

patient of such hospital. In making such investigation, the County Welfare Board and the Department of Welfare of Baltimore City shall require reports or statements to be made by such person, relatives or other person upon such forms as may be prepared by said County Welfare Board and the Department of Welfare of Baltimore City, as the case may be. Public Assistance payments shall be taken into consideration as financial resources.

(b) If as a result of such investigation, the County Welfare Board or the Department of Welfare of Baltimore City shall determine that such person, his or her relatives, or other persons shall be required to pay for his or her care or a part thereof, it shall specify the amount of such payments to be made, which shall not exceed the average per diem cost of maintaining a patient in such hospital, and the times when the same are to be made. The County Welfare Board and the Department of Welfare of Baltimore City shall have the power to require the relatives of any such person or others legally chargeable with his or her care, to enter into appropriate and binding agreements with respect to the making of such payments, and may from time to time modify or change the terms thereof, as the circumstances may justify.

(c) All payments required to be made under the provisions of this section shall be made to and collected by the County Treasurer or Treasurer of Baltimore City, as the case may be, who shall account for same. Any amounts so collected shall first be applied against the Seventy-five Cents (\$.75) per day which the County or Baltimore City are required to pay. Any amount collected over and above Seventy-five Cents (\$.75) per day from or on account of any patient shall be paid by the County or Baltimore City to the State Treasurer.

(d) Upon the death of any person admitted to any chronic hospital, the County Commissioners or the Department of Welfare of Baltimore City, as the case may be, shall be entitled to make claim against the estate of any such person for his or her care while in such hospital, or for the balance due therefor if part has been paid. Such claim shall be a preferred claim against the estate of any such person, and all claims arising hereunder against the relatives and other persons legally chargeable with the care of such person, shall also constitute preferred claims. All such claims may be waived, however, by the County Welfare Boards or Department of Welfare of Baltimore City, as the case may be, in their discretion, if in their judgment the enforcement of same will result in hardship to others, dependent upon those against whom such claims exist. All payments received as a result of the enforcement of such claims shall be accounted for and paid as hereinbefore provided.

563. For each patient admitted to either of the chronic hospitals from any county of the State or Baltimore City, the County Commissioners of said county and the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore shall pay into the State Treasury the sum of Seventy-five Cents (\$.75) per day, as long as said patient remains in such hospital. The remaining cost of board, care and treatment, and the cost of operation shall be paid out of appropriations in the budget. Said charge of Seventy-five Cents (\$.75) per day shall be collectible by the State Comptroller, and the Comptroller shall have the power to determine, in the event of any dispute as to residence, which one of two