

(b) *In determining the need of an applicant for or recipient of aid to the blind only such income and resources as are actually and immediately available to the individual for his support, shall be taken into consideration in computing the amount of aid to which such individual is entitled, except that the first Fifty Dollars (\$50) per month of net earned income shall be entirely disregarded in making such determination. Net income so disregarded in the case of an individual claiming aid to the blind shall not be considered in any case as income available for the support of any member of his family or other relative applying for any form of relief or assistance in the State. All expenses incident to the earning of such disregarded income shall be deducted from the individual's gross earnings in determining net earned income. If, when and during such times as the amount of earned income permitted or required to be disregarded, in determining need, by statute or regulations of the Federal government shall be increased, the amount of net earned income required to be disregarded under the provisions of this section shall be immediately increased to the maximum extent permitted or required by the statute or regulations of the Federal government.*

21. (Funeral Expenses.) On the death of the recipient, reasonable funeral expenses, not exceeding **One Hundred Dollars (\$100)** *One Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$150)*, may, subject to the rules and regulations of the State Board, be paid by the County Board, if the estate of the deceased is insufficient to pay the same and the persons legally responsible for the support of the deceased are unable to pay the same. The cost of any such payments shall be charged two-thirds to State funds and one-third to local funds.

23. (Appeal to the State Department.) If an application is not acted upon by the County Board within a reasonable time after the filing of the application, or is denied in whole or in part, or if an award of assistance is modified or cancelled under any provision of this sub-title, the applicant or recipient may appeal to the State Department in the manner and form prescribed by the State Department. **[This]** *The State Department shall, upon receipt of such appeal, give the applicant or recipient an opportunity for a fair hearing. The State Department may also, upon its own motion, review any decision of a County Board, and may consider any application upon which a decision has not been made by the County Board within a reasonable time. The State Department may make such additional investigation as it may deem necessary, and shall make such decision as to the granting of public assistance and the amount of assistance to be granted as in its opinion is justified and in conformity with the provisions of this sub-title. Applicants or recipients affected by such decisions of the State Department shall, upon request, be given reasonable notice and opportunity for a fair hearing by the State Department. [All decisions of the State Department shall be final and shall be binding upon the County involved and shall be complied with by such County Board.] If the applicant or recipient shall feel aggrieved by any decision of the State Department in respect to his case, he shall have the right to appeal such decision to the circuit court of the county in which he resides or to the Baltimore City Court if he resides in the City of Baltimore, and those courts shall have jurisdiction to review the case with respect to all matters of fact and law.*