

may determine. However, as to a defendant suffering from acute or chronic alcoholism, the THE commitment shall be for not less than 96 hours or for more than six weeks. The superintendent of the hospital or other facility may terminate the commitment at any time after 96 hours upon his determination that further continued commitment will not be in the best interests of the alcoholic or serve any useful purpose. **IN THE CASE OF A USER OF NARCOTIC DRUGS, THE COMMITMENT SHALL BE MADE BY THE JUDGE ONLY AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE MENTAL HOSPITAL TO WHICH THE COMMITMENT IS TO BE MADE.** Every District Court shall be held to be included within the term "court" as used in Article 59, subtitle "Insanity as a Defense in Criminal Cases" of the Annotated Code of Maryland, 1957 Edition, as amended; and each judge of the District Court shall have the same power and authority exercised by any judge of the circuit court for the purposes set forth in those sections, including the determination of competency to stand trial of any person charged with the commission of any crime within the jurisdiction of the court.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1973.

Approved May 21, 1973.

CHAPTER 407

(Senate Bill 511)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, subsection (c) of Section 1J of Article 43 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume and 1972 Supplement), title "Health," subtitle "Department of Health and Mental Hygiene," adding a representative from the local council on alcoholism, where one exists, to the membership of the mental health advisory committee of each county and Baltimore City.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That subsection (c) of Section 1J of Article 43 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume and 1972 Supplement), title "Health," subtitle "Department of Health and Mental Hygiene," be and the same is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

1J.

(c) The governing body of each county and of Baltimore City shall establish a mental health advisory committee and appoint the members thereto. Membership shall consist of one representative each from the local governing body, the school board, the welfare board, the practicing physicians, the clergy, [and] the legal profession, the mental health association, where one exists, **THE LOCAL COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM, WHERE ONE EXISTS,** and at least three additional members representing the community as a whole. The term of office of each member shall be for three years commencing from the first day of July of the year of appointment except that of the members first appointed one-third shall be appointed for a term of two years and one-third for a term of one year. Members who have served two consecutive full terms shall not be eligible for reappointment for a period of three years following completion of such terms. The officers of the committee shall be elected annually by the membership and the chairmanship shall not be held by the same person for more than two consecutive years. The