

ernor—Executive and Administrative Departments”, said new sections to follow immediately after Section 214 thereof and to be under the new sub-title “24. Administrative Procedure Act”, establishing the procedure for State administrative agencies (as defined therein), providing for review of their determinations and relating generally to such State administrative agencies and their procedure.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That new Sections 215 through 227, inclusive, be and they are hereby added to Article 41 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1951 Edition), title “Governor—Executive and Administrative Departments”, said new sections to follow immediately after Section 214 thereof and to be under the new sub-title “24. Administrative Procedure Act”, and to read as follows:

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT

215. *Definitions. For the purpose of this sub-title:*

(a) “Agency” means any State board, commission, department or officer authorized by law to make rules or to adjudicate contested cases, except those in the legislative or judicial branches, and except the Department of Parole and Probation, the State Industrial Accident Commission, the Public Service Commission, and the State Tax Commission.

(b) “Rule” includes every regulation, standard, or statement of policy or interpretation of general application and future effect, including the amendment or repeal thereof, adopted by an agency, whether with or without prior hearing, to implement or make specific the law enforced or administered by it or to govern its organization or procedure, but does not include regulations concerning only the internal management of the agency and not directly affecting the rights of or procedures available to the public.

(c) “Contested case” means a proceeding before an agency in which the legal rights, duties, or privileges of specific parties are required by law or Constitutional right to be determined after an agency hearing.

216. *Adoption of Rules. In addition to other rule-making requirements imposed by law:*

(a) Each agency shall adopt rules governing the formal and informal procedures prescribed or authorized by this sub-title. Such rules shall include rules of practice before the agency together with forms and instructions; provided, however, that such rules shall not be construed or implemented so as to interfere with the right of any lawyer to practice before any agency, or so as to grant the right to practice law to anyone not authorized so to do.

(b) To assist interested persons dealing with it, each agency shall so far as is deemed practicable supplement its rules with descriptive statements of its procedures.

(c) Prior to the adoption of any rule authorized by law, or the amendment or repeal thereof, the adopting agency shall ~~as far as practicable~~, publish or otherwise circulate notice of its intended action, and afford interested persons opportunity to submit data or views orally or in writing.