

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1975.

Approved May 15, 1975.

CHAPTER 620

(Senate Bill 958)

AN ACT concerning

Mental Hygiene - Release of Patients

FOR the purpose of providing guidelines for the release of patients from mental hygiene facilities; and generally relating to release from mental hygiene facilities.

BY repealing and re-enacting, with amendments,

Article 59 - Mental Hygiene
Section 18(a) and (b)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1972 Replacement Volume and 1974 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Sections 18(a) and (b) of Article 59 - Mental Hygiene, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1972 Replacement Volume and 1974 Supplement) be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

Article 59 - Mental Hygiene

18.

(a) At the direction of the Commissioner, his authorized representative, or the superintendent of any facility, any patient not detained pursuant to the provisions of §§ 23, 24 or 27 of this article, ~~may~~ SHALL be released from any facility, if, in the judgment of such official [the patient is not mentally disordered; or if mentally disordered, is not, for the protection of himself or others in need of inpatient medical care or treatment]: (1) THE PATIENT IS NOT MENTALLY DISORDERED; OR (2) THE PATIENT, IF MENTALLY DISORDERED, IS NOT IN NEED OF INPATIENT MEDICAL CARE OR TREATMENT FOR THE PROTECTION OF HIMSELF AND OTHERS; AND (3) THE PATIENT, IF RELEASED, WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE A