

## PROCLAMATION OF SEPTEMBER 30, 1977

## DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, The State is facing a critical problem of overcrowding in its correctional system; and

WHEREAS, In the General Construction Loan of 1977 (Chapter 671, Acts of 1977), the General Assembly appropriated the sum of \$26,000,000 for the acquisition of the property at 3500 East Biddle Street in Baltimore for use as a State correctional facility; and

WHEREAS, This facility will produce an additional 640 medium security beds and 250 minimum security beds; and

WHEREAS, This facility is included in Phase I of the Master Plan for the State Correctional System as an integral part of the State's effort to meet the overcrowding conditions; and

WHEREAS, The Secretaries of Public Safety and Correctional Services, State Planning, and General Services and my Special Assistant for Criminal Justice matters have advised me that this facility is desperately needed as rapidly as possible; and

WHEREAS, The Department of General Services is now in the position to commence procedures for the selection of an architect to prepare detailed plans and specifications for the project; and

WHEREAS, Full compliance with the selection requirements set forth in Section 231V(a) of Article 41 of the Annotated Code of Maryland will involve a delay of several months in the development of the plans and specifications and will therefore delay the construction and completion of the project; and

WHEREAS, Upon the advice of the aforementioned Secretaries and my Special Assistant, and from my own knowledge of the critical overcrowding problem, I am convinced that such a delay, in this instance, is not only unwarranted but would be harmful to the health and general welfare of the citizens of this State; and

WHEREAS, Section 231V(b) of Article 41 of the Code authorizes the General Professional Services Selection Board to waive the requirements of Section 231V(a) when a state of emergency is declared by the Governor; and