

(b) These funds shall be used by the State Department of Health solely for the purpose of supplementing the State general funds appropriated for hospital care so that payments for hospital service rendered to indigent and medically indigent patients will be made at full current cost [as determined by the step-down accounting method in conjunction with the ratio of charge to cost procedures as recommended by the Maryland Legislative Council's committee on taxation and fiscal matters].

(c) Such federal funds as may be received by the State, as reimbursement for payments for hospital care, shall be accounted for in such a way that the respective political subdivisions and the State receive the pro rata benefit of such federal funds, to the extent that such federal funds are not needed to defray 20% of the cost of hospital care.

(d) [In order to participate in this program, each county and Baltimore City is authorized and required to levy such taxes as are necessary to provide for the payments required by this subsection.] *Each county and Baltimore City is authorized and required to levy such taxes as are necessary to provide for the payments required by this subsection.*

(f) The payment by any county or Baltimore City to the State Department of Health of the sum specified in this section, plus any supplementation of this sum by any State or federal funds, shall be treated and considered up to the particular aggregate amount as compliance with any public local law for that county or Baltimore City which requires or permits the county or city to pay monies to a hospital or hospitals. The amount of any such payment under this section, together with its supplementation, shall be deducted from any payment or payments otherwise payable under the public local laws for the county or Baltimore City. If the payment of the sum specified in this section plus the supplementation therefor is less than the total obligation of the county or Baltimore City under its public local laws, the amount of difference shall be paid over by the county or city to the hospital or hospitals, in substantially the same ratio as that required in the public local laws. If the payment of the sum specified in this section plus the supplementation therefor exceeds the total obligation of the county or city under its public local laws, the obligation of the county or city under its public local laws is satisfied and extinguished.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1968.*

Approved May 7, 1968.

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CHAPTER 556

(Senate Bill 427)

AN ACT to add new Section 139½ to Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1967 Replacement Volume), title "Crimes and Punishments," subtitle "Escaping from Penitentiary," to follow immediately after Section 139 thereof, and to add new Section 21A