

Attorney General, the State Reporter, the Adjutant General, the Treasurer, Comptroller, and the Commissioner of the Land Office shall take and subscribe the said oath before the Governor and the same shall be preserved in a book to be kept by the Secretary of State.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect contingent upon and contemporaneous with the adoption by the qualified voters of Maryland of amendments to the Constitution of Maryland as proposed by Chapter — of the Acts of 1966 (— Bill No. —).

Approved March 23, 1966.

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CHAPTER 13

(Senate Bill 4)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 601 (c) of Article 43 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1965 Supplement), title "Health", subtitle "Chronic Hospitals and Infirmaries", to provide that if any person is a patient in a chronic hospital or infirmary for a period in excess of thirty months, the rate chargeable to the family of the patient, after the thirty-month period, shall not exceed twenty-five per cent (25%) of the per capita cost.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That Section 601 (c) of Article 43 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1965 Supplement), title "Health", subtitle "Chronic Hospitals and Infirmaries", be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

601.

(c) If as a result of such investigation, the collection unit 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. Such average per diem cost shall be determined annually by the State Comptroller and the State Budget Director between September 1 and December 1. The collection unit is authorized to set the rate of payments retroactively to become effective as of the date of admission to the hospital or as of the date of beginning the investigations of the financial condition of the patient and of other persons legally chargeable for his maintenance and support, whichever is the later date; but the effective date may not be set more than six months prior to the date of the order unless there has been a failure on the part of the patient's guardian or committee or other persons legally chargeable with his maintenance and support, to file the financial reports or statements required by the collection unit. The collection unit shall have the power to require the relatives of any such persons 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