

criminal, juvenile, appellate, post conviction and other proceedings instituted before the Courts of the State of Maryland; and relating generally to the public defender system and to its workings and operations and the duties of certain persons in relation thereto.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That new Article 27A be and it is hereby added to the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume), to be under the new title "Public Defender," and to follow immediately after Article 27 thereof, and to read as follows:*

## ARTICLE 27A

### PUBLIC DEFENDER

#### 1. *Declaration of Policy and Legislative Intent.*

*It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State of Maryland to provide for the realization of the constitutional guarantees of counsel in the representation of indigents, including related necessary services and facilities, in criminal and juvenile proceedings within the State, and to assure effective assistance and continuity of counsel to indigent accused taken into custody and indigent defendants in criminal and juvenile proceedings before the Courts of the State of Maryland, and to authorize the Office of Public Defender to administer and assure enforcement of the provisions of this Article in accordance with its terms.*

#### 2. *Definitions.*

(a) *For the purposes of this Article, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section:*

(b) *"Office" means the office of Public Defender, including District Offices of the Public Defender and such branch offices as are deemed necessary and hereinafter described.*

(c) *"District" means an area comprising one or more political subdivisions conforming to the geographic boundaries of the District Court districts established in Article 26, Section 140, of the Annotated Code of Maryland.*

(d) *"District Public Defender" means the District Public Defender of each of the various districts described in subsection 2 (c) above.*

(e) *"Panel Attorney" means any attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Maryland and who qualifies and is eligible for appointment as counsel to an indigent person as defined by this Act.*

(f) *"Indigent" means any person taken into custody or charged with a serious crime as herein defined under the laws of the State of Maryland or the laws and ordinances of any County, Municipality, or Baltimore City, who under oath or affirmation subscribes and states in writing that he is financially unable, without undue hardship, to provide for the full payment of an attorney and all other necessary expenses of legal representation.*

(g) *"Expenses," when used with reference to representation under this Act, means all costs incident to investigation, other pre-*