

SENATE BILL 928

J2, J1

6lr2872
CF 6lr2839

By: **Senators Middleton and Nathan-Pulliam**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2016

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Nurse Shortage in Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Nurse Shortage in Maryland;
4 providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a
5 member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the
6 reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make
7 recommendations regarding certain matters relating to changes in the nursing
8 profession that have resulted in a shortage of nurses in the State and nation;
9 requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor
10 and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination
11 of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the Nurse Shortage in
12 Maryland.

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

15 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Nurse Shortage in Maryland.

16 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

17 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
18 the Senate;

19 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
20 the House;

21 (3) the Secretary of Higher Education, or the Secretary's designee;

22 (4) a representative of the State Board of Nursing, appointed by the
23 Executive Director of the State Board of Nursing;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (5) a representative of the University of Maryland, Baltimore, appointed
2 by the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland;

3 (6) two representatives from independent colleges and universities in the
4 State, appointed by the Maryland Independent Colleges and Universities Association;

5 (7) three representatives of community colleges in the State, appointed by
6 the Maryland Association of Community Colleges;

7 (8) a representative of the Maryland Nurses Association, appointed by the
8 Executive Director of the Maryland Nurses Association;

9 (9) a representative of the Maryland Organization of Nurse Executives,
10 appointed by the President of the Board of Directors of the Maryland Organization of Nurse
11 Executives; and

12 (10) a representative of the Maryland Hospital Association, appointed by
13 the President of the Maryland Hospital Association.

14 (c) The Task Force shall elect a chair of the Task Force from among its appointed
15 members.

16 (d) The Maryland Higher Education Commission shall provide staff for the Task
17 Force.

18 (e) A member of the Task Force:

19 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

20 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
21 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

22 (f) The Task Force shall:

23 (1) study recent changes in the nursing profession that have resulted in a
24 shortage of nurses in the State and nation, including a review and analysis of:

25 (i) anticipated changes in requirements for nurses in the State;

26 (ii) the changing educational requirements for nurses in the State;

27 (iii) the changing role of the nursing profession relating to the federal
28 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act;

29 (iv) the capacity of institutions of higher education in the State to
30 meet the increased demand for nurses, including the number of practicing registered nurses
31 that will need to enroll in a bachelor's of science in nursing degree completion program and

1 the number of enrolled community college students that will need to enroll in a bachelor's
2 of science in nursing degree completion program;

3 (v) issues related to the current model and any alternate models of
4 bachelor's of science in nursing degree completion programs, including access, cost,
5 eligibility requirements, and length of time necessary to complete a program;

6 (vi) the economic impact of developing and implementing alternate
7 models of bachelor's of science in nursing degree completion programs on universities,
8 colleges, community colleges, and clinical agencies;

9 (vii) the ability of institutions of higher education in the State to meet
10 the educational needs of existing registered nurses in the State who may be required to
11 obtain a bachelor's of science in nursing degree;

12 (viii) limits on employment opportunities for nurses with an
13 associate's degree in nursing;

14 (ix) the financial impact on hospitals that have hired nurses with an
15 associate's degree in nursing;

16 (x) the limits placed on clinical placements for nursing education,
17 including the capacity of hospitals and outpatient facilities to meet the demand for clinical
18 education for entry into the practice of nursing; and

19 (xi) any other issues the Task Force considers relevant; and

20 (2) make findings and recommendations on the issues studied under
21 paragraph (1) of this subsection.

22 (g) On or before December 31, 2016, the Task Force shall report its findings and
23 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
24 Government Article, the General Assembly.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
26 1, 2016. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June
27 30, 2017, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
28 abrogated and of no further force and effect.