

articles or personal property of patients or inmates of any State hospital; and removing from said section all references to its application to training schools.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 45 of Article 59 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Lunatics and Insane," subtitle "Department of Mental Hygiene," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted with ~~amendment,~~ AMENDMENTS, to read as follows:

45.

(a) Any funds, *valuable articles or personal property* belonging to any deceased or escaped patient or inmate of any State hospital [or training school] remaining in the possession of the governing authorities of such hospital [or training school] and unclaimed by the person or persons having legal claim thereto for ~~three years~~ ~~ONE YEAR~~ THREE YEARS after the death or escape of such patient or inmate shall escheat to the State. The governing authorities of any State hospital [or training school] having such funds, *valuable articles or personal property* in their possession for at least three years after the death or escape of the patient or inmate to which they belong shall make a diligent and reasonable effort to locate and pay such funds to the person or persons having legal claim thereto; and if a diligent and reasonable effort to locate and pay such funds, *valuable articles or personal property* to the person or persons having legal claim thereto does not disclose any claimants, the governing authorities of the State hospital [or training school] shall pay or *turn over* such funds, *valuable articles or personal property* to the State Treasurer for the general use of the State after deducting the amount owed, if any, by or for such patient or inmate to such State hospital [or training school].

(b) No action at law or in equity shall be maintained against the governing authorities of any State hospital [or training school] for or on account of any funds, *valuable articles or personal property* belonging to any deceased or escaped patient or inmate of such hospital [or training school] after the expiration of three years after the death or escape of such patient or inmate; provided that this subsection shall not be construed so as to deprive the governing authorities of any State hospital [or training school] of any defense, counterclaim or setoff available to them in any such action at law or in equity, brought within the aforesaid three year period, including the defense of governmental immunity.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1963.

Approved March 29, 1963.

CHAPTER 214
(House Bill 123)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 22 (b) of Article 66B of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957