

Any applicant or pensioner deeming himself or herself to be aggrieved by any decision of the Local Board or the Department of Welfare of Baltimore City in the exercise of its duties under this Section or any other Section of this Article, or by any decision of the Administrator of Pensions and Relief under this Article, may within thirty days after the announcement of such decision appeal therefrom to the Board of Old Age Pensions and Relief. Such Board shall cause an investigation to be made and shall set a date for the hearing of said appeal, reasonable notice of which shall be given to the said applicant or pensioner and to the Local Board of the County in which the applicant or pensioner resides, or the Department of Welfare of Baltimore City, if he resides therein. The said Board shall take testimony and proceed in an orderly manner but may consider the reports of local investigators and of its investigators and shall not be limited by any of the common law rules of evidence. It shall have the same powers to secure the attendance of witnesses and to compel the production of documents as the State Industrial Accident Commission. The County Commissioners of the County in which the applicant or pensioner resides, if said Commissioners shall not at that time be and constitute the Local Board, or the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, if the applicant or pensioner resides in Baltimore City, shall have the right to appear and become a party to said case. The decision of the Board of Old Age Pensions and Relief shall be final and not subject to further appeal, provided that the said Board may at any time thereafter review and reopen said case.

It shall be unlawful for any person to make any charge or receive any fee for representation of an applicant or pensioner in any proceeding hereunder, or with respect to any application, whether such fee or charge be paid by the applicant or pensioner or by any other person or persons.

If it appears that an applicant has been during the preceding ten years a resident of a county or counties other than that in which he resides at the time of application, the Local Board to which his application is made, shall file a statement to that effect with the Board of Old Age Pensions and Relief, which shall investigate the residence of the applicant and shall, after notice to the Local Boards of all interested counties, conduct a hearing upon the apportionment of the cost of said pension, and shall divide one-third of the total annual pension between said counties in proportion to the time of residence of the applicant in each county during the ten years preceding the application. The decision of the said Board shall be final, and it shall transmit its conclusions to the respective Local Boards. The pension, if due, shall be granted and administered exclusively by the Local Board of the county in which the applicant resides at the time of application, and said county shall have a claim against any other county or counties for quarterly reimbursement in accordance with the findings of the Board of Old Age Pensions and Relief, which claim shall be enforceable by legal proceedings.

If it appears that any applicant has moved into the county in which he applies within one year prior to application for the purpose of applying