

ters the Department may consider necessary. The Department shall from time to time cause to be made an examination of all the records and methods of administration as relate to patients, the general and special dietary and treatment of any patients confined therein, especially where admitted since the preceding visit, giving such as may desire it suitable opportunity to converse with the representative or representatives of the Department privately.

21. If in their judgment any person confined in any institution in this State as insane be not insane, the Superintendent or the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene may, at any time, bring the matter to the attention of the state's attorney of Baltimore City, or the state's attorney of any of the respective counties of the State, whose duty it shall be to apply to the proper tribunal for the writ of habeas corpus, to the end that proper inquiry and investigation may be had at once as to the mental condition of such person; and if the court shall be of the opinion that such person is not insane, then the court shall discharge such person; but if the court shall determine that such person is insane, then the court shall order that such person be returned to the institution from which he has been taken under said writ of habeas corpus.

24. It shall be mandatory upon the officers or others in charge of such institutions under the supervision of the Department to furnish all information that may be requested by the Commissioner, and give free access to any representative or representatives of the Department and to the Board of Review and the Advisory Board and any member or authorized representative of either to visit the insane or feeble-minded in their keeping; and 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 representative or representatives of the Department and of the Board of Review and the Advisory 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 such representatives to have full access to any portion thereof, and shall give such information and afford such facilities for the inspection and inquiry as such representatives making such visit may require.