

competent to join in the petition and not separated from the petitioner under circumstances which would give the petitioner a legal ground for divorce or annulment, such husband or wife shall join in the petition. *A person petitioning to become an adoptive parent shall not be denied an affirmative decree solely because he is single or without a spouse.* If the marital status of the petitioner changes after the time of filing the petition, and before the time of the entry of a final decree of adoption in the case, the petition shall be amended accordingly, it being the intent of this section that married persons who are living together and competent may adopt a person only upon the joint action of both. Provided, however, that if either the husband or wife is a natural parent of the person to be adopted, such natural parent need not join in the petition with the adopting parent, but need only give his or her consent to the adoption, as provided elsewhere in this subtitle.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1969.

Approved April 9, 1969.

CHAPTER 128

(Senate Bill 497)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Sections 16 and 20 of Article 40 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1965 Replacement Volume), title "General Assembly," subtitle "Intergovernmental Co-operation," revising the membership provisions applicable to the Maryland Commission on Intergovernmental Co-operation, adding certain duties and functions to the Commission, and clarifying the provisions of these laws.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Sections 16 and 20 of Article 40 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1965 Replacement Volume), title "General Assembly," subtitle "Intergovernmental Co-operation," be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

16.

¶At the first meeting of the Legislative Council following each regular session of the General Assembly in odd years, the Council shall appoint a standing committee to be known as the Legislative Council's Committee on Intergovernmental Co-operation. There shall be six members of this committee, three to be members of the Senate of Maryland and three to be members of the House of Delegates of Maryland. The appointments shall be at the pleasure of the Legislative Council. The Council also shall appoint a chairman of the committee, to serve at the pleasure of the Council. ¶ *The Legislative Council shall appoint a standing committee to be known as the Legislative Council's Commission on Intergovernmental Co-operation. There shall be twelve members of this Commission, six to be members of the Senate of Maryland and six to be members of the House of Delegates of Maryland, and these members shall include ex-officio, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Delegates and the majority and minority leaders of both Houses. The appoint-*