

application is made, or the equity court in the city or county where a minor to be adopted resides, 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 guardians, 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.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1924.

Approved April 9, 1924.

CHAPTER 442.

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact with amendments Section 5 of Article 12 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, title "Bastardy and Fornication," providing that the father of an illegitimate child may be required to contribute to its support until it reaches fourteen years of age.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That Section 5 of Article 12 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, title "Bastardy and Fornication," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted with amendments to read as follows:

5. Immediately upon the passage of said order, said justice of the peace shall transmit the original papers and a transcript of the proceedings had before him to said Circuit Court or the Criminal Court of the City of Baltimore, as the case may be, and thereupon, but not before said woman shall have been delivered, and same proceedings shall be had as in other criminal cases, and if the accused person shall be found guilty by the verdict of a jury, or by the Court, if the case be tried before the Court, the Court shall immediately order such person to give bond to the State of Maryland in a penalty not exceeding \$500, with good and sufficient securities, conditioned to pay for the maintenance and support of said child, to the mother, or to the person having said child in custody, or to the county or to the City of Baltimore, as the case may be, if