

of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1969 Replacement Volume and Supplement), title "Public Works," to follow immediately after Section 53 thereof, to be under the new subtitle "Check Cashing," and to read as follows:

54.

*Check Cashing*

*The Board of Public Works may authorize or engage in experimental or trial programs for cashing checks issued under a program of the Social Services Administration, for the general purposes of ease and convenience in cashing these checks. The Board may expend or authorize the expenditure of State monies for this purpose, from contingent funds at the disposal of the Board or from other available funds.*

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1972.*

Approved May 26, 1972.

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CHAPTER 647

(House Bill 923)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 24 of Article 16 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Supplement), title "Chancery," subtitle "Divorce and Annulment," to include a crime against the laws of the United States as a ground for Divorce A Vinculo, and generally relating thereto.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Section 24 of Article 16 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Supplement), title "Chancery," subtitle "Divorce and Annulment," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments and to read as follows:*

24.

Upon a hearing of any bill for a divorce, the court may decree a divorce a vinculo matrimonii for the following causes, to wit: First, the impotence of either party at the time of the marriage; secondly, for any cause which by the laws of this State, render a marriage null and void ab initio; thirdly, for adultery; fourthly, when the court shall be satisfied by competent testimony that the party complained against has abandoned the party complaining, and that such abandonment has continued uninterruptedly for at least eighteen months, and is deliberate and final, and the separation of the parties beyond any reasonable expectation of reconciliation; fifthly, when the husband and wife shall have voluntarily lived separate and apart, without any cohabitation, for eighteen consecutive months prior to the filing of the bill of complaint, and such separation is beyond any reasonable expectation of reconciliation; sixthly, when the party complained against has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor