

The General Assembly recognizes the need for better management of the research activities of the Maryland Psychiatric Research Center in order to enhance the Center's performance. It also recognizes the advantages of a close affiliation between the Center and the University of Maryland School of Medicine, and that increased productivity at the Center depends ultimately on the environment and excellence of research stemming from a policy of selecting talented scientists and creating an atmosphere of trust, free of distractions in an unprogrammed environment.

It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Maryland Psychiatric Research Center enter into agreements whereby the Department of Psychiatry of the University of Maryland School of Medicine will provide the technical and scientific leadership of the Center, while the budgetary responsibility for the funds of the Center will remain in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. It is also the intent that the staff currently at the Center would be required to undergo rigid personnel screening and be required to meet stringent selection criteria established by the new management policies of the Center.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section 31(c) of Article 59 - Mental Hygiene, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1972 Replacement Volume and 1975 Supplement) be and it is hereby repealed and reenacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

Article 59 - Mental Hygiene

31.

(c) The existing Maryland Psychiatric Research Center shall be maintained as a public facility for psychiatric research. Its programs shall be directed toward prevention, discovery of causes and treatment of mental disorders and allied conditions. [It shall function under the general jurisdiction of the Commissioner.]

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That new Section 31A be and it is hereby added to Article 59 - Mental Hygiene, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1972 Replacement Volume and 1975 Supplement) to read as follows:

Article 59 - Mental Hygiene

31A.

(A) (1) FROM JANUARY 1, 1977 THE MARYLAND PSYCHIATRIC RESEARCH CENTER IS ASSIGNED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE.