

that six new Sections, to be known as Sections 559 through 564, inclusive, to follow immediately after Section 558 of said Article, be enacted in lieu thereof, to read as follows:

*559. The State Board of Health is authorized to establish three institutions for persons from the various counties and Baltimore City who require constant medical and nursing care provided by a hospital by reason of chronic illness or infirmity or who are suffering from a chronic disability amenable to rehabilitation.*

*One of the Chronic Hospitals shall be located on the Eastern Shore, one in the central part and one in the western part of the State. The cost of erecting, equipping and operating said hospitals (including the cost of acquiring appropriate sites) shall be paid out of appropriations in the budget, or in any bond issue bill making appropriations in the budget, or in any bond issue bill making appropriations for the purpose. 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 the personnel necessary for the operation of the hospitals, within the limits of the budgetary appropriations.*

*The State Board of Health shall promulgate policies establishing the type and scope of services rendered, and qualifications and standards for admission and discharge.*

*560. Admission to the chronic hospitals 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 care, and the review and approval of the application by the chronic hospital. Final arrangements for admission shall be made only after the Health Officer 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 form requiring treatment in a tuberculosis hospital, mental disease of the type requiring care in a mental hospital, or an orthopedic disease for which medical treatment is available to the patient in a special orthopedic hospital.*

*Patients may be admitted who can pay part or all of the costs of their care only when the special facilities required by their conditions are not otherwise obtainable elsewhere in Maryland.*

*561. In all cases admitted, there shall be collected from the patient or his family as much of the actual cost of care as is reasonably possible, but in no case shall payment be collected above the actual per diem cost. This cost shall be determined at least once a year by the State Board of Health and shall be calculated on the basis of the total cost of running the hospitals.*

*562. (a) For the purpose of determining the amount to be paid for chronic hospital care, it shall be the duty of the County Welfare Board or the Department of Welfare of Baltimore City, as the case may be, to investigate the financial condition of such person and also the financial condition of any relative or other person who may be legally chargeable with his or her care, in order to determine, in each case, the ability of any such person, or of his or her relatives or other persons legally chargeable with his or her care, to make payment, in whole or in part, for the care of such person while a*