

certain requirements; providing for the handling of contested cases generally; prohibiting ex parte communications in contested cases except under certain circumstances and generally relating to ex parte communications; providing that the filing of a petition does not stay the agencies' decision except under certain circumstances; eliminating certain reasons for which the court may reverse or modify the decision of an agency; clarifying the language; and generally relating to the Administrative Procedure Act.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 41 - Governor-Executive and Administrative Departments
Section 244, 245(c), 246, 248, 250, 251, 252, 254, and 255(e), (f), and (g)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1971 Replacement Volume and 1977 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article 41 - Governor-Executive and Administrative Departments
Section 250A, 251A, 252A, 254A and 255(c)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1971 Replacement Volume and 1977 Supplement)

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 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows: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 41 - Governor-Executive and Administrative Departments

244.

For the purpose of this subtitle:

(a) "Agency" means any State board, commission, department or officer authorized by law to make rules or to adjudicate contested cases, ~~INCLUDING ANY AGENCY CREATED BY GENERAL LAWS, WHICH OPERATES IN TWO OR MORE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS~~ except those in the legislative or judicial branches, AND THE GOVERNOR, and except the ~~the Maryland Parole Commission, the Division of Parole and Probation,~~ the Workmen's Compensation Commission, the State Accident Fund, the State Insurance Department of Maryland, the Public Service Commission, the Employment Security Board and the State Tax Commission. The Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund shall not be considered an "agency" within the meaning of this section as to any matter or action with regard to which the Insurance Commissioner has made an express, written finding or determination that compliance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act and/or the State Documents Law by the Maryland Automobile Fund is