

Annotated Code of Maryland
(1983 Replacement Volume and 1987 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 70B - Office on Aging

5.

(a) The Director on Aging shall receive, investigate, and seek to resolve complaints concerning the operations of related institutions, as defined in § 19-301 of the Health - General Article, and he may, on his own motion, make on-site visits to determine if these institutions are in compliance with applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

(b) If the Director on Aging finds that any such related institution is in violation of any statute, rule, or regulation of any State agency which is directly and specifically charged with the regulation of any aspect of the institution, he or she shall immediately notify that agency in writing of the findings of fact. If the violation or condition is not corrected within a reasonable time, the Director shall, with the prior approval of the Commission on Aging, request the State agency to take the steps necessary to bring the institution into compliance, and the agency shall take appropriate action.

(C) THERE IS ESTABLISHED IN THE OFFICE ON AGING A MARYLAND LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM. THE DIRECTOR ON AGING SHALL DESIGNATE A MARYLAND LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN.

[(c)] (D) (1) The Director on Aging may delegate [his] THE DIRECTOR'S authority under subsection (a) of this section to the MARYLAND LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN AND to the director of a local office on aging in accordance with a local [nursing home ombudsman program] LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM established pursuant to regulations promulgated by the State Director on Aging.

(2) The regulations shall provide for:

(i) Minimum training requirements for all program staff and volunteers;

(ii) Cooperation with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;

(iii) Annual review of all ombudsman activities by the State Office on Aging;