

immediately after Section 525 of said Article, and to read as follows:

CHRONIC HOSPITALS AND INFIRMARIES.

526. The State Board of Health is authorized to establish two institutions for needy persons from the various counties and Baltimore City who require medical, nursing or custodial care by reason of chronic illness or infirmity; one of which shall be located in one of the nine counties on the Eastern Shore and one in one of the fourteen counties on the Western Shore, at points to be selected by said Board with the approval of the Board of Public Works. The cost of the erection and equipment of said institutions (including the cost of acquiring appropriate sites) shall be paid out of appropriations in the budget, or in any bond issue bill making appropriations for the purpose. Each institution shall contain two sections, one of which shall be a chronic hospital and the other an infirmary, and proper provision for both the white and colored races shall be made. In selecting sites and making architectural plans for each institution, provision shall be made for possible expansion and for the later addition of a unit for the treatment of chronic diseases of children. The State Board of Health shall appoint a superintendent and such other personnel as may be necessary, within the limits of the budgetary appropriations, for each institution.

527. Admission to the chronic hospitals and infirmaries shall be made on the basis of a statement by a physician who, after an examination, finds that the patient is in need of chronic hospital or infirmary care, and of a further statement by the local County Welfare Board or the Department of Welfare of Baltimore City that the patient is unable to pay for the cost of his care. Final arrangements for admission shall be made only after the County Commissioners of the County or the Department of Welfare of Baltimore City where the applicant resides have given their approval. No patient shall be admitted who has tuberculosis in a transmissible form, mental disease of the type requiring care in a mental hospital, an orthopedic disease of a type admissible to the special orthopedic hospitals, or who is under the age of sixteen years.

528. No patient shall be admitted who is able to pay the cost of proper hospital care elsewhere. In all cases admitted, there shall be collected from the patient or his family as much of the actual cost of maintenance as is reasonably possible, but no case shall pay above the actual per diem cost calculated on the basis of the total cost of running the institutions.