

hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

Article 27A - Public Defender

3.

(b) The Public Defender, with the approval of the board of trustees, shall appoint a deputy public defender, and one (1) district public defender for each district of the [district court] DISTRICT COURT, who shall possess the same qualifications as the Public Defender to be eligible for appointment, who shall assist the Public Defender in the performance of the duties of his office, and who shall, subject to the supervision of the Public Defender, be in charge of the public defender offices in the district for which he is appointed. Assistant public defenders may be appointed by the Public Defender, with the advice of the district public defenders, in such number as authorized by the budget. To be qualified for appointment as an assistant public defender, a person must be an attorney-at-law and admitted to practice law in the State of Maryland by the Court of Appeals of Maryland. The deputy public defender, district public defenders, and assistant public defenders, shall serve at the pleasure of the Public Defender, shall not engage in the private practice of criminal law, and shall receive such salaries as provided in the budget.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 117B(a) of Article 43 - Health, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume and 1973 Supplement) be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

Article 43 - Health

117B.

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law or any agreement, whether written or oral, if a lessor fails to remove any and all lead-based paint from any interior, exterior or other surface that is easily accessible to children of a residential premise within twenty days after notice that lead-based paint is present on such surfaces, the lessee may deposit his rent into an escrow account with the clerk of the [district court] DISTRICT COURT for the political subdivision in which the premises are located. The right of a lessee to deposit rent in an escrow account shall not preclude him from pursuing any other rights or remedies available to him at law or equity but shall be in addition thereto.