

crease of \$3,348,771 in the appropriation of the Department of Education. By a closer examination, you will observe that the State, in fact, is increasing its aid to public education by more than \$5 million. And this increase is apart from the recommendations I have made to implement the program of the Committee on Taxation and Fiscal Matters. The more than \$5 million increase in aid to education includes \$645,260 in per pupil aid, \$1.3 million in aid per classroom and \$2.8 million in equalization. Also, I am recommending that State aid to the junior colleges be increased from \$150 to \$175 per pupil.

For the Department of Health and the vast program it carries on to protect the health of our citizens, I am proposing an overall expenditure of \$32,117,713 in general, special and federal funds. This is an increase of \$2,547,338 over the appropriation for the current year. This increase is to be used primarily for improved medical care and to step up activities in the area of research and preventive medicine.

Last year I directed the Department to undertake a pilot project to determine how medical care in nursing homes could be improved. In the 1961 budget, \$100,000 was provided to finance this project. I have received preliminary reports on this project, which is still under way, and increased nursing home payments on a selective basis will begin about February 15. This survey of nursing homes has indicated that the needs for beds should be met by the construction of new facilities. I have asked the Department to submit for your consideration a nursing home construction bill.

The survey also indicates that emphasis should be placed on medical and nursing aspects of nursing home care, and \$321,621 has been provided in this budget to carry this out. An increase in basic rates for welfare patients in nursing homes unfortunately cannot be substantiated by cost data at this time. I have asked the Boards of Health and Public Welfare to move at all possible speed to develop alternative proposals for more satisfactory nursing home payments.

On the recommendation of the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene and the Medical Care Committee of the Planning Commission, I am providing funds, to be used on a matching basis, to set up day-care centers for the mentally retarded and the mentally ill in Baltimore City and the counties.

It is with deep satisfaction that I am able to report to you once more a healthy expansion of activities in the Department of Mental