

mother or other person in charge of such child, for the maintenance and support thereof out of the father's estate as may appear to the Court to be just and proper. In no case, however, shall the mother or other person in charge of said child receive more than \$500 or more than one-half the amount that each of his legitimate children, if any, would receive, or more than one-half the amount the descendants, if any, of a deceased legitimate child would receive as a class, if the father had died intestate. All money paid or ordered to be paid under this section shall be charged as a debt or debts against the estate of the said deceased father, upon payment of the sum or sums ordered to be paid by the Court under this section, the bond given under section 5 shall be cancelled and the sureties thereon discharged.

SEC. 11. *And be it enacted*, That prosecutions under this act may be commenced within two years from the delivery of the mother of the bastard child, except that where the person accused has made payments for the maintenance and support of the said child, it shall be sufficient if the prosecution be started within two years from the last payment by the accused for the maintenance and support of the said bastard child.

SEC. 12. *And be it enacted*, That whenever any principal, surety or other person in interest, upon competent testimony, makes it appear to the satisfaction of any Court in which a bond in any bastardy case is entered upon, that by reason of the death of the child or by reason of the payment of all dues arising under said bond, or for any other reason, the bond should be discharged, the Court may make such order of discharge, annulment or cancellation of the bond, or such other order as may be deemed appropriate by the Court to discharge the obligors on the bond.

SEC. 13. *And be it enacted*, That Article 12 of the Code of Public General Laws of Maryland of the year 1904 shall continue in full force and effect so far as the same is applicable to cases heretofore commenced or hereafter commenced where the bastardy child was born or begotten prior to the passage of this act.

SEC. 14. *And be it enacted*, That the unconstitutionality of any part or of any section of this act shall not affect the validity of any other part or section thereof.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted*, That this act shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved April 4, 1912.