

Supplement), title "Lunatics and Insane", sub-title "Lunatics or Insane Paupers", amending the law concerning the investigation of the financial condition of persons committed or admitted to State mental institutions, with particular respect to the securing of financial statements by court order, and also amending the law concerning claims for any balance due for the cost of maintenance of a deceased patient at such institutions.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,*
That Sections 5 (a) and 5 (e) of Article 59 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1960 Supplement), title "Lunatics and Insane", sub-title "Lunatics or Insane Paupers", be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted with amendments to read as follows:

5.

(a) Rate; investigation of financial condition; requirements as to payments.—The Department of Mental Hygiene shall fix a rate to be chargeable to all persons who have been or who are hereafter committed or admitted to State institutions under the jurisdiction of the Department of Mental Hygiene, not to exceed the actual cost per capita for maintenance of such persons, the actual cost per capita to be determined annually between September 1 and December 1, by the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, the State Comptroller, and the State Budget Director; except with respect to those patients who have been or shall remain in such institution for a period in excess of thirty (30) months, the rate chargeable to the family of the patient shall thereafter not exceed 25% of the per capita cost. The Department of Mental Hygiene shall investigate the financial condition of all such persons and also the financial conditions of their relatives or other persons legally chargeable with their maintenance and support, in order to determine, in each case, the ability of any such person, or of his or her relatives or other persons legally chargeable with his or her maintenance or support, to make payment, in whole or in part, for the maintenance and support of such person while an inmate of any such institution. In making such investigation, the Department of Mental Hygiene shall require reports of OR statements to be made to them IT by such relatives or other persons upon such forms as may be prepared by the Department of Mental Hygiene. *Upon the refusal or wilful neglect or failure of any such relative or other person to file the required report of OR statement, the Department of Mental Hygiene is authorized to apply to the Circuit Court of the County in which the relative or person is a resident, or to the Superior Court of Baltimore City if the relative or person is a resident of the City, for an order of that court requiring the relative or person to file the report of OR statement as specified by the Department of Mental Hygiene; and the refusal or wilful neglect or failure of the relative or person to obey the order of the court is punishable as contempt of court.* The Department of Mental Hygiene shall make and issue an order specifying therein the amount of such payments so to be made, and the times when the same are to be made, and shall have the power to require the relatives of any such person or others legally chargeable with his or her maintenance and support, to enter into appropriate and binding agreements with respect to the making of such payments, and from HER MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT TO PAY THE AMOUNT SO SPECIFIED TO BE MADE, AND AT THE TIMES SO DETERMINED, AND FURTHER FROM time to time may modify