

1920, ch. 682.

21. That in any instance in which any person or persons may now or hereafter be confined in any institution of this State by virtue of being insane, or laboring under any mental disorder who may have been so confined or committed to any such institution by virtue of any of the provisions of this Article, or any other instance, upon application to any of law courts of the City of Baltimore, or of any of the Circuit Courts of this State, said person or persons may on his or her own behalf, or on behalf of any other person for them, file a petition in said court, requesting said court that said person or persons so confined be immediately brought before said court to test said question of sanity or insanity or mental disorder; and said court is authorized and directed to forthwith empanel a jury in the usual way, to summon witnesses and to hear evidence, and said jury shall determine the question of the sanity or insanity of said person, and whether or not said person is laboring under any mental disorder, and if the jury determine that said person or persons is insane or suffering from some mental disorder, the said person shall be immediately remanded to the institution in which confined; but if said jury shall determine that said person or persons is sane, or is not laboring under any mental disorder, such person shall be immediately released and discharged from custody.

See art. 16, sec. 117, *et seq.*

An. Code, sec. 21. 1904, sec. 21. 1888, sec. 21. 1886, ch. 487, sec. 22. 1910, ch. 715, sec. 21 (p. 188).

22. It shall be mandatory upon the officers or others in charge of such institutions under the supervision of the Board to furnish all information that may be requested by said Board or its Chairman, and give free access to any member thereof and to the Chairman of said Board to visit the insane or feeble-minded in their keeping; any refusal to do so on the part of anyone shall be a misdemeanor, punishable by fine or imprisonment, in the discretion of the court in which the case may be tried. Any member of the Board may visit any sanitarium or other institution where sick or infirm persons are received, cared for or treated, for compensation or free, for the purpose of ascertaining whether insane persons are confined therein without authority and contrary to the provisions of the law. All persons having charge of and connected with any such sanitarium or institution shall permit any member of the Board to have full access to any portion thereof, and shall give such information and afford such facilities for the inspection and inquiry as the member of the Board making such visit may require.

An. Code, sec. 22. 1904, sec. 22. 1888, sec. 22. 1886, ch. 487, sec. 23. 1910, ch 715, sec. 22 (p. 188).

23. The Board of Mental Hygiene is empowered by sections 17 to 19, 22 to 24, 26, 38 and 40 to 47 to issue compulsory process for the attendance of witnesses and the production of papers, to administer oaths and examine persons under oath, and exercise the same powers as belong to a justice of the peace in all cases where, from evidence laid before them,