

We thank the current and past editors of the U.S. Government Organizational Manual for their helpful suggestions in the early stages of planning the re-design of this year's *Manual*. We are particularly grateful to Carleton "B" Hayek and Charles Burke of the staff of the Division of Printing and Publication, Department of General Services for their outstanding assistance in the preparation of this edition of the *Manual*. At every stage of production "B" Hayek provided knowledgeable and invaluable aid. The merits of the re-design are his. The defects are ours alone.

Carla Hazard of KBH Graphics provided the drawings of the State symbols and Severn Graphics prepared the State and departmental organizational charts and the various maps.

Omitted from this edition of the *Manual* for reasons of economy are the usual color photographs of State officials, fiscal information, the text of Maryland's Charter and Constitution, election returns for 1974 and 1976, and the historical list of principal officers. The information deleted from the 1977-1978 *Manual* will be included in the next full *Manual* which will be published in 1979.

While some sections of the *Manual* were on press, all telephone numbers in the Annapolis offices were changed from the 267 to the 269 exchange. In addition, other telephone numbers in Annapolis, such as those in the Legislative Services Building were further changed, so that some of the telephone numbers shown in the *Manual* may prove incorrect. For the most up-to-date listing of telephone numbers readers should consult the new State of Maryland MARCOM Telephone Directory prepared by the Department of General Services and available from Mr. Dayton Eddy, Communications Office, 301 W. Preston Street, Baltimore 21201, telephone 383-4493.

Readers are also cautioned to examine the addenda for important changes resulting from the 1976 General Election, the creation of new agencies and for recent appointments to various State and County agencies, boards, and commissions all of which occurred subsequent to our copy deadline of November 15, 1976.

Frank F. White, Jr., Senior Editor of the *Manual*, has done his usual fine job in preparing this edition, and to him should go the major share of the credit for its compilation. It is Mr. White's duty to begin the new *Manual* when the old one is hardly off the press, to collect the information needed, process it, and see the book to completion.

Users of the *Manual* are invited to comment on this redesigned and abbreviated edition by writing to the *Maryland Manual*, Hall of Records, Post Office Box 828, Annapolis 21404.

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