

# CHAPTER 441

## (House Bill 949)

AN ACT concerning

### **Military Health Care Personnel – Staffing Initiative**

FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, in conjunction with the Governor's Workforce Investment Board and certain regulatory boards to ~~identify~~ make certain findings concerning certain barriers to licensing or certifying individuals who have certain training and experience in providing health care through military service that is equivalent to certain requirements for licensure or certification; ~~requiring certain regulatory boards to draft certain regulations and legislation that will expedite certain licensure and certification of individuals who have certain training and experience in providing health care through military service that is equivalent to certain requirements for licensure or certification; requiring certain regulatory boards to adopt certain regulations on or before a certain date;~~ requiring the Secretary, in conjunction with the Governor's Workforce Investment Board and certain regulatory boards to make, to report certain findings and recommendations to the General Assembly for implementation of certain legislation regarding certain ways to expedite the inclusion of individuals who have certain training and experience into a certain health care work force on or before a certain date; requiring that certain ~~identifications, regulations, and legislation~~ findings and recommendations have a certain focus; ~~determining certain identifications, regulations, and legislation~~ requiring that certain findings and recommendations be made in consultation with certain interest groups; and generally relating to a health care staffing initiative for military medical personnel.

#### Preamble

WHEREAS, Recent studies have identified a critical shortage of health care providers in many professional, technical, and supporting roles in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, The scheduled return from duty or retirement of military personnel with experience in providing health care will create an opportunity for reducing the shortage of health care providers in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, The Base Realignment and Closure process will bring tens of thousands of skilled professionals including health care providers to Maryland; and

WHEREAS, The Governor's Workforce Investment Board and other entities have identified various barriers to licensing returning military personnel as health care providers in professional, technical, and supporting roles; and

WHEREAS, Removing the identified barriers in licensing returning military personnel as health care providers will reduce the shortage of health care workers and alleviate the insufficient staffing of health care facilities including acute hospital emergency rooms and other units and in community-based medical care settings; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, in conjunction with the Governor's Workforce Investment Board and the appropriate regulatory boards for health care providers, ~~shall identify~~ shall:

(1) make findings regarding the barriers under the Health Occupations Article to licensing or certifying individuals who have training and experience in providing health care through military service that is equivalent to the training and experience required for licensure or certification under the Health Occupations Article; and

(2) report to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee on or before December 1, 2007, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, findings and recommendations regarding the most appropriate ways to expedite the inclusion of individuals who have training and experience in providing health care through military service into the State's health care work force.

~~(b) (1) In response to the identification of barriers under subsection (a) of this section, the regulatory boards shall draft regulations and legislation that will expedite the licensure or certification process for individuals who have training and experience in providing health care through military service that is equivalent to the training and experience required for licensure or certification under the Health Occupations Article.~~

~~(2) On or before December 31, 2007, the Secretary and regulatory boards shall make recommendations to the General Assembly for implementation of the legislation drafted under this subsection.~~

~~(3) By September 30, 2008, the regulatory boards shall adopt regulations drafted under this subsection.~~

~~(e) (b) The identifications findings and recommendations made under subsection (a) of this section and the regulations and legislation drafted under subsection (b) of this section shall:~~

(1) focus on meeting employment needs in:

- (i) acute hospital emergency rooms and other units; and
- (ii) community-based health care settings; and

(2) be determined in consultation with:

- (i) the Maryland Hospital Association;
- (ii) the American College of Emergency Physicians, Maryland
- (iii) the Maryland State Medical Society;
- (iv) the Maryland Nurses Association;
- (v) the Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants; and
- (vi) any other interest group determined to be appropriate by the

Chapter;

Secretary.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October~~ June 1, 2007.

**Approved by the Governor, May 8, 2007.**