

committee, the Circuit Court of the counties, or the Equity Courts of Baltimore City, upon petition of [any County Department, or the Department of Public Welfare of] *any of the local welfare departments in the counties or Baltimore City*, and with the consent of the next of kin, next friend, natural guardian or custodian of the applicant or recipient, shall have the power after notice and hearing to appoint a competent person as his [guardian] *legal representative* for assistance, without bond, whose duty shall be without compensation to receive, *manage* and disburse the recipient's assistance on his behalf and to make true and accurate account thereof as often as required. Funds in the hands of any such [guardian] *legal representative* for assistance shall be expended only for the purposes contemplated by this Article, or as directed in the grant of assistance.

13.

[(a) The State Department of Public Welfare shall be empowered to create or continue in each county a county welfare board to be known as such with the name of the county prefixed thereto, which board shall be an administrative department of the local government. Such boards shall have authority to administer aid to dependent children, old-age assistance, public assistance to the needy blind, general public assistance, aid to the permanently and totally disabled, child welfare services and the investigation and certification of persons eligible for employment on local, State or federal projects, or to administer any other program in the field of public welfare, and such boards shall have authority to administer, handle and distribute commodities in accordance with the rules of the State Department of Public Welfare, as well as work, relief and services to families and individuals, and the care of neglected and dependent children.]

*(a) The State Department of Public Welfare shall create or continue in each county a local welfare department to be known as such with the name of the county prefixed thereto. In each county such local welfare department shall have a local board and a local director appointed in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 and Section 14A of this Article.*

*In Baltimore City the Department of Welfare shall have a Welfare Commission appointed in accordance with the provisions of Section 48(d) of Article VII of the Charter of Baltimore City, 1964 Edition, and the local director of the Department of Welfare in Baltimore City shall be appointed in accordance with the provisions of Section 2 of this Article.*

*The local boards in the counties and the Welfare Commission in Baltimore City shall have all the duties and functions provided in Section 14A of this Article.*

*The local welfare director in each county and in Baltimore City shall administer the welfare activities within the counties and Baltimore City, respectively, in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of this Article.*

(b) Administrative costs of the [county welfare boards] *local welfare departments* for the purpose of this section shall be paid out of funds derived from local sources or out of allotments from State or Federal funds, or any of them, as the State Department of