

institutional, atmosphere. The contribution of private organizations will also result in a saving to Maryland taxpayers. Uncoordinated and obsolete regulations imposing institutional requirements for health and housing set up unnecessary obstacles to providing homes for small groups of children who do not need special physical or mental care and who do not need detention in a "secure" facility.

The State Department of Juvenile Services and other governmental agencies (except the local Departments of Social Services) are not subject to these regulations if they themselves operate group homes, though the needs of the children are the same regardless of whether the home is operated by a public or a private agency. However, private organizations find that they have to meet extremely burdensome, expensive and time-consuming institutional requirements in order to set up small, family-type homes for children. Whenever feasible, it should be the goal of the State to keep children out of institutions and in home-like environments; now, therefore,

**SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,** That new Section 200A be and it is hereby added to Article 43 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume), title "Health," subtitle "Food Products," to follow immediately after Section 200 thereof, and to read as follows:

200A.

**(A) FOSTER HOMES, EMERGENCY SHELTERS, AND FAMILY TYPE RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN SPONSORED BY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE AGENCIES AND SUPERVISED BY FOSTER PARENTS, HOUSE PARENTS OR COUNSELLORS SHALL BE EXEMPTED FROM THE REGULATIONS OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE OR BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS GOVERNING EATING AND DRINKING ESTABLISHMENTS UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:**

**(1) NOT MORE THAN 14 PERSONS, INCLUDING HOUSE PARENTS, SUPERVISORY, PROFESSIONAL OR CUSTODIAL STAFF, SHALL RESIDE IN SUCH HOMES AT ANY ONE TIME; AND**

**(2) ALL CHILDREN RESIDING IN SUCH HOMES SHALL BE PLACED THEREIN BY A COURT, A LICENSED CHILD PLACEMENT AGENCY, OR A GOVERNMENT AGENCY, INCLUDING A LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.**

**(B) ALL GROUP HOMES FOR NOT MORE THAN 14 RESIDENTS SHALL BE REGISTERED WITH THE LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH, AND SHALL BE SUBJECT TO STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH REGULATIONS GOVERNING OCCUPANCY AND USE OF PRIVATE FAMILY HOMES, AND SHALL BE INSPECTED [[ANNUALLY]] BY THE LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH.**

**SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1973.

Approved May 21, 1973.

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