July 1, 1970.

Approved April 28, 1970

CHAPTER 444 (Senate Bill 512)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 31 of Article 9 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1968 Replacement Volume), title "Attachments," subtitle "Attachments of Wages or Hire," and to repeal Sections 31A and 31B of said Article, title and subtitle of said Code, to establish the exemption from attachment of wages and to prohibit employers from discharging employees because of attachment of their wages under certain circumstances, and providing a penalty for violating this provision.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Section 31 of Article 9 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1968 Replacement Volume), title "Attachments," subtitle "Attachments of Wages or Hire," and to repeal Sections 31A and 31B of said Article, title and subtitle of said Code, and all to read as follows:

31.

(a) No attachment of the wages or hire of any laborer or employee, in the hands of the employer, whether private individuals or bodies incorporate, shall affect any salary or wages of the debtor which are not actually due at the date of the attachment, and the sum of one hundred dollars multiplied by the number of weeks in which such wages due were earned or seventy-five percent (75%) of such wages of hire, whichever is greater, due to any laborer or employee by any employer or corporation shall always be exempt from attachment by any process whatever. EXCEPT THAT IN CAROLINE, WORCESTER, KENT AND QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTIES THE EXEMPTION FOR ANY WORKWEEK SHALL BE THE GREATER OF SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT (75%) OF THE WAGES DUE OR THIRTY (30) TIMES THE FEDERAL MINIMUM HOURLY WAGE PROVIDED BY SECTION 6 (A) (1) OF THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT OF 1938, U.S.C. TIT. 29, SECTION 206 (A) (1), IN EFFECT AT THE TIME THE EARN-