SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1981.

Approved April 28, 1981.

CHAPTER 186

(House Bill 966)

AN ACT concerning

State Law Department - Consumer Protection Division - Reciprocal Agreements

FOR the purpose of permitting the Consumer Protection Division of the State Law Department to enter into reciprocal agreements with other states for handling certain consumer complaints.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Commercial Law Section 13-204 Annotated Code of Maryland (1975 Volume and 1980 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 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows: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 - Commercial Law

13-204.

In addition to any other of its powers and duties, the Division has the powers and duties to:

- (1) Receive and investigate complaints from any person affected by any potential or actual violation of this title;
- (2) Initiate its own investigation of any unfair and deceptive trade practice;
- (3) In accordance with § 13-402 of this title, conciliate all matters covered by this title;
- (4) In accordance with § 13-403 of this title, issue a cease and desist order with respect to any practice found by the Division to be an unfair or deceptive trade practice;