

CHAPTER 136

(Senate Bill 568)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Sections 18 and 19 of Article 30 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1967 Replacement Volume and 1968 Supplement), title "Deaf, Mute or Blind," subtitle "Public Assistance to the Needy Blind," and Sections 51, 52, 70 and 71 of Article 88A (1964 Replacement Volume and 1968 Supplement), title "State Department of Social Services," subtitles "Aid to Families with Dependent Children," and "Old Age Assistance," to eliminate the requirement of individual investigations of eligibility of applicants for assistance and to provide for establishment of regulations by the State Department of Social Services, in order to comply with requirements for Federal matching funds.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Sections 18 and 19 of Article 30 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1967 Replacement Volume and 1968 Supplement), title "Deaf, Mute or Blind," subtitle "Public Assistance to the Needy Blind," and Sections 51, 52, 70 and 71 of Article 88A (1964 Replacement Volume and 1968 Supplement), title "State Department of Social Services," subtitles "Aid to Families with Dependent Children," and "Old Age Assistance," be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, and all to read as follows:

ARTICLE 30

DEAF, MUTE OR BLIND

18.

Whenever a local unit receives an application for assistance under this subtitle, [an investigation and] a record shall promptly be made of the circumstances of the applicant [to ascertain] and the facts supporting the application made under this subtitle and such other information as may be required by the rules of the State Department.

19.

[Upon the completion of such investigation, the] *The* local unit shall decide whether the applicant is eligible for public assistance under the provisions of this subtitle [,] and determine, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the State Department, the amount of such assistance and the date on which such assistance shall begin. The local unit shall notify the applicant of its decision. Such assistance shall be paid upon order of the local unit from funds allocated to the local unit for this purpose. Should the fund or funds available be insufficient to make payments in accordance with the amount of assistance established to be needed, the State Department shall, by rule and regulation, provide for a uniform method of adjusting individual payments.

ARTICLE 88A

STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

51.

Whenever a local unit receives a notification of the dependency of a child or an applicant for assistance, [an investigation and] a