

personal and mixed property whether in possession or expectancy and including also all liabilities and relating generally to such transfer and to the State's appropriations to Miners' Hospital.

WHEREAS, Since a 1948 survey by the Hospital Survey Commission of the Committee on Medical Care of the State Planning Commission recommendations have been made that after completion of a building and renovation program at Miners' Hospital responsibility for operation of the hospital should be transferred to local interests, and that building and renovation program has been carried out; and

WHEREAS, On June 6, 1956, the Legislative Council adopted the following report relating to Miners' Hospital:

Continued State operation of Miners' Hospital. At a long hearing held previously on this matter, it was developed that (1) this is the only general hospital in the State which is operated and maintained by the State, and (2) any sudden withdrawal of State support would cause havoc in the public health facilities of the community. Accordingly, the recommendation is that this matter be held on the Legislative Council agenda until next year, and that letters be written to the hospital officials and to local government officials in Frostburg and Allegany County, notifying them that the matter is being held in abeyance by the Legislative Council for a period of one year, in order that during that time, in accordance with the assurance and representations made by such officials at the time of the hearing above referred to, they may recommend some definite plan and time for transferring the hospital from State to private operation; and

WHEREAS, at the 1957 Legislative Session the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee arrived at a policy which was embraced by an understanding arrived at between committees and the Board of Directors of the Hospital and together with representatives of Allegany County; the substance of this agreement was that in order to provide for a period of orderly transition from operation as a State institution to operation as local institution beginning with the 1959 fiscal year the State general fund appropriation each year would be reduced by 25 per centum from the 1958 fiscal year level of appropriation with the result that the 1959 fiscal year level of support would equal 75 per centum of the 1958 appropriation, the 1960 level would be equal to 50 per centum and the 1961 level would be 25 per centum, and there would be no direct general fund appropriation for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1961, and ending June 30, 1962; this plan has been adhered to in budgets submitted to the General Assembly for the year ended June 30, 1959, and June 30, 1960; and

WHEREAS, Transfer of the hospital to local control would enable the hospital to be eligible for State aid appropriated to the State Department of Health for local public and private general hospitals for their in-patient and out-patient programs; and

WHEREAS, Analysis of the finances of Miners' Hospital indicates that beginning with the fiscal year starting July 1, 1960, and ending June 30, 1961, it would be more advantageous financially for the hospital to participate in the State-aided institution program than to receive the level of support that will then be available under the phasing-out program recited above, this leading to the conclusion that