

Chapter 512

(House Bill 1353)

AN ACT concerning

Veterans Affairs – Military Health Care Provider Transition Plan

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs to develop a Military Health Care Provider Transition Plan; providing for the purpose of the Plan; requiring the Department to work in conjunction with certain entities; requiring the Plan to include certain goals; requiring the Department to address the concerns and recommendations identified in a certain report; requiring the Department to complete the Plan by a certain date; requiring the Department to submit to the Governor and General Assembly ~~a certain report~~ reports; and generally relating to the Military Health Care Provider Transition Plan.

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

(a) The Department of Veterans Affairs shall develop a Military Health Care Provider Transition Plan.

(b) The purpose of the Plan is to increase the number of veterans, including current and former members of the Reserve forces and National Guard, with expertise in health care workforce shortage areas to transition into civilian health care provider positions.

(c) The Department shall work in conjunction with the following:

- (1) the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;
- (2) the Department of Housing and Community Development;
- (3) the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation; ~~and~~
- (4) the Governor's Workforce Investment Board; and
- (5) the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

(d) The Plan shall include specific goals for the recruitment of qualified individuals in each of the health care workforce shortage areas, including:

(1) the specific professional or technical workforce shortage areas to be targeted; and

(2) the number of qualified individuals needed for each workforce shortage area.

(e) The Department shall address the concerns and recommendations identified in the Report of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene as required under Chapter 441 of the Acts of 2007, Identifying and Breaking Down Barriers: Easing the Transition from Active Duty to Civilian Health Care Provider, ~~including consideration of:~~

~~(1) removing barriers to licensure or certification of qualified individuals, including facilitating employment of individuals by:~~

~~(i) providing a temporary limited license;~~

~~(ii) providing registration of unlicensed personnel working under supervision;~~

~~(iii) enhancing educational opportunities for qualifying individuals; or~~

~~(iv) any other appropriate means;~~

~~(2) facilitating housing incentives for qualified individuals who work in the civilian health care sector;~~

~~(3) providing tax incentives for qualified individuals to remain in or relocate to Maryland; and~~

~~(4) developing a network of employment opportunities.~~

(f) The Department shall complete the Plan on or before December 1, ~~2010~~ 2011.

(g) On or before December 1, 2010, the Department shall submit an interim report on its findings to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

~~(g)~~ (h) On or before January 1, ~~2011~~ 2012, the Department shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October~~ July 1, 2010.

Approved by the Governor, May 20, 2010.