

extraordinary powers to the Department of Mental Hygiene in the event of certain conditions of serious emergency, in the operation and maintenance of the several hospitals and institutions in the Department of Mental Hygiene.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That new Section 47A be and it is hereby added to Article 59 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Lunatics and Insane", to follow immediately after Section 47 thereof, to be under the new sub-title "Emergency Provisions", and to read as follows:*

*Emergency Provisions*

*47A.*

*(a) This section applies only in the event of conditions of serious emergency caused by war or other natural or man-made catastrophe, inflicting numerous casualties among the civilian population in any part of this State.*

*(b) When a state of emergency is proclaimed by the Governor, or person acting as Governor, pursuant to Section 15A of Article 41 of this Code, the several hospitals and institutions in the Department of Mental Hygiene may accept and treat patients who require medical attention and care, without regard to the type of treatment required and without regard to formal requirements for commission or admission. Fees may be charged for such patients, to be collected as required in this section and elsewhere in this Article.*

*(c) The Superintendents of the several hospitals and institutions, individually or collectively, when their hospital is in the geographical area embraced by such emergency proclamation may, during such periods as normal State functions and procedures for these purposes may be suspended or inoperative.*

*(1) make monthly collections of funds due the State treasury for hospital care and custody under the provisions of this Article, from individuals or from a political subdivision, account for and if possible deposit such funds in a bank or banks, and expend them for the operation of the hospital in lieu of those funds regularly appropriated for this purpose;*

*(2) buy, requisition, or contract for, food, drugs, medicines, equipment, fuel and other necessities for the operation of the hospital, in the name of the State;*

*(3) contract for, hire, and obtain needed personnel, at such compensation as seems necessary under the circumstances in order to permit the hospital or institution to operate as required and provided under the provisions of this section and the other sections of this Article.*

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That all laws or parts of laws inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed to the extent of any such inconsistency.*

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1962.*

Approved March 23, 1962.