

CHAPTER 291

(Senate Bill 460)

AN ACT to add a new Section to Article 44 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1947 Supplement), title "Hospitals—Maryland", to be under a new sub-title "Patients' Unclaimed Funds", said new Section to be known as Section 14 to follow immediately after Section 13 of said Article relating to the disposition of unclaimed funds of deceased or escaped patients or inmates of State hospitals or training schools.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That a new Section be and it is hereby added to Article 44 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1947 Supplement), title "Hospitals—Maryland", to be under a new sub-title "Patients' Unclaimed Funds", said new Section to be known as Section 14 to follow immediately after Section 13 of said Article and to read as follows:

PATIENTS' UNCLAIMED FUNDS

14. (a) Any funds belonging to any deceased or escaped patient or inmate of any State hospital or training school remaining in the possession of the governing authorities of such hospital or training school unclaimed by the person or persons having legal claim thereto for three years after the death or escape of such patient or inmate shall escheat to the State. The governing authorities of any State hospital or training school having such funds in their possession for at least three years after the death or escape of the patient or inmate to which they belonged shall make a diligent and reasonable effort to locate and pay such funds to the person or persons having legal claim thereto; and if a diligent and reasonable effort to locate and pay such funds to the person or persons having legal claim thereto does not disclose any such claimants, the governing authorities of the State hospital or training school shall pay such funds to the State Treasurer for the general use of the State after deducting the amount owed, if any, by or for such patient or inmate to such State hospital or training school.

(b) No action at law or in equity shall be maintained against the governing authorities of any State hospital or training school for or on account of any funds belonging to any deceased or escaped patient or inmate of such hospital or training school after the expiration of three years after the death or escape of such patient or inmate; pro-