

CHAPTER 464

(Senate Bill 319)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 3 of Article 49B of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1964 Replacement Volume), title "Interracial Commission," subtitle "Enforcement Powers of Commission," to revise the hearing procedures of the Interracial Commission, and matters generally related thereto.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 3 of Article 49B of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1964 Replacement Volume), title "Interracial Commission," subtitle "Enforcement Powers of Commission," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

3.

(a) The said Commission shall have authority and power to make such surveys and studies concerning interracial relations, conditions and problems as it may determine, and to promote in every way possible the betterment of interracial relations. In making such studies and surveys, it shall be authorized to expend any funds which may be provided for in the budget or otherwise made available.

(b) It shall be the duty of said Commission to submit an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly on or before January 1st each year, setting forth the results of its studies and recommendations, if any, for any additional legislation.

(c) ~~Whenever any problem of racial discrimination or racial tension~~ DISCRIMINATION arises, the Commission may immediately hold ~~an investigatory~~ A CONCILIATORY AN INVESTIGATORY hearing. The place of any such hearing shall be in the county AREA where the problem exists. ~~The hearing may be public or private and the Commission shall have the same powers as provided for hearings on complaints filed.~~

The purpose of the hearing shall be to resolve the problem promptly by the gathering of all the facts from all the interested parties and making such recommendations as may be necessary.

The Commission shall not be bound by the strict rules of evidence prevailing in courts of law or equity. The testimony taken at the hearing shall be under oath and be transcribed.

(d) *Should the recommendations of the Commission not be accepted within a reasonable time the Commission may, with the consent of five members, on its own behalf, petition a court of equity to secure compliance with said recommendations.*

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1968.

Approved May 7, 1968.