SECTION 2 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1978.

Approved May 16, 1978.

CHAPTER 427

(Senate Bill 72)

AN ACT concerning

State Medical Assistance Program Eligibility

FOR the purpose of setting the maximum requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to set the allowable income levels for the purpose of determining eligibility under the State medical assistance program at levels no less than certain amounts.

BY adding to

Article 43 - Health Section 42H(c) Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume and 1977 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The overall maximum allowable income level for medical assistance has not been increased since 1966; and

WHEREAS, Everyone is well aware of the rise in the cost of living in the intervening years; and

WHEREAS, Corresponding to this rise in overall costs is a rise in the costs of medical care; and

WHEREAS, Many citizens, particularly senior citizens, have experienced great hardship in obtaining necessary medical care; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article 43 - Health

42H.

(C) <u>EACH YEAR</u>, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY UNDER THE STATE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, THE MAXIMUM—ALLOWABLE INCOME LEVELS ARE AS FOLLOWS: THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE SHALL SET THE