

Hygiene," to be known as Section 21-A, to follow immediately after Section 21 of said Article, and to read as follows:

21-A. Where a veteran of any War, military occupation or expedition, is, or has been, adjudged mentally incompetent by a Court of competent jurisdiction and commitment to a hospital for the insane is necessary, such Court is hereby authorized to communicate with the official in charge of the U. S. Veterans' Hospital within the State of Maryland with reference to the eligibility of such veteran to be hospitalized in such United States Veterans' Hospital. If the Court is advised by the official in charge of such hospital that such veteran is entitled to hospitalization and the veteran is acceptable for same and Bureau facilities within the State of Maryland are available, the Court may direct such veteran's commitment to such United States Veterans' Hospital within the State of Maryland and such veteran upon admission shall be subject to the rules and regulations of such hospital and the officials of such hospital shall be invested with the same powers now exercised by Superintendents of State hospitals for insane with reference to the retention of custody of veterans so committed, if it is deemed advisable to assume such powers.

Provided, however, that any veteran, as prescribed above, who shall have been duly committed to a State hospital for the insane within the State of Maryland prior to the passage of this Act, may be transferred to the custody of the official in charge of the U. S. Veterans' Hospital as provided above and such transfer of custody shall not affect the efficacy of the original order of commitment in such case.

This legislation is intended as an addition to and does not affect the repeal of any existing legislation governing matters of this nature which are not in conflict with the provisions of this section.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act is hereby declared to be an emergency law and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety, and being passed upon a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, the same shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved April 26, 1927.