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2000 Regular Session 0lr3018 CF 0lr3015

By: Senator Stoltzfus

Introduced and read first time: March 6, 2000

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

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