

any cause is destitute, homeless or abandoned or dependent upon the public for support, or has not fit and proper parental care or guardianship, or who is feeble-minded or otherwise mentally deficient, or who habitually begs for alms, or is found living with any vicious or depraved person, or has a home which, by reason of neglect, cruelty or depravity on the part of its parent or parents, guardian or other persons having charge of it, is an unfit place for such a child.

The term "delinquent child" shall be construed as meaning any male or female child living in Baltimore County under the ages above specified, and who, while under such age, may violate any criminal law of the State, or is incorrigible, or knowingly associates with thieves, vicious and depraved persons, or is growing up in idleness or crime, or knowingly frequents any gambling places, policy shops or patronizes and frequents liquor or beer saloons unaccompanied by a parent or guardian, or is guilty of indecent, immoral or lascivious conduct.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted*, That all such children described in the foregoing Section, and residing in Baltimore County, are declared to be wards of the State, and the Judges of the Courts of the Third Judicial Circuit of Maryland, sitting as a Court of Equity, shall have full power to deal with such children when brought before such Court, and full jurisdiction over the disposition of such child or children. And the said Court shall have the power to designate one of its Judges to hear, determine and dispose of all such cases, and to adopt such rules and regulations for the trial and disposition of such cases as to said Court may seem reasonable and proper.

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted*, That any person of respectable standing in his or her community, and being a resident of said County, or the agent of any society incorporated under the laws of this State for the care and protection of children, may file with the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Baltimore County on the equity side thereof, a petition in writing, setting forth that a certain child or children, naming the same, if the name or names be known, and also naming the parent or parents of such child, if there be parent or parents, or the name of the custodian of such child or children, if there be such custodian, and the place or places of residences of such child or children, their parents or other custodian, is or are delinquent, dependent or neglected, as defined in Section 1 of this Act, and that it is for the interests of such child or children, and the State of