

formerly residing in, and charged to that county, and the amount for such patient being charged to the county. Payment of the accounts rendered shall be due within thirty days after the account is rendered.

(d) Each county shall levy a tax sufficient to pay the charges made under subsection (c) above; and shall thereafter pay such charges. If any county fails to levy the tax, or pay the charges, the Attorney General shall institute an action in the name of the State to enforce the levying of a tax sufficient to pay the charges aforesaid. Interest shall be charged on delinquent accounts of counties at the rate of one per cent per month.

(e) Any county objecting to a charge for a patient as being improperly charged to that county, may file such objection with the Department. The Department shall thereupon investigate and may require any county involved to present information as to the residence of the patient. A determination by the Department shall be final.

(f) Payment by the county or State of patient cost of care does not relieve the patient, his responsible relatives or others responsible for such payment, from their obligation to repay such cost of care.】

The total cost of care of patients in any public facility shall be the responsibility of the State. This responsibility does not relieve the patient, his responsible relatives or others responsible for his care of their obligation to repay such cost of care.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That all laws or parts of laws, public general or public local, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed to the extent of any such inconsistency.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1971.

Approved May 24, 1971.

CHAPTER 632

(Senate Bill 11)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 601(e) of Article 43 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1965 Replacement Volume), title "Health," subtitle "Chronic Hospitals and Infirmaries," and to repeal Sections 601 (e-1) and (e-2) and 602 of the said article and subtitle of the Code, to repeal the requirement that the counties of the State and Baltimore City pay a specific sum to the State for the cost of care of patients at State chronic disease hospitals, and to repeal related provisions providing for the handling and disposition and crediting to local accounts of monies recovered by the State for the cost of such patient care.

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