

as contained in the 1939 Code, which two sections still are to remain effective in these six counties; and

WHEREAS, It is desirable further to set up the adoption laws in such form as to make reasonably certain that in the future no further inadvertent repeals will be made; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Section 94A of Article 16 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1954 Supplement), title "Chancery", sub-title "Adoption", as said section was enacted by Chapter 225 of the Acts of 1953, be and it is hereby repealed and that two new sections be and they are hereby enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as Sections 94A and 94B and to follow immediately after Section 94 of said Article and sub-title, and to read as follows:*

*94A. (Alternate Procedures in Certain Counties.) (a) The several equity courts of this State in those counties in which this section is effective, upon the application of any person residing in a county where such application is made, or the equity court in the county where the person to be adopted resides, shall have power to pass a decree declaring any person 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, where a child is to be adopted, or to the next of kin of the petitioner where an adult is to be adopted, 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, in the case of a child, that the best interests and welfare of the child will be thereby promoted, and provided further, that the child, if of sufficient intelligence and capacity to give an understanding assent, or such adult, shall so desire.*

*(b) Except as otherwise provided herein, the adoption of an adult shall be governed by the laws applicable to adoption of a child, and an adopted adult shall have the same rights as if adopted during minority.*

*(c) If the petition contains a prayer to that effect, the court may also decree that the name of the child be changed.*

*94B. (Applicability.) Sections 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 87, 91 and 94 of this Article shall not apply in Allegany, Calvert, Charles, Garrett, St. Mary's and Washington Counties. Section 94A of this Article shall apply in Allegany, Calvert, Charles, Garrett, St. Mary's and Washington Counties, but not in any other county of the State or in Baltimore City. Sections 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 86, 88, 89, 90, 92 and 93 of this Article shall apply throughout the entire State.*

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That it is hereby declared to have been the legislative intent in the enactment of Chapter 225 of the Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland of 1953 solely to include adoption proceedings in Prince George's County within the provisions of Sections 76 to 94, inclusive, of Article 16 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1951 Edition, as amended), and not in any manner to affect adoption proceedings or the laws relating thereto in Allegany, Calvert, Charles, Garrett, St. Mary's and Washington Counties.*