

## CHAPTER 238.

(House Bill 1)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Sections 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, and 15 of Article 88A of the Annotated Code of "Maryland (1939 Edition), title 'State Department of Public Welfare', and to add two new sections to said Article, said new sections to be known as Sections 3A and 3B and to follow immediately after Section 3 of said Article, prescribing penalties for misuse of public assistance lists and records and relating to attorneys who represent the Welfare Boards in civil cases in which they are interested parties."

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That Sections 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, and 15 of Article 88A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), title "State Department of Public Welfare", be and the same are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, and that two new sections, to be known as Sections 3A and 3B, to follow immediately after Section 3 of said Article, be and they are hereby added to said Article 88A, to read as follows:

3. The State Department of Public Welfare shall be the central, co-ordinating, and directing agency of the welfare activities included within this Article, and any supplements and amendments thereto, and also of welfare activities in the fields of Aid to Dependent Children, Old Age Assistance, Public Assistance to the Needy Blind, and General Public Assistance. All of the activities of the County Boards, hereinafter provided for, and of the Department of Public Welfare of Baltimore City, which the State finances, in whole or in part, shall be subject to the supervision, direction and control of the State Department of Public Welfare. Said State Department shall also investigate, study and consider the whole system of public and private institutions, organizations and agencies of a charitable nature in the State, including those which receive part of their income from the State. Said State Department shall establish and enforce reasonable rules and regulations covering the custody, use and preservation of the records, papers, files, and communications of the State and local departments concerning applicants and recipients. The use of such records, papers, files and communications by any other agency or department of government to which they may be furnished shall be limited to the purposes for which they are furnished.

3A. *Misuse of Public Assistance Lists and Records.*

(1) Except in accordance with proper judicial or legislative order and except to an officer of the State, or the United States,