

BY repealing

Article 16 - Chancery  
Section 72, 74, 75, 87, and 88  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1981 Replacement Volume and 1981 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 16 - Chancery  
Section 67(c)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1981 Replacement Volume and 1981 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article 16 - Chancery  
Section 68, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 77A, and 77B  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1981 Replacement Volume and 1981 Supplement)

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

Article 16 - Chancery

[72.

(a) A petition for adoption, as hereinafter described, may be preceded by a petition for guardianship with the right to consent to adoption, and such guardianship decree, which the courts having jurisdiction of adoption matters may require and shall have power to grant after such hearing and investigation as the court may deem appropriate, shall terminate natural parental rights, duties and obligations and the duly appointed guardian's consent to an adoption, for which the petition may be filed in the same proceeding, shall eliminate the necessity of further notice to the natural parent or parents. In all respects not mentioned in this section, adoption proceedings preceded by a guardianship petition, as herein described, shall conform to the procedure outlined in this subtitle and in the Maryland Rules for adoptions generally.

(b) Any person permitted to file a petition under subsection (a) of this section may file a petition for guardianship with the right to consent to long-term care short of adoption. Said petition may be filed in addition to or as part of a petition filed under subsection (a) hereof. The court, after such hearing and investigation as it may deem appropriate, shall have the power to grant a