

"Hospital" as herein used means any institution which maintains and operates facilities for the care and/or treatment of two (2) or more non-related persons as patients suffering mental or physical ailments, but shall not be construed to include any dispensary or first-aid treatment facilities maintained by any commercial or industrial plant, educational institution or convent.

"Person" shall include any person, partnership, association or corporation or any state, county or local governmental unit and any division, board or agency thereof.

496B. (Hospitals Must Obtain Licenses.) No person shall establish, conduct, maintain or operate in the State of Maryland any hospital without first having obtained a license therefor as hereinafter provided in this sub-title.

496C. (Existing Hospitals to Obtain Licenses.) No person may continue to operate an existing hospital unless such operation shall be approved and legally licensed by the State Board of Health as hereinafter provided in this sub-title; provided, however, that all hospitals in operation on the effective date of this sub-title shall be given a reasonable time to meet the minimum standards provided for in this sub-title and the rules and regulations issued thereunder.

496D. (Application for Licenses.) Any person desiring a license to open a hospital or to continue the operation of an existing hospital shall file with the State Board of Health a verified application setting forth the name of the applicant desiring such license, that the applicant is not less than twenty-one years of age and of reputable and responsible character, the class of hospital to be operated, the location thereof, the name of the person in charge thereof and such additional information as the State Board of Health may require. Applications on behalf of a corporation or association or a governmental unit or agency shall be made by any two officers thereof.

Each application for a license to operate a hospital shall be accompanied by a fee of ten dollars (\$10.00). All licenses issued hereunder shall expire one year from date of issuance. No such fee shall be refunded and all fees received by the State Board of Health under the provisions of this sub-title shall be paid into the State Treasury to the credit of the State Board of Health for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this sub-title.

496E. (Issuance of Licenses.) The State Board of Health is hereby authorized to issue licenses to open, maintain and operate hospitals which, after inspection, are found to comply