office on Aging as a cabinet-level agency in 1975 resulted in the merger of the Commission on the Aging staff with the