

## 601.

(e) Upon the death of any person admitted to any chronic hospital, the collection unit shall be entitled to make claim against the estate of any such person for his or her care while in such hospital, or for the balance due therefor if part has been paid. A claim under this subsection shall not include any charge for such care for a period longer than three years immediately preceding the death of such patient; except that if any relative liable for such patient's care in any such hospital has misrepresented assets or submitted fraudulent information, and by so doing has avoided such claim or part of such a claim for the patient's care, there shall be a period of limitations of six years on the claim against the estate. Such claim shall be a preferred claim against the estate of any such person, and all claims arising hereunder against the relatives and any other persons legally chargeable with the care of such person, shall also constitute preferred claims. All such claims may be waived, however, by the collection unit in its discretion, if in its judgment the enforcement of the same will result in hardship to others, dependent upon those against whom such claims exist. All payments received as a result of the enforcement of such claims shall be accounted for and paid as hereinbefore provided. [The collection unit shall credit the account of each county, for any patient, with any amounts actually collected and received by the unit from or for that patient whether received from himself, his relatives, others legally chargeable with his maintenance and support or others; and the credit allowed to the county for each patient shall be computed according to the formula in subsection (e-1).]

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That Sections 601 (e-1) and (e-2) and 602 of the said article and sub-title of the Code, be and they are hereby repealed.

## 601.

[(e-1) From the money received in any year from or on behalf of a patient the collection unit first shall credit the account of the county for the total of its payment for that patient for that current year; and next (to the extent that sufficient funds remain) there shall be allocated to the credit of the general funds of the State an amount which, together with the payment to the county for this current year, equals the total amount of payment set for the board, care and treatment of the particular patient for that current year. When the foregoing allocations are made, and to the extent that additional funds remain, the collection unit next shall credit the account of the county for the total of its payment for that patient for the next preceding year, and then shall allocate to the credit of general funds of the State an amount which, together with the payment to the county for that next preceding year, equals the total amount set for the board, care and treatment of that patient for that next preceding year. Thereafter, and so long as additional funds remain, the Department shall similarly credit first the account of the county and then the account of the State for the amount set for the board, care and treatment of the patient for the second preceding year, and then for the third preceding year, and continuing in this manner until the monies received in the current year for or on behalf of that patient are entirely exhausted.

(e-2) It shall be the duty of the collection unit to furnish to the county commissioners or county council of each county, or the