

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 311 (Senator Hollinger)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Statewide Commission on the Crisis in Nursing

This emergency bill creates a Statewide Commission on the Crisis in Nursing, to be chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). The Secretary must appoint nine vice chairs, as specified, and designate subcommittees, various subcommittee chairs and vice chairs, and subcommittee participants.

The Secretary must also convene a “Crisis in Nursing” summit to respond to the nursing shortage in Maryland. Participants in the summit include the Secretary, commission vice chairpersons, and various members of nursing associations, nursing schools, State agencies, the General Assembly, hospital associations, and unions.

In addition to the issues identified and prioritized as a result of the summit, the commission must determine the current extent and long-term implications of the growing nursing shortage in Maryland, including: (1) evaluating mechanisms currently available intended to enhance education, recruitment, and retention of nurses and to improve the quality of care; and (2) assessing the impact of nursing shortages on access to and the delivery of quality patient care. The commission must also develop recommendations on, and facilitate implementation of, strategies to reverse the growing shortage of qualified nursing personnel, and advise public and private entities on how to facilitate implementation of the commission’s recommendations. The commission must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly in an interim report within six months of being appointed and in an annual report on January 1 of each year.

The bill sunsets on December 1, 2005.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: \$40,400 special fund expenditure increase for the Board of Nursing for FY 2001. Future year expenditures reflect annualization and inflation. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
SF Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SF Expenditures	40,400	36,000	37,700	39,400	41,200
Net Effect	(\$40,400)	(\$36,000)	(\$37,700)	(\$39,400)	(\$41,200)

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: No commission exists to study the crisis in nursing.

State Fiscal Effect: Special fund expenditures for the Board of Nursing will increase by an estimated \$40,356 for fiscal 2001. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one half-time nursing consultant to prepare research, manage the daily activities of the commission, and prepare the commission's annual report. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$31,963
Travel Reimbursement for Commission Members	2,500
Other Operating Expenses	<u>5,893</u>
Total FY 2001 Expenditures:	\$40,356

Future year expenditures reflect: (1) a full salary with 4.5% annual increases and 3% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 363 (Delegates Mandel and Goldwater) - Environmental Matters.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Board of Nursing),

Department of Legislative Services

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