

and review, to be represented by legal counsel, and to seek independent medical opinion;

(c) In any case before a court or review board to assemble and provide the court or board with all the relevant information as to the patient's case, his hospitalization and his right to discharge;

(d) Perform services for voluntary patients and informal patients *who are admitted pursuant to Article 59 of this Code* similar to those required pursuant to [subdivisions] subsections (a) and (b) of this section, as may be requested by the patient or anyone on his behalf; and

(e) Provide services and assistance to patients and their families and to the courts or the review board having duties to perform relating to the mentally disordered or the allegedly mentally disordered who are admitted pursuant to Article 59 of this Code, as may be required by a judge, justice, or chairman thereof and pursuant to the said rules and regulations.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That new Article 59A be and it is hereby added to the Annotated Code of Maryland (1968 Replacement Volume and 1971 Supplement), to be under the new title "Mental Retardation," to follow immediately after Article 59 thereof, and to read as follows:*

#### ARTICLE 59A

##### *Short Title, Statement of Policy and Definitions*

###### 1. *Short Title*

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

###### 2. *Statement of Policy*

*It is the policy of the State of Maryland, in order to advance the public interest, to promote, protect and preserve the human dignity, constitutional rights and liberties, social well being and general welfare of mentally retarded persons in the State, to encourage the development of the ability and potential of each mentally retarded person in the State to the fullest possible extent, no matter how severe his degree of disability; to promote the economic security, standard of living, and meaningful employment of the mentally retarded; to maximize the integration of mentally retarded persons into the ordinary life of the communities in which they live; to recognize the right of mentally retarded persons, where care in a residential facility is necessary, to live in surroundings and circumstances as close to normal as possible and to provide adequate facilities therefor; to provide appropriate social and protective services for those mentally retarded persons who are unable to manage themselves and their affairs with ordinary prudence; to protect parental rights and to assist parents and guardians in the planning for and management of the mentally retarded; to promote and provide for the development, maintenance, and coordination of all programs for the mentally retarded; to advance research and professional training*