

HOUSE BILL 1415

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2000 Regular Session  
0lr3015  
CF 0lr3018

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By: **Delegates Conway and Bozman**

Introduced and read first time: March 6, 2000

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **McCready Health Services Foundation - Alice B. Tawes Nursing Home -**  
3 **Cigarette Restitution Fund**

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

8 **Preamble**

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

14 WHEREAS, Somerset County ranks first in the State for deaths from lung  
15 cancer for the period from 1990 to 1997; and

16 WHEREAS, The volume of cancer patients at the Edward W. McCready  
17 Memorial Hospital in Crisfield in Somerset County has more than doubled during the  
18 period from 1996 to 1999; and

19 WHEREAS, The average death rate in Somerset County due to malignant  
20 neoplasms was over 45% higher than the statewide average for the period from 1990  
21 to 1997; and

22 WHEREAS, Somerset County ranks first in the State for deaths from heart  
23 disease for the period from 1996 to 1997; and

24 WHEREAS, The volume of heart disease patients at the Edward W. McCready  
25 Memorial Hospital has more than quadrupled during the period from 1996 to 1999;  
26 and

1 WHEREAS, Diagnostic Related Group (DRG) data from all Maryland  
2 hospitals validates Somerset County's disproportionate increase in cancer and heart  
3 disease patients; and

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

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

8 WHEREAS, Of the current residents at the Alice B. Tawes Nursing Home,  
9 which is a part of the McCready health care facilities in Crisfield, 86% have heart  
10 disease, 17% have Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary disease (COPD), and 3% have  
11 cancer; now, therefore,

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
13 MARYLAND, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, from the funds in the  
14 Cigarette Restitution Fund established under § 7-317 of the State Finance and  
15 Procurement Article, the amount of \$1,800,000 shall be expended in fiscal year 2001  
16 as a grant to the Board of Directors of the McCready Health Services Foundation for  
17 the purpose of the creation of a new 12,665 square foot addition to the existing  
18 structure of the Alice B. Tawes Nursing Home, in Crisfield, Somerset County.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
20 October 1, 2000.