

CHAPTER 244.

AN ACT to amend Article Sixteen of the Code of Public General Laws, title "Chancery," sub-title "Infants," by adding six additional sections thereto, to come in after Section 62 and to be numbered respectively 62 A, 62 B, 62 C, 62 D, 62 E and 62 F.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That six additional sections be added to Article Sixteen of the Code of Public General Laws, title Chancery, sub-title Infants, to come in after Section 62 to read as follows :

New
sections

Adopted
child

62 A. The several Chancery Courts of this State, upon the application of any person residing in the city or county where such application is made, shall have power to pass a decree declaring any minor child the adopted child of the petitioner, upon such reasonable notice to the parent or parents, guardian or gaurdians of such child if any there be by summons order of publication or otherwise as the court may order to be given, provided that the court passing the decree shall become satisfied, upon careful investigation, that the best interests and welfare of such child will be thereby promoted, and provided further, that the child, if of sufficient intelligence and capacity to give an understanding assent shall so desire.

Decree
author-
izing
adoption

62 B. The husband and wife may file a petition jointly praying the court to decree the adoption by them jointly of any child. but no decree of adoption shall pass where the petitioner is a married person unless it be shown that the husband or wife of the petitioner consents to the adoption, or is hopelessly insane, or that the parties are living apart under such circumstances as would entitle the petitioner to a divorce.

Effect
of such
decree

62 C. The effect of such decree of adoption shall be to entitle the child so adopted to the same rights of inheritance and distribution as to the petitioner's estate and the same rights of protection, education and maintenance as if born to such petitioner in lawful wedlock, and the natural parents of such child shall be freed from all legal obligation towards it, provided that where such child inherits property from its adopted parent or parents, upon its dying intestate without issue the property thus inherited shall descend and be distributed to the same persons who would take the same by inheritance and in course of distribution if the child had been the child of the adopted parents born to them in law-