

only for the purposes, contemplated by this Article, or as directed in the grant of assistance.

27. **APPEAL TO THE STATE BOARD.** If an application is not acted upon by the County Board within a reasonable time after the filing of the application, or is denied in whole or in part, or if any award of assistance is modified or cancelled under any provision of this sub-title, the applicant or recipient may appeal to the State Board in the manner and form prescribed by the State Board. The State Board shall, upon receipt of such an appeal, give the applicant or recipient an opportunity for a fair hearing. The State Board may also, upon its own motion, review any decision of a County Board, and may consider any application upon which a decision has not been made by the County Board within a reasonable time. The State Board may make such additional investigation as it may deem necessary, and shall make such decision as to the granting of public assistance and the amount of assistance to be granted as in its opinion is justified and in conformity with the provisions of this sub-title. Applicants or recipients affected by such decisions of the State Board shall, upon request, be given reasonable notice and opportunity for a fair hearing by the State Board. All decisions of the State Board shall be final and shall be binding upon the County involved and shall be complied with by such County Board.

30. **RECOVERY FROM THE ESTATE.** On the death of any recipient the total amount of assistance paid under this sub-title, accounting from the time the recipient reaches the age of sixty-five shall be allowed as a preferred claim against his estate, ranking in order of priority after funeral expenses, and prior to all other claims and expenses. The net amount realized from all such claims shall be divided between the State and County in proportion to the amount of assistance paid by each respectively; provided, that no such claim shall be enforced against any real estate of a recipient while it is occupied by the surviving spouse or dependents.

32. **ANNUAL APPROPRIATION.** The County Commissioners of each county and the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore shall annually levy or appropriate an amount sufficient to provide for one-half of all pensions paid or to be paid within said county or city. Provided, however, that the County Commissioners of each county and the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore shall not be obligated to pay any sums as assistance in excess of one-half of the total of all assistance paid or to be paid within said county or city hereunder, except to the extent that funds may be available in the State Treasury. In the event that the Federal government shall require, as a con-