

care, it is the intent of this subtitle that the cost of mental health services be financed in the manner provided by the legislature.

(B) THE SETTING OF CHARGES FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES RENDERED IN OUTPATIENT, INPATIENT AND OTHER FACILITIES, THE INVESTIGATION OF THE FINANCIAL ABILITY TO PAY OF PATIENTS, RESPONSIBLE RELATIVES, AND OTHER PERSONS LEGALLY CHARGEABLE FOR ANY OBLIGATION OF THE PATIENT, THE DETERMINATION OF THE AMOUNTS OF PAYMENTS, THE LIABILITY OF PATIENTS AND OTHER LEGALLY CHARGEABLE PERSONS, AND THE RECEIPT, DEPOSIT AND ENFORCEMENT OF PAYMENTS SHALL BE THE SAME AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 601 OF ARTICLE 43 OF THE CODE.

SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 24 of Article 59A - Mental Retardation, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1972 Replacement Volume and 1974 Supplement) be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

Article 59A - Mental Retardation

24.

(A) It is the intent of this subtitle to require all mentally retarded persons financially able to do so to pay for services received by them. Such obligations extend to not only the mentally retarded persons, but also to those legally responsible for them. Where such mentally retarded persons or their responsible relatives or guardians are unable to pay for their care, it is the intent of this subtitle that the cost of services for the mentally retarded be financed in the manner provided by the legislature.

(B) THE SETTING OF CHARGES FOR SERVICES RENDERED TO MENTALLY RETARDED PERSONS, THE INVESTIGATION OF THE FINANCIAL ABILITY TO PAY OF THESE PERSONS, RESPONSIBLE RELATIVES, AND OTHER PERSONS LEGALLY CHARGEABLE FOR ANY OBLIGATION OF THE PATIENT, THE DETERMINATION OF THE AMOUNTS OF PAYMENTS AND THE RECEIPT, DEPOSIT AND ENFORCEMENT OF PAYMENTS SHALL BE THE SAME AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 601 OF ARTICLE 43 OF THE CODE. THE LIABILITY OF PERSONS LEGALLY CHARGEABLE FOR ANY OBLIGATION OF THE PATIENT SHALL BE AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 25A OF THIS ARTICLE.

SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That new Section 601 be and it is hereby added to Article 43 - Health, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume and 1974 Supplement) to read as