

“Testamentary Law,” sub-title “Settlement of Small Estates,” to provide for the settlement of small estates of male OR UNMARRIED FEMALE decedents where the allowable funeral expenses are equal to or exceed the known assets of the estate.

SECTION 1. *Beit enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Sub-section (B) of Section 151B of Article 93 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1947 Supplement), title “Testamentary Law,” sub-title “Settlement of Small Estates,” be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

151B.

(B) Whenever such a Preliminary Order has been passed and the notice has been published and the time provided in such notice has expired, the Petitioner shall file, under oath, a Statement declaring that the notice has been published, and that the said time has expired, and listing all then known creditors, including contingent and disputed claims, and the amount of each claim. If satisfied, that said Statement is true, and after hearing and disposing of any objections filed in the Orphans' Court by anyone interested in the estate, the Orphans' Court shall pass a Final Order (1) directing the Petitioner to pay from the estate all said claims, as well as the customary widow's allowance, if any, in the order of priority provided by law for an administrator, and (2) authorizing any person having possession of any property of the decedent's estate to transfer and pay over the same in accordance with the Petitioner's directions, and (3) decreeing that, after the Register of Wills certifies upon said Final Order that he has seen the vouchers for the payment of said claims and is satisfied that said claims, as well as all inheritance taxes and the fees hereinafter provided have been paid, then the remaining balance of said estate, if any, shall be vested in the appropriate person or persons of the following, that is to say:

1. in the spouse, if there be one surviving, or
2. if there be no surviving spouse, in the decedent's child or children, equally (the share of any minor child to vest in the person having custody of such child, to be used for the care of such child), or
3. if there be neither surviving spouse nor surviving children, then in those persons who would be entitled thereto under the laws of descent and distribution in this Article provided for the property of intestates.