

payment, in whole or in part, for the maintenance and support of such person while an inmate of such institution. In making such investigation, the County Commissioners and the Department of Welfare of Baltimore City shall require reports of statements to be made to them by such relatives or other persons upon such forms as may be prepared by the Board of Mental Hygiene. If the County Commissioners or the Department of Welfare of Baltimore City as the case may be, shall determine that such person shall be required to pay for his or her maintenance and support while in such institution, or that his or her relatives or other persons legally chargeable with his or her maintenance and support shall be required to pay for the same, then, before any such person shall be admitted into such institution, they shall make and issue an order to that effect, and shall specify therein the amount of such payments so to be made, and the times when the same are to be made, and shall have the power to require the relatives of any such person or others legally chargeable with his or her maintenance and support, to enter into appropriate and binding agreements with respect to the making of such payments, and from time to time may modify or change the terms thereof, as circumstances may justify.

All such payments shall be made to and collected by the County Treasurer or the Comptroller of the City of Baltimore, as the case may be, who shall account for and pay over the same to the State Treasurer on or before the first days of January, April, July and October in each and every year, and at the same time they shall report to the State Treasurer the name of each inmate on whose behalf such payments have been made, and the name of the institution in which he or she is confined; and the amount of such payments in excess of the sum of \$125, provided by Section 49 of this Article, shall be paid to the State Treasurer and nothing contained in Sections 3, 4 and 5 shall be construed to affect in any way the obligation imposed by said Section 49 of this Article.

It is the intent of Sections 3, 4 and 5 that a husband may be liable for the support of a wife while an inmate of any such institution, a wife for a husband, a father or mother, or both for a son or daughter, and a son or daughter, or both, for a father or mother.

In case the property or estate of any person committed to any of the said institutions as aforesaid is sufficient for his or her maintenance or support, in whole or in part, while in such institution, then the County Commissioners or the Department of Welfare of Baltimore City, as the case may be, shall have power to institute and prosecute all proper proceedings, to subject the same thereto, and all payments made as a result of such proceedings shall be accounted for and paid as hereinbefore provided.

Upon the death of any person committed to any of the said institutions as aforesaid, the County Commissioners or the Department of Welfare of Baltimore City, as the case may be, shall be entitled to make claim against the estate of any such person for his or her maintenance and support while in such institution, or for the balance due therefor if part has been paid. Such claim shall constitute a preferred claim against the estate of any such person, and all claims arising hereunder against the relatives and other persons legally chargeable with the maintenance and support of such inmates, shall constitute preferred claims. All such claims may be waived by the County Commissioners or Department of Welfare of Baltimore City, as the case may be, in their discretion, if in their judgment the enforcement of the same will result in hardship to others, dependent upon