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By: **Delegates Mandel and Goldwater**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2001

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education - Nursing Scholarships - Awards**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the maximum annual award and the maximum total  
4 award for a nursing scholarship under the program of Economic Development  
5 Student Assistance Grants; increasing the maximum annual award and the  
6 maximum total award for an additional grant that may be awarded to nursing  
7 scholarship recipients under the program; increasing the maximum award for a  
8 nursing scholarship for certain nursing students; and generally relating to  
9 nursing scholarships under the program of Economic Development Student  
10 Assistance Grants.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article - Education  
13 Section 18-706  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
17 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article - Education**

19 18-706.

20 (a) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

21 (1) "Eligible organization" means an institution, including a licensed  
22 hospital, nursing home, adult day care center, public health agency, home health  
23 agency, or other organization authorized by the Secretary of Health and Mental  
24 Hygiene.

25 (2) "Eligible institution" means an institution of postsecondary  
26 education:

27 (i) Approved to operate by the Maryland Higher Education  
28 Commission; and

(ii) That awards nursing degrees or diplomas.

(3) "Nursing shortage area" means a recognized area of nursing service or specialization determined by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to be an area where there exists a shortage of qualified nurses in eligible organizations.

(4) "Nursing student" means a student enrolled in a postsecondary nursing education degree or diploma program at an eligible institution.

(5) "Service obligation" means employment as a nurse in a nursing shortage area in an eligible organization.

(b) (1) Economic Development Student Assistance Grants may be awarded as scholarships for nursing students in nursing shortage areas.

(2) (i) The nursing scholarship awarded under this section shall be in the amount of tuition and fees not to exceed [\$2,400] \$5,000 annually for a full-time student or a prorated award according to the number of credit hours taken by a part-time student.

(ii) Each award shall be renewable on an annual basis up to a maximum amount of [\$9,600] \$20,000, if the recipient:

1. Remains a resident of this State;
2. Enrolls in an eligible institution;
3. Maintains a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent; and
4. Makes satisfactory progress toward the nursing degree or diploma according to the standards of the eligible institution attended.

(3) (I) FOR A NURSING STUDENT ENROLLED IN A NURSING PROGRAM, INCLUDING MANDATORY SUMMER ACADEMIC SESSIONS THAT ARE A REQUIRED PART OF THE APPROVED CURRICULUM, THE NURSING SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE IN THE AMOUNT OF TUITION AND FEES NOT TO EXCEED \$7,500 PER CALENDAR YEAR.

(II) EACH AWARD SHALL BE RENEWABLE ON AN ANNUAL BASIS UP TO A MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF \$20,000, IF THE RECIPIENT:

1. REMAINS A RESIDENT OF THE STATE;
2. ENROLLS IN A NURSING PROGRAM AT AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION;
3. MAINTAINS A GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF AT LEAST 3.0 ON A 4.0 SCALE OR ITS EQUIVALENT; AND

1 4. MAKES SATISFACTORY PROGRESS TOWARD THE NURSING  
2 DEGREE OR DIPLOMA ACCORDING TO THE STANDARDS OF THE ELIGIBLE  
3 INSTITUTION ATTENDED.

4 (c) Each recipient of the nursing scholarship awarded under this section shall:

5                   (1)       Be a nursing student;

6 (2) Have a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or its  
7 equivalent;

8 (3) Be selected by the Administration on a competitive basis from among  
9 the qualified applicants based on academic criteria established by the Commission;  
10 and

11                   (4)       Perform the service obligation.

(d) (1) Each recipient of a nursing scholarship awarded under this section may be entitled, based on financial need, to an additional grant to meet living costs not to exceed [\$2,400] \$5,000 annually for a full-time student or a prorated award according to the number of credit hours taken by a part-time student.

(2) Each additional grant shall be renewable on an annual basis up to a maximum amount of [\$9,600] \$20,000, if the recipient meets the requirements for continuing the scholarship award under subsection (b)(2)(ii) of this section.

19           (3)       The Administration shall require a recipient of a nursing scholarship  
20 who seeks an additional grant for living costs to provide information to the  
21 Administration sufficient to assure that the student has a definite financial need.

(e) The Commission shall establish and publish rules and regulations to administer the grants awarded under this section.

24 (f) Funds for the nursing scholarships awarded under this section shall be as  
25 provided in the annual budget of the Commission by the Governor.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
27 June 1, 2001.