

CHAPTER 448

(House Bill 520)

AN ACT concerning

"Responsible Relative" - Redefined

FOR the purpose of changing the termination of a relative's responsibility for the care and treatment of a mentally retarded person from that mentally retarded person's twenty-first birthday to his eighteenth birthday.

BY repealing and re-enacting, with amendments,

Article 59A - Mental Retardation

Section 3(n)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1972 Replacement Volume and 1973 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section 3(n) of Article 59A - Mental Retardation, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1972 Replacement Volume and 1973 Supplement) be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

Article 59A - Mental Retardation

3.

(n) "Responsible relative" means for the purpose of reimbursement of cost of care and treatment, the spouse of a mentally retarded person, parent or parents of a mentally retarded person when the mentally retarded person is under [21]18 years of age. No liability shall be imposed by this definition on the spouse or child of any patient who has been abandoned by that patient. Abandonment as used herein shall be defined by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety and having been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected