

such times and in such installments and in such amount as the said board of trustees of the Maryland State Firemen's Association may decide, until they each attain the age ~~seventeen (17)~~ EIGHTEEN (18) years.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1969.

Approved April 23, 1969.

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CHAPTER 295

(House Bill 385)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 42(a) of Article 43 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1968 Supplement), title "Health," subtitle "Miscellaneous Provisions," authorizing the State Board of Health and Mental Hygiene to contract with certain groups and individuals to provide services for indigent people and providing for the duration and renewal of these contracts AND PROVIDING FOR A CONTINGENCY.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That Section 42(a) of Article 43 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1968 Supplement), title "Health," subtitle "Miscellaneous Provisions," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

43.

(a) The State Board of Health and Mental Hygiene shall (1) administer a program of comprehensive medical and other care in the State of Maryland for indigent and medically indigent persons, or either of such classes; for this purpose the Board of Health and Mental Hygiene is hereby authorized to contract with *insurance companies*, NON-PROFIT HEALTH CARRIERS SERVICE PLANS, or with individuals, associations, partnerships, incorporated or unincorporated groups of physicians, dentists, PODIATRISTS, optometrists (as defined in Section 372 of this article), pharmacists, hospitals, nursing homes, nurses, opticians; and other health practitioners duly licensed or certified in this State who perform services upon the prescription or referral of a physician, for the ~~treatment of~~ PROVISION OF CARE FOR eligible persons; *contracts entered into by the Board shall be for a one year period and may be renewed*; within the provisions of the budget the said Board is hereby authorized to provide bedside nursing care for eligible persons. (2) The Board of Health and Mental Hygiene shall conduct and operate such hospitals as may be established by law and placed under the jurisdiction of the said Board of Health and Mental Hygiene for the care of persons suffering from chronic diseases.

SEC. 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, THAT IN THE EVENT A NEW DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ADMINISTERED BY A SECRETARY OF HEALTH IS CREDITED CREATED BY SUBSEQUENT LAW, BOTH THAT DEPART-