

CHAPTER 378

(Senate Bill 18)

AN ACT to add new Section 59C(f) to Article 41 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Supplement), title "Governor—Executive and Administrative Departments," subtitle "The Executive Department," subheading "Comprehensive Health Planning," to follow immediately after Section 59C(e) thereof; and to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Sections 559 (a-1) and (b) of Article 43 of the said Code (1971 Replacement Volume), title "Health," subtitle "Hospitals and Related Institutions," to authorize the State Comprehensive Health Planning Agency to designate local agencies which will act as regional health planning agencies in the State, to require licensing of proprietary nursing homes and related facilities UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, to change requirements for and duration of licensing of hospitals, nursing homes and related institutions, and to correct errors therein.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That new Section 59C(f) be and it is hereby added to Article 41 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume and 1971 Supplement), title "Governor—Executive Administrative Departments," subtitle "The Executive Department," subheading "Comprehensive Health Planning," to follow immediately after Section 59C(e) thereof, and to read as follows:

59C.

(f) *The State Comprehensive Health Planning Agency shall designate appropriate agencies to act as regional comprehensive health agencies for the purpose of conducting and coordinating comprehensive health planning for the various areas of the State.*

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That Sections 559(a-1) and (b) of Article 43 of the said Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume), title "Health," subtitle "Hospitals and Related Institutions," be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted with amendments, and to read as follows:

559.

(a-1) After [July 1, 1970] *July 1, 1972,* a license to [open a newly created hospital or ~~nonprofit~~ related institution shall not be issued nor shall a license to continue a hospital or ~~nonprofit~~ related institution which has relocated its services] *operate a hospital or related institution shall not* be issued unless the hospital or [non-profit] related institution conforms to or is not inconsistent with the comprehensive health plan developed and applicable for the particular area. Where no comprehensive health plan has been developed for a particular area, the State's comprehensive health planning agency shall make the determinations required. This reference is to the comprehensive health plan developed and effective under Section 59C of Article 41 of this Code. Nothing contained in this subtitle shall be construed as authorizing the medical supervision, regulation or control of the spiritual care or spiritual treatment of residents or patients in any hospital, home or related institution