

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect on June 1, 1947.

Approved April 25, 1947.

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CHAPTER 600.

(Senate Bill 8)

AN ACT to add 14 new sections to Article 88A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), title "State Department of Public Welfare", to be known as Sections 16A to 16N, inclusive, to follow immediately after Section 16 of said Article 88A, and to be under the new sub-title "Child Care"; to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Sections 10 and 11 of said Article 88A of the Annotated Code (1939 Edition and 1943 Supplement), sub-title "Board of Welfare"; and to repeal Sections 622 to 626, inclusive, of Article 27 of the Annotated Code (1939 Edition), title "Crimes and Punishments", sub-title "Separating Young Child from Mother"; providing generally for the examination and licensing of agencies, institutions and individuals having the care and custody of minors, defining the rights and duties of such agencies, institutions and individuals, prescribing the procedure to be followed by the State Department of Public Welfare in such examination and licensing, and repealing inconsistent laws.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That 14 new sections be and they are hereby added to Article 88A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), title "State Department of Public Welfare", to be under the new sub-title "Child Care", to be known as Sections 16A to 16N, inclusive, to follow immediately after Section 16 of said Article, and to read as follows:

16A. (Legislative Policy.) The General Assembly hereby declares as a matter of legislative policy its conviction that the paramount consideration of this sub-title is the protection of the children affected by it. The condition of childhood is such that a child is not capable of protecting himself, and when its natural parents for any reason have relinquished its care to others, there arises the possibility of certain risks to the child which in turn require comparable and offsetting measures. When the interests of a child and those of an adult are in conflict, the doubt should be resolved in favor of the child.