

ties. All statements in the application shall be sworn to or affirmed by the applicant.

6. The said Local Board or the Department of Welfare of Baltimore City shall promptly make or cause to be made such investigation as they may deem necessary. The Local Board or the Department of Welfare of Baltimore City shall decide upon the application and fix the amount of the pension, if any. An applicant whose application for a pension has been rejected may not again apply for a pension until the expiration of six months from the date of his or her previous application.

Any applicant or pensioner deeming himself or herself to be aggrieved by any decision of the Local Board or the Department of Welfare of Baltimore City in the exercise of its duties under this Section or any other Section of this Article, or by any decision of the Administrator of Pensions and Relief under this Article, (may within thirty days after the announcement of such decision appeal therefrom to the Board of State Aid and Charities. Such Board shall cause an investigation to be made and shall set a date for the hearing of said appeal, reasonable notice of which shall be given to the said applicant or pensioner and to the Local Board of the County in which the applicant or pensioner resides, or the Department of Welfare of Baltimore City, if he resides therein. The said Board shall take testimony and proceed in an orderly manner but may consider the reports of local investigators and of its investigators and shall not be limited by any of the common law rules of evidence. It shall have the same powers to secure the attendance of witnesses and to compel the production of documents as the State Industrial Accident Commission. The County Commissioners of the County in which the applicant or pensioner resides, if said Commissioners shall not at that time be and constitute the Local Board, or the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, if the applicant or pensioner resides in Baltimore City, shall have the right to appear and become a party to said case. The decision of the Board of State Aid and Charities shall be final and not subject to further appeal, provided that the said Board may at any time thereafter review and reopen said case.

It shall be unlawful for any person to make any charge or receive any fee for representation of an applicant or pensioner in any proceeding hereunder, or with respect to