

6. Persons committed at time of passage of Secs. 4 to 6; adoption of rules and regulations by Department.

The Department of Mental Hygiene shall have full power and authority, in the case of all persons heretofore committed to any institution under the provisions of the preceding sections of this article and still confined therein, to exercise all of the powers conferred upon it by Sec. 5 of this article with respect to persons hereafter to be so committed, to the end that payment for the future maintenance and support of such persons while in such institutions may be required, made, collected, and accounted for as in the case of persons hereafter to be committed under the provisions of said Sec. [4] 5. The Department is authorized and empowered to adopt and promulgate reasonable rules and regulations covering the details of enforcing the powers and procedures provided for in this section and Sec. 5 hereinabove.

44. Proportion of payment for support and maintenance of patients in institutions under jurisdiction of Department to be paid by local authorities.

For each patient in any State institution under the jurisdiction of the Department of Mental Hygiene from Baltimore City or from any one of the counties of the State, the said city or county, as the case may be, shall as herein specified pay to the Department of Mental Hygiene at the rate of one hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) annually for the board, care and treatment of such patient, and the remaining amount required for the board, care and treatment of such insane shall be paid from the treasury of the State. The expense for the care, board and treatment of all patients in the State institution under the jurisdiction of the Department of Mental Hygiene shall be a charge upon each county sending such patient or patients to such institutions, as hereinafter provided. The Department of Mental Hygiene shall credit the account of each county, for any patient, with any amounts actually collected and received by the Department from or for that patient, whether received from himself, his relatives, others legally chargeable with his maintenance and support or others; the credit allowed to the county in any one year, for any one patient, not to exceed the amount paid by the county for that patient's maintenance and support. It shall be the duty of the Department of Mental Hygiene to furnish to the county commissioners or county council of each county, or the department of public welfare in Baltimore City, having patients in the State institutions under the jurisdiction of the Department of Mental Hygiene a quarterly statement giving the number of patients and the name of each patient coming from and charged to such county, and the cost of maintenance due from each county for such patient or patients. The board of county commissioners or county council of said county shall levy a tax in said county for said amount and pay the amount due the State to the Department of Mental Hygiene; and, should any county fail to levy a tax in said county for said amount then due said State, and shall fail at the time of levying other county taxes thereafter to levy the tax aforesaid to amount sufficient to pay the indebtedness subsequently incurred, it shall be the duty of the Attorney General to bring in the name of the State an action against any county in the circuit court of said county so failing aforesaid to enforce the levying of said tax for the recovery of the amount due the State, as aforesaid. Upon the failure of any county to levy such tax as aforesaid to an amount