

SENATE BILL 618

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2001 Regular Session
1r1875

By: **Senator Hollinger**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2001

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 14, 2001

CHAPTER_____

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; and generally relating to nursing
8 scholarships under the program of Economic Development Student Assistance
9 Grants.

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

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

17 **Article - Education**

18 18-706.

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

20 (1) "Eligible organization" means an institution, including a licensed
21 hospital, nursing home, adult day care center, public health agency, home health

1 agency, or other organization authorized by the Secretary of Health and Mental
2 Hygiene.

3 (2) "Eligible institution" means an institution of postsecondary
4 education:

5 (i) Approved to operate by the Maryland Higher Education
6 Commission; and

7 (ii) That awards nursing degrees or diplomas.

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

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

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

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

17 (2) (i) The nursing scholarship awarded under this section shall be in
18 the amount of tuition and fees not to exceed [\$2,400] ~~\$4,000~~ \$3,000 annually for a
19 full-time student or a prorated award according to the number of credit hours taken
20 by a part-time student.

21 (ii) Each award shall be renewable on an annual basis up to a
22 maximum amount of [\$9,600] ~~\$16,000~~ \$12,000, if the recipient:

23 1. Remains a resident of this State;

24 2. Enrolls in an eligible institution;

25 3. Maintains a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0
26 scale or its equivalent; and

27 4. Makes satisfactory progress toward the nursing degree or
28 diploma according to the standards of the eligible institution attended.

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

30 (1) Be a nursing student;

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

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

4 (4) Perform the service obligation.

5 (d) (1) Each recipient of a nursing scholarship awarded under this section
6 may be entitled, based on financial need, to an additional grant to meet living costs
7 not to exceed [\$2,400] ~~\$4,000~~ \$3,000 annually for a full-time student or a prorated
8 award according to the number of credit hours taken by a part-time student.

9 (2) Each additional grant shall be renewable on an annual basis up to a
10 maximum amount of [\$9,600] ~~\$16,000~~ \$12,000, if the recipient meets the
11 requirements for continuing the scholarship award under subsection (b)(2)(ii) of this
12 section.

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

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

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

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 July 1, 2001.