preferred claim against the estate of any such person. The claim may be waived by the Department if, in its judgment, enforcement of such claims will result in substantial hardship to beneficiaries of those estates against which such claims exist.]

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 48 of Article 43 - Health, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume and 1974 Supplement) be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

Article 43 - Health

48.

The local board of health of each county shall meet semiannually in the months of May and October, and as much oftener as they may deem necessary; they shall act in conjunction with the [State Board of Health] DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE and shall report to [said Board] THE DEPARTMENT [such] ANY facts in reference to the sanitary conditions of their respective counties as they may deem important or necessary; they may adopt and enforce all needful rules and regulations concerning nuisances and causes of sickness within their respective jurisdiction subject to the provisions of this article; they may regulate all fees and charges in connection with their own regulations, BUT ANY FEES AND CHARGES FOR SERVICES IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITH STATE OR FEDERAL FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL AND MODIFICATION OF THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE; and THEY shall establish the salaries of their respective county health officers.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 39 of Article 59 - Mental Hygiene, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1972 Replacement Volume and 1974 Supplement) be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

Article 59 - Mental Hygiene

39.

(A) It is the intent of this subtitle to require all patients financially able to do so to pay for mental health services received by them. Such obligations extend to not only the patients, but also to those legally responsible for them. Where such patients or their responsible relatives are unable to pay for their