

as the Board of Correction may determine under the provisions of Section 688 of Article 27 of the Code.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1971.

Approved May 17, 1971.

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CHAPTER 492

(Senate Bill 778)

AN ACT to add new Sections 781 to 790, inclusive, to Article 43 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1965 Replacement Volume and 1970 Supplement), title "Health," subtitle "~~Nursing Home Administrators,~~" to follow immediately after Section 780 thereof and to be under the new subtitle "Kidney Disease Program," creating a Commission on Kidney Disease and providing for the duties and responsibilities thereof; providing for the duties and responsibilities of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in connection with the Kidney Disease Program; providing for State financial aid to certain patients under certain conditions and for repayment of the cost of such aid to the State under certain conditions; and generally relating to the Kidney Disease Program.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That new Sections 781 to 790, inclusive, be and they are hereby added to Article 43 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1965 Replacement Volume and 1970 Supplement), title "Health," subtitle "~~Nursing Home Administrators,~~" to follow immediately after Section 780 thereof and to be under the new subtitle "Kidney Disease Program," and all to read as follows:

*Kidney Disease Program*

781.

(A) *It is hereby declared and found that one of the most serious and tragic problems facing the public health and welfare is the death of hundreds of persons in Maryland every year from chronic renal disease, when the present state of the medical art and technology could return these persons to a socially productive life. Advances and discoveries in the treatment of patients suffering from chronic renal disease now allow, not mere survival, but rehabilitation of these patients to their normal occupations and activities. Presently, these patients are dying for lack of personal financial resources to pay for the expensive equipment and care which they need.*

(B) *The State hereby recognizes its responsibility to its citizens to allow them to keep their health without being pauperized and to use the resources and organization of the State to aid in gathering and disseminating information on the treatment of chronic renal disease. This responsibility is discharged by the provisions of this subtitle, wherein the reimbursement and information programs are*