

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 CENTRAL collection unit UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE INVESTIGATION 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.

(f) The [collection] INVESTIGATION unit is authorized and empowered to adopt and promulgate reasonable rules and regulations covering the details of enforcing the power and procedures provided for in this section. It is intended that such rules and regulations be applied uniformly to patients in mental hospitals and to patients in chronic disease hospitals so far as it is practical; however, such rules and regulations as they apply to the admission and discharge of patients in chronic disease hospitals are subject to the concurrence of the State Board of Health.

(g) Nothing contained herein however shall prevent the Department of Mental Hygiene from accepting in lieu of the requirements of this section those requirements regarding the investigation of financial condition, standards of eligibility and legal responsibility of patients, their responsible relatives, legal representatives, and the estate of patients or legally responsible relatives, as set out in the medical assistance plan or the federal laws and regulations under Title XIX of the Social Security Amendment of 1965, or other amendments thereto as may be enacted from time to time.

SECTION 4. 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That all laws or parts of laws, public general or public local, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed to the extent of the inconsistency. Any such law which authorizes and directs any agency or official of the State to collect, adjust or settle any delinquent debt or account due to the State or any agency or official thereof in his official capacity shall be determined to vest such authority in the Central Collection unit created within the Department of Budget and Fiscal Planning, provided, however, that this Section shall not apply to the collection, adjustment or settlement of taxes by the Comptroller

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1973.

Approved May 7, 1973.

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## CHAPTER 356

(House Bill 1610)

AN ACT to add new Sections 419 through 446, inclusive, to the Code of Public Local Laws of Queen Anne's County (Article 18 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland (1930 Edition)), title "Queen Anne's County", to follow immediately after Section 418 thereof, as added by Chapter 583 of the Acts of 1966, and to be under the new subtitle "Sanitary District", to provide in Queen Anne's County for the creation and implementation of a Sanitary District in the