

Public Law 86-571

AN ACT

July 5, 1960  
[S. 2331]

To provide for the hospitalization, at Saint Elizabeths Hospital in the District of Columbia or elsewhere, of certain nationals of the United States adjudged insane or otherwise found mentally ill in foreign countries, and for other purposes.

U. S. nationals  
abroad.  
Mentally ill re-  
turnees, hospital-  
ization.  
Definitions.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That for the purposes of this Act, except as the context may otherwise require—

(a) The term "Department" means the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

(b) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare.

(c) The term "State" means a State or Territory of the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or the District of Columbia.

(d) The term "eligible person" means an individual with respect to whom the following certificates are furnished to the Secretary:

(1) A certificate of the Secretary of State that such individual is a national of the United States; and

(2) Either (A) a certificate obtained or transmitted by the Secretary of State that such individual has been legally adjudged insane in a named foreign country, or (B) a certificate of an appropriate authority or person (as determined in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare) stating that at the time of such certification such individual was in a named foreign country and was in need of care and treatment in a mental hospital.

(e) The term "residence" means residence as determined under the applicable law or regulations of a State or political subdivision for the purpose of determining the eligibility of an individual for hospitalization in a public mental hospital.

Reception.

SEC. 2. (a) Upon request of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare is authorized (directly or through arrangements under this subsection) to receive any eligible person at any port of entry or debarkation upon arrival from a foreign country and, to the extent he finds it necessary, to temporarily care for and treat at suitable facilities (including a hospital), and otherwise render assistance to, such person pending his transfer or hospitalization pursuant to other sections of this Act. For the purpose of providing such care and treatment and assistance, the Secretary is authorized to enter into suitable arrangements with appropriate State or other public or nonprofit agencies. Such arrangements shall be made without regard to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes, as amended (41 U.S.C. 5), and may provide for payment by the Secretary either in advance or by way of reimbursement.

Temporary care.

Payment.

(b) The Secretary may, to the extent deemed appropriate, equitable, and practicable by him, (1) require any person receiving care and treatment or assistance pursuant to subsection (a) to pay, in advance or by way of reimbursement, for the cost thereof or (2) obtain reimbursement for such cost from any State or political subdivision responsible for the cost of his subsequent hospitalization.

Transfer to legal domicile.

SEC. 3. If, at the time of arrival in the United States, the residence or the legal domicile of an eligible person appearing to be in need of care and treatment in a mental hospital is known to be in a State, or whenever thereafter such a person's residence or legal domicile in a State is ascertained, the Secretary shall, if the person is then under his care (whether directly or pursuant to a contract or other arrange-

ment under section 2 or 4), endeavor to arrange with the proper authorities of such State, or of a political subdivision thereof, for the assumption of responsibility for the care and treatment of such person by such authorities and shall, upon the making of such arrangement in writing, transfer and release such person to such authorities. In the event the State of the residence or legal domicile of an eligible person cannot be ascertained, or the Secretary is unable to arrange with the proper authorities of such State, or of a political subdivision thereof, for the assumption of responsibility for his care and treatment, the Secretary may, if he determines that the best interests of such person will be served thereby, transfer and release the eligible person to a relative who agrees in writing to assume responsibility for such person after having been fully informed as to his condition.

SEC. 4. (a) Until the transfer and release of an eligible person pursuant to section 3, the Secretary is authorized to provide care and treatment for such person at Saint Elizabeths Hospital, at any other Federal hospital within or (pursuant to agreement) outside of the Department, or (under contract or other arrangements made without regard to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes, as amended) at any other public or private hospital in any State and, for such purposes, to transfer such person to any such hospital from a place of temporary care provided pursuant to section 2. In determining the place of such hospitalization, the Secretary shall give due weight to the best interests of the patient.

(b) The authority of the Secretary to provide hospitalization for any person under this section shall not apply to any person for whose medical care and treatment any agency of the United States is responsible.

SEC. 5. (a) Any person admitted to any hospital pursuant to section 2 or section 4 shall, as soon as practicable, but in no event more than five days after the day of such admission, be examined by qualified members of the medical staff of the hospital and, unless found to be in need of hospitalization by reason of mental illness, shall be discharged. Any person found upon such examination to be in need of such hospitalization shall thereafter, as frequently as practicable but not less often than every six months, be reexamined and shall, whenever it is determined that the conditions justifying such hospitalization no longer obtain, be discharged or, if found to be in the best interests of the patient, be conditionally released.

(b) Whenever any person is admitted to a hospital pursuant to this Act, his legal guardian, spouse, or next of kin shall, if known, be immediately notified.

SEC. 6. (a) If a person who is a patient hospitalized under section 2 or section 4, or his legal guardian, spouse, or adult next of kin, requests the release of such patient, the right of the Secretary, or the head of the hospital, to detain him for care and treatment shall be determined in accordance with such laws governing the detention, for care and treatment, of persons alleged to be mentally ill as may be in force and applicable generally in the State in which such hospital is located, but in no event shall the patient be detained more than forty-eight hours (excluding any period of time falling on a Sunday or legal holiday) after the receipt of such request unless within such time (1) judicial proceedings for such hospitalization are commenced or (2) a judicial extension of such time is obtained, for a period of not more than five days, for the commencement of such proceedings.

Hospitals.

41 USC 5.

Limitation.

Rights of patient.

Request for release.

Transfers.

(b) The Secretary is authorized at any time, when he deems it to be in the interest of the person or of the institution affected, to transfer any person hospitalized under section 4 from one hospital to another, and to that end any judicial commitment of any person so hospitalized may be to the Secretary.

Release, notice to court.

SEC. 7. In the case of any person hospitalized under section 4 who has been judicially committed to the Secretary's custody, the Secretary shall, upon the discharge or conditional release of such person, or upon such person's transfer and release under section 3, notify the committing court of such discharge or conditional release or such transfer and release.

Financial responsibility.

SEC. 8. (a) Any person hospitalized under section 4 or his estate, shall be liable to pay or contribute toward the payment of the costs or charges for his care and treatment to the same extent as such person would, if resident in the District of Columbia, be liable to pay, under the laws of the District of Columbia, for his care and maintenance in a hospital for the mentally ill in that jurisdiction. The Secretary may, in his discretion, where in his judgment substantial justice will be best served thereby or the probable recovery will not warrant the expense of collection, compromise or waive the whole or any portion of any claim under this section. In carrying out this section, the Secretary may make or cause to be made such investigations as may be necessary to determine the ability of any person hospitalized under section 4 to pay or contribute toward the cost of his hospitalization. All collections or reimbursement on account of the costs and charges for the care of the eligible person shall be deposited in the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts. Any judicial proceedings to recover such costs or charges shall be brought in the name of the United States in any court of competent jurisdiction.

"Costs or charges".

(b) As used in this section, the term "costs or charges" means, in the case of hospitalization at a hospital under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, a per diem rate prescribed by the Secretary on a basis comparable to that charged for any other paying patients and, in the case of persons hospitalized elsewhere, the contract rate or a per diem rate fixed by the Secretary on the basis of the contract rate.

Appropriation for transportation.

SEC. 9. Appropriations for carrying out this Act shall also be available for the transportation of any eligible person and necessary attendants to or from a hospital (including any hospital of a State or political subdivision to which an eligible person is released under section 3), to the place where a relative to whom any person is released under section 3 resides, or to a person's home upon his discharge from hospitalization under this Act.

Repeals.

SEC. 10. The following Acts are repealed, effective upon the date of enactment of legislation appropriating funds for carrying out this Act:

55 Stat. 756.

(a) The Act entitled "An Act to provide for the admission to Saint Elizabeths Hospital of insane persons belonging to the Foreign Service of the United States", approved October 29, 1941 (24 U.S.C. 191a).

45 Stat. 1495.

(b) The Act entitled "An Act to provide for the repatriation of certain insane American citizens", approved March 2, 1929 (24 U.S.C. 196a).

Effective date.

SEC. 11. This Act shall, except as otherwise specified, take effect on the date of its enactment.

Approved July 5, 1960.