

mental patients treated increased last year, roughly by 7 per cent. And a record 6,250 patients were discharged in 1963, nearly two-thirds of them having been hospitalized for less than a year. In the budget I am submitting to you, I am recommending a general fund increase of \$1,689,989, for a total of \$29,541,125, to support an effective program of mental hygiene. In consideration of the growing problem of mental retardation, allowances have been made for the planning of two facilities, with 500 additional beds, for the Washington metropolitan area. I have made reference already, in discussing the Health Department's budget, to the three additional day-care centers, raising to 17 the number of these centers expected to be in operation during the coming fiscal year. Funds are provided in the Health Department's budget also for the support, on a matching basis, of two additional day hospitals, one in Baltimore City and another in Baltimore County.

The increase in funds for mental hygiene is needed primarily for staffing, equipping and operating new facilities, for expanding after-care clinics and for a more intensified patient care, particularly for the treatment of alcoholics and adolescents.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In reporting earlier in this message on the economic condition of the State, I stressed the importance of stimulating and reinvigorating our economy to provide jobs, profits and general prosperity for the people. I also noted the success that has been achieved by our Department of Economic Development, in cooperation with local economic development agencies in Baltimore City and the counties, in bringing new industries to our State and in encouraging those already here to expand their operations. This department, one of the newest of our State agencies, has been functioning with notable success, both in the field of industrial development and in boosting the flourishing tourist trade in Maryland. An increase in the funds for the operation of this department has been recommended in the budget which I am presenting to you.

HIGHWAYS

In our efforts to provide Maryland with a system of highways capable of meeting the demands of an ever-increasing volume of traffic, significant strides forward have been made during the past year. During 1963, the State Roads Commission has kept up its remarkable pace in the construction and modernization of nearly