

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Subtitles "Administration of Charitable Trusts" and "Uniform Absent Persons' Act" of Article 16 - Chancery, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1973 Replacement Volume and 1974 Supplement) be and they are hereby repealed:

Article 16 - Chancery

[[Administration of Charitable Trusts]]

[[Uniform Absent Persons' Act]]

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That new Sections 184 through 207, inclusive, to be under new subtitle "Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act" be and they are hereby added to Article 16 - Chancery of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1973 Replacement Volume and 1974 Supplement) to read as follows:

Article 16 - Chancery

UNIFORM CHILD CUSTODY JURISDICTION ACT

[[3-1001]] 184.

(A) THE GENERAL PURPOSES OF THIS SUBTITLE ARE TO:

(1) AVOID JURISDICTIONAL COMPETITION AND CONFLICT WITH COURTS OF OTHER STATES IN MATTERS OF CHILD CUSTODY WHICH HAVE IN THE PAST RESULTED IN THE SHIFTING OF CHILDREN FROM STATE TO STATE WITH HARMFUL EFFECTS ON THEIR WELL-BEING;

(2) PROMOTE COOPERATION WITH THE COURTS OF OTHER STATES TO THE END THAT A CUSTODY DECREE IS RENDERED IN THAT STATE WHICH CAN BEST DECIDE THE CASE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHILD;

(3) ASSURE THAT LITIGATION CONCERNING THE CUSTODY OF A CHILD TAKES PLACE ORDINARILY IN THE STATE WITH WHICH THE CHILD AND HIS FAMILY HAVE THE CLOSEST CONNECTION AND WHERE SIGNIFICANT EVIDENCE CONCERNING HIS CARE, PROTECTION, TRAINING, AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS IS MOST READILY AVAILABLE, AND THAT COURTS OF THIS STATE DECLINE THE EXERCISE OF JURISDICTION WHEN THE CHILD AND HIS FAMILY HAVE A CLOSER CONNECTION WITH ANOTHER STATE;

(4) DISCOURAGE CONTINUING CONTROVERSIES OVER CHILD CUSTODY IN THE INTEREST OF GREATER STABILITY OF HOME ENVIRONMENT AND OF SECURE FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS FOR