

time he may have agreed therein to remain; and if the person against whom the petition may be filed shall be found by the jury to be an habitual drunkard, incapable of taking care of himself, it shall be the duty of the court to appoint a committee of such person, and such committee shall, with the written assent and approbation of the court, have the power of confining such person in any suitable institution, for such length of time, as the court may, in writing, approve; but said committee, with the written assent and approbation of the court, may at any time release from confinement said habitual drunkard, and the period of confinement of said habitual drunkard may, by the said committee, with the written assent and approbation of the court, be from time to time extended, for such period as may be necessary for his complete reformation; and the words "habitual drunkard," as used in this section, shall be construed to embrace any person who may be habitually addicted to the use of alcohol, opium, cocaine, morphine or any other drug or intoxicant.

1894, ch. 247.

47A. Any inhabitant of this State, who is of kin to or a friend of an habitual drunkard, as hereinafter defined, may petition the circuit court of the county of the residence of such drunkard, or the circuit court of Baltimore city, if said habitual drunkard resides therein, for leave to send such drunkard, at the expense of said county or city of Baltimore, to such institution for the medical treatment of drunkenness, as the said court may designate; which petition shall set forth the name, age and condition of such habitual drunkard, and that such drunkard or those of his kin petitioning, are not financially able to incur the expense of his cure, and shall set forth that said drunkard is willing and will agree to attend such institution for the cure of drunkenness; which petition shall be verified by the person making such request, and shall contain in addition thereto, the written agreement of such habitual drunkard to take such treatment and obey the rules of the institution administering the same, and the names of three taxpayers in the county of his residence, or of Baltimore city, if he resides therein, stating that they are familiar with the facts set forth in the petition, and that they are familiar with the financial circumstances of such drunkard and of the petitioning