

(2) THAT THE SURVIVING SPOUSE PROVIDE CERTIFICATION THAT THE VETERAN DIED WHILE IN ACTIVE SERVICE AS A RESULT OF AN INJURY OR DISEASE INCURRED IN LINE OF DUTY; AND

(3) FOR ANY OTHER PROVISION NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1991.

Approved April 30, 1991.

CHAPTER 173

(House Bill 295)

AN ACT concerning

Petition for Adoption or Guardianship – Time Limit for Court Action

FOR the purpose of requiring a court to rule on certain petitions for adoption or guardianship where the natural parents' consent is not required within a certain time after the petition is filed; and generally relating to certain petitions for adoption or guardianship.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Family Law

Section 5-317

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1984 Volume and 1990 Supplement)

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

Article – Family Law

5-317.

(a) A petition for a decree of adoption may be preceded by a petition for guardianship of the child.

(b) Only the executive head of a child placement agency or the attorney for the child on behalf of the child may file a petition for the agency to be granted guardianship.

(c) Except as provided in §§ 5-313 and 5-313.1 of this subtitle, the court may grant a decree awarding guardianship only:

- (1) after any investigation and hearing the court considers necessary; and
- (2) with the consent of each living natural parent of the child.