

relatives of the recipient of the services under certain circumstances; requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to adopt certain regulations; redefining certain terms; limiting the financial responsibilities of a chargeable person based on certain payments for the care provided to a recipient of services; clarifying that certain insurance payments may not be considered as payments paid by a chargeable person for the purpose of determining a recipient of services total lifetime hospitalization; and generally relating to the reimbursements and collection practice of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Health - General
Section 16-102, 16-202, and 16-203
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1982 Volume and 1986 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Health - General

16-102.

(a) It is the policy of this State to obligate each recipient of services and, to the extent provided in this title, those legally responsible for the recipient to pay, if financially able, for the cost of care that is received by the recipient of services. Unless otherwise provided by statute, the recipient of services and the chargeable person shall be responsible for payment regardless of whether the recipient of services was admitted voluntarily, involuntarily, or by court order. If the recipient of services is involuntarily admitted to a public facility and released after evaluation, for failure to meet the standards for involuntary commitment, the recipient of services or chargeable person shall not be responsible for the cost of care.

(b) The total cost of care of each recipient of services is, in the first instance, the responsibility of [this State. However, the discharge of this responsibility does not relieve the recipient of services or, as provided in this title, chargeable persons of their obligation to repay the cost of care to this State] THE RECIPIENT OF SERVICES AND, AS PROVIDED IN THIS TITLE, THE CHARGEABLE PERSON. ANY UNCOLLECTIBLE COSTS FOR SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE RECIPIENT SHALL BECOME THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THIS STATE.

16-202.