

(1971 Replacement Volume and 1976 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That new Sections 159 and 160 to be under the new subheading "Office for the Coordination of Services to the Handicapped" be and they are hereby added to Article 41 - Governor-Executive and Administrative Departments, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume and 1976 Supplement) to read as follows:

Article 41 - Governor-Executive and
Administrative Departments

OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF SERVICES
TO THE HANDICAPPED

159.

(A) (1) THERE IS CREATED WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR THE OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF SERVICES TO THE HANDICAPPED.

(2) (I) THIS OFFICE SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY A DIRECTOR WHO IS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR AND WHO SERVES AT THE PLEASURE OF THE GOVERNOR. THE DIRECTOR SHALL RECEIVE THE SALARY PRESCRIBED BY LAW. THE DIRECTOR SHALL HAVE PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION AS WELL AS EXPERIENCE IN WORKING WITH THE HANDICAPPED.

(II) THE OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF SERVICES TO THE HANDICAPPED SHALL BE PROVIDED WITH ADEQUATE PERSONNEL AND FUNDING TO CARRY OUT THE FUNCTIONS OF THIS OFFICE.

(B) THE DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF SERVICES TO THE HANDICAPPED ARE:

(1) TO IDENTIFY, ANALYZE, AND EVALUATE ALL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR ALL HANDICAPPED CITIZENS IN THE STATE;

(2) TO UTILIZE A SYSTEM OF COLLECTION OF INFORMATION FOR THE HANDICAPPED FOR THE PURPOSE OF IDENTIFYING NEEDS AND GAPS IN SERVICES AND PROGRAMS FOR THESE CITIZENS;

(3) TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE COORDINATION AND SUPPORT TO ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES, DEPARTMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHICH PROVIDE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS TO THE HANDICAPPED;

(4) TO DEVELOP AN INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE FOR ALL SERVICES AND PROGRAMS FOR THE HANDICAPPED;