

SENATE BILL 725

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SB 817/01 - B&T

2002 Regular Session  
2lr2412  
CF 2lr2545

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By: **Senator Stoltzfus**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2002

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **McCready Health Services Foundation - Alice B. Tawes Nursing Home**

3 FOR the purpose of providing for a grant in a certain amount to the Board of  
4 Directors of the McCready Health Services Foundation for the purpose of  
5 creating a new addition to the Alice B. Tawes Nursing Home.

6 Preamble

7 WHEREAS, According to the statistics reported in the 1997 publication from  
8 the Maryland Office of Rural Health entitled "Rural Health in Maryland: Setting an  
9 Agenda in a Time of Change", 14.7% of Somerset County's population is age 65 or  
10 older, which is more than 36% greater than the statewide total of only 10.8% of its  
11 population who are age 65 or older; and

12 WHEREAS, Somerset County has ranked first in the State for deaths from  
13 lung cancer; and

14 WHEREAS, The volume of cancer patients served by McCready Health  
15 Services Foundation in Somerset County more than doubled from 1996 to 1999; and

16 WHEREAS, The average death rate in Somerset County due to malignant  
17 neoplasms has been over 45% higher than the statewide average from 1990 to 1997;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Somerset County has ranked first in the State for deaths from  
20 heart disease; and

21 WHEREAS, The volume of heart disease patients served by the McCready  
22 Health Services Foundation more than quadrupled from 1996 to 1999; and

23 WHEREAS, The Diagnostic Related Group (DRG) data validates Somerset  
24 County's disproportionate increase in cancer and heart disease patients; and

25 WHEREAS, For the period from 1998 to 1999, the rates of hospitalization for  
26 lung cancer were 2% statewide and 7% for Somerset County; and

1 WHEREAS, For the period from 1998 to 1999, the rates of hospitalization for  
2 heart disease were 5% statewide and 16% for Somerset County; and

3 WHEREAS, Of the residents at the Alice B. Tawes Nursing Home, which is a  
4 part of the McCready health care facilities in Crisfield, in the year 2000, 86% had  
5 heart disease, 17% had chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and 3% had  
6 cancer; now, therefore,

7 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
8 MARYLAND, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the amount of  
9 \$1,000,000 shall be expended in fiscal year 2003 as a grant to the Board of Directors  
10 of the McCready Health Services Foundation for the purpose of creating a new 12,665  
11 square foot addition to the existing structure of the Alice B. Tawes Nursing Home in  
12 Crisfield, Somerset County.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
14 July 1, 2002.