

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Sections 3B, 12 and 13 of Article 88A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1943 Supplement), title "State Department of Public Welfare", sub-title "Board of Welfare", be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:*

3B. (a) It shall be the duty of the attorney to the County Commissioners of each of the several counties of the State, or an attorney to be designated by the County Commissioners, to institute and defend all civil cases in which any county welfare board is an interested party. All such suits shall be instituted in the name of the welfare board of such county.

(b) Whenever such attorneys institute suit for the recovery, from the estate of a recipient of any type of public assistance, of the amount paid to such recipient during his lifetime, or whenever such attorneys institute suit for the recovery, from a recipient of any type of public assistance, of the amount paid to such recipient prior to his coming into possession of any property or income in excess of the amount stated in his application for assistance and in excess of his need, such attorneys may be allowed such fees for their services as may be fixed by the court, and the amount of such fees allowed by the court shall be deducted from the gross amount of the recovery in each case, and the net amount of the recovery turned over to the county welfare board to be divided between the State, the county, and the Federal Government in proportion to the amount paid by each respectively.

(c) For such other legal services as are required of such attorneys on behalf of county welfare boards and not provided for otherwise, they shall be paid such fees as may be established, from time to time, by the State Department, the cost thereof to be borne from regular administrative funds.

12. (a) The State Department of Public Welfare shall be empowered to create or continue in each county a County Welfare Board to be known as such with the name of the county prefixed thereto, which Board shall be an administrative department of the local government. Such Boards shall have authority to administer Aid to Dependent Children, Old Age Assistance, Public Assistance to the Needy Blind and General Public Assistance, Child Welfare Services, the investigation and certification of persons eligible for employment on local, State or Federal projects, or to administer any other program in the field of public welfare, and such Boards shall have authority to administer, handle and distribute commodities in