

licensing requirements, suspension and revocation of licenses, financing of mental health services, persons and governmental units liable for such financing, enforcement of liability, patients' records and civil rights, penalties, civil and criminal, and relating generally to all phases of the law pertaining to mental health and mentally ill persons.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Section 1E of Article 43 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition, 1965 Replacement Volume, 1969 Supplement), title "Health," subtitle "Department of Health and Mental Hygiene," be and it is hereby repealed.*

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That Article 59 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition, 1968 Replacement Volume, 1969 Supplement), title "Lunatics and Insane," be and it hereby is repealed in its entirety and a new Article 59 is hereby enacted to stand in place of the Article so repealed, to be under the new title "Mental Hygiene," and to read as follows:*

#### ARTICLE 59

*Subtitle: Short Title, Statement of Policy and Definitions*

##### 1. Short Title

*This Article shall be known and may be cited as the "Mental Hygiene Law."*

##### 2. Statement of Policy.

*It is the policy of the State of Maryland that the mental hygiene of its citizens be fostered and preserved to the best of the ability of the State. To that end, care and treatment to or for all citizens of the State affected by or afflicted with mental illness or mental retardation shall be provided without partiality. It is also the policy of this State that those persons who have financial resources sufficient to pay the cost of their care and treatment shall do so. The provisions of this Article shall be construed in a manner consistent with the policy of the State as herein defined.*

##### 3. Definitions.

*As used in this Article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated unless a contrary meaning is clearly intended from the context in which the term appears:*

(a) *"Admission" shall mean that process by which any person is admitted as an inpatient to any facility or Veterans' Administration Hospital in the State intended to be used for the care of any person suffering any mental disability and shall include the physical act of entering the facility or Veterans' Administration Hospital by any such person.*

(b) *"Commissioner" shall mean the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene of the State of Maryland.*

(c) *"Cost of care" shall mean and include the cost of care, maintenance, treatment and support of each individual patient in a public facility.*