

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Sections 5(a), 8, 9, and 11(a) of Article 54 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1964 Replacement Volume and 1967 Supplement), title "Hall of Records," subtitle "Hall of Records Commission," be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

5.

(a) Papers, records and documents, now in the courthouses of this State, which were made prior to April 28th 1788, the date of the adoption of the Constitution of the United States by the State of Maryland, shall be transferred as soon as practicable after June 1, 1945, to the Hall of Records Commission, which is hereby made the official custodian of such papers, records and documents, with full power to certify the same as provided in Section [177] 7. Every clerk of court, register of wills, or other public official, now having custody of said papers, records and documents, is hereby directed to transfer the same to said Hall of Records Commission and upon making such transfer, every such clerk, register of wills or other official is hereby relieved from any duties or responsibilities in connection therewith.

8.

If the Commission shall decline to accept any original papers, official books, records, documents or files offered to it under the provisions of Section [177] 7, then the custodian thereof, with the written approval of the Board of Public Works, is authorized and empowered to destroy the same. After such records are destroyed, the custodian thereof shall file with the Hall of Records a list of all papers, books, documents and files destroyed and a certificate of destruction. Such lists shall be retained in the custody of the Archivist and shall be available at reasonable times to inspection by the members of the public. Nothing in this section shall authorize the destruction of (a) papers, books, documents or files which have been in custody for a period of less than three years or such other period as may be expressly prescribed by statute, (b) public records expressly required by statute to be maintained permanently, except in those cases where the original record has been photographed, photocopied, or microphotographed in accordance with the provisions of Section [181] 11 of this article, provided that the copy or reproduction of the original record be available upon request in the same manner as the original record, (c) permanent books of account, (d) the records of any court of record in this State, (e) the land records recorded by the respective clerks of the circuit court for the several counties and the clerk of the Superior Court of Baltimore City; but old records of which accurate transcriptions have been made and placed in use, under the terms of Article 26, Section 17, and the "housekeeping" records or the records of internal management of the offices of clerks of court and registers of wills shall not be considered "records of a court" for the purpose of this section and Sections [179] 9 and [180] 10 and shall be subject to disposal as described above, provided, however, that the books, accounts, and records pertaining to the financial operations of any agency or department, officers, boards and commissions of the State of Maryland, and of all clerks