

(1951 Edition), title "Lunatics and Insane", sub-title "Department of Mental Hygiene", be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

20. Any person confined in any State or licensed private institution for the care, custody or treatment of insane persons, and any veterans of any war, military occupation or expedition confined in any United States Veterans Hospital within the exterior geographical boundaries of the State of Maryland, or anyone in his behalf, including the Superintendent, chief officer or physician in charge of such institution, may file a petition [in the Circuit Court for any county or a Court of law in the City of Baltimore,] *in the law courts of any county or Baltimore City, as the case may be, either where he is confined, or from which he was committed, or which was the bona fide residence of the petitioner at the time of his commitment,* requesting that the person so confined be brought before said Court for the purpose of having the sanity of such person determined, and the Court shall forthwith proceed to hear and determine the matter; provided, however, that if the person so confined, or anyone in his behalf, shall pray a jury trial, the Court shall empanel a jury of twelve men to be selected by the Court from the jurors then in attendance upon said Court, or if the Court is in recess, the jurors shall be selected from those in attendance at the term of the Court at which said petition is heard. Any party in interest shall have the right to process to compel the attendance of witnesses. If the Court or jury, as the case may be, shall determine that such person is insane or is suffering from a mental disease, the Court shall order said person committed to the institution from which he immediately came, or to some other suitable institution, otherwise he shall be discharged. *After a person has had one hearing under the provisions of this section, any further petition filed by him* **WITHIN A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OF THE PREVIOUS HEARING** *shall be accompanied by one or more affidavits of a person or persons, other than himself or another person confined in an institution or hospital, as aforesaid, showing the mental condition of the petitioner at that time as compared with such condition at the time of the last previous hearing. If, in the opinion of the Court, the affidavit(s) indicate a substantial improvement in the petitioner's mental condition, the case shall be heard and determined as hereinbefore provided; otherwise the petition shall be dismissed.*

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1955.

Approved April 11, 1955.

CHAPTER 353

(House Bill 333)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 455 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Anne Arundel County (1947 Edition),

EXPLANATION: *Italics indicate new matter added to existing law.*

[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.

CAPITALS indicate amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken out of bill.