

51. *Civil Rights of Patients.*

No patient in any facility shall be deprived of his right to vote, receive, hold and dispose of property unless he has been declared to be incompetent by a court in accordance with the provisions of Article 16 of this Code.

52. *Penalties.*

Any person who knowingly interferes with the rights of any patient in a facility as specified in this subtitle is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be imprisoned for a period not to exceed two years, or fined an amount not to exceed \$5,000., or both.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted, That if any part of this Act, or any section or part of a section hereof, shall be held to be unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect the remainder of this Act, and to this end this Act is declared to be severable.*

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect on July 1, 1970.*

Approved April 28, 1970

CHAPTER 408
(House Bill 132)

AN ACT to add new Article 43C to the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition, ~~1965 Replacement Volume~~ 1969 SUPPLEMENT), to follow immediately after Article 43B thereof and to be under the new title "Maryland Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority" to provide for the creation of the Maryland Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority, the purposes of which are to provide CERTAIN hospitals located within the State with appropriate means to expand, enlarge and establish health care hospitals and other related facilities; to assist certain institutions of higher education to obtain and construct projects required or useful for the instruction of students or the conducting of research for the operation of an institution for higher education; to assist certain hospitals in the construction ~~and maintenance~~ of hospitals, clinics, health care facilities and other structures or facilities related thereto; to create a body politic and corporation to be known as the "Maryland Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority" consisting of nine members appointed by the Governor, and to provide for general counsel and executive director for said Authority; to grant to the Authority power to assist institutions for higher education and hospitals in the construction, financing and refinancing of certain projects; to grant to the Authority the power to issue bonds, notes, and other obligations; to provide for employment of engineers, architects, accountants, and such other professional and non-professional employees as the Authority may determine necessary; to provide for the Authority to