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By: **Delegates Mandel, Goldwater, and Nathan-Pulliam**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2002

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2                           **Statewide Commission on the Crisis in Nursing - Study of the Use of**  
3                           **Technology to Assist Nurses in Caring for Patients**

4 FOR the purpose of adding certain representatives to the Statewide Commission on  
5 the Crisis in Nursing; requiring the Commission to identify a technology-driven  
6 point of care application to accomplish certain goals; and generally relating to  
7 the Statewide Commission on the Crisis in Nursing and the use of technology in  
8 nursing.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
10 Article - Health Occupations  
11 Section 8-7B-01(a)  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
15 Article - Health Occupations  
16 Section 8-7B-01(b) and (d)  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

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

21                           **Article - Health Occupations**

22 8-7B-01.

23 (a) There is a Statewide Commission on the Crisis in Nursing.

24 (b) The Commission consists of at least the following members:

25 (1) The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene;

- 1                   (2)     The Secretary of Business and Economic Development, or the  
2 Secretary's designee;
- 3                   (3)     The Superintendent of the State Board of Education or the  
4 Superintendent's designee;
- 5                   (4)     The Secretary of the Maryland Higher Education Commission, or the  
6 Secretary's designee;
- 7                   (5)     The Executive Director of the Health Services Cost Review  
8 Commission, or the Executive Director's designee;
- 9                   (6)     The Director of the Mental Hygiene Administration, or a nurse  
10 designated by the Director;
- 11                  (7)     The dean of a university-based school of nursing;
- 12                  (8)     One practicing nurse;
- 13                  (9)     A school health nurse;
- 14                  (10)    A representative of the disability services community who is a nurse;
- 15                  (11)    A public health nurse;
- 16                  (12)    A hospital representative, who is a nursing director;
- 17                  (13)    A nursing representative, who is a nursing director of a nonprofit  
18 nursing home;
- 19                  (14)    A nursing home representative, who is a nursing director of a  
20 for-profit nursing home;
- 21                  (15)    A union representative, who is a nurse;
- 22                  (16)    A representative of a temporary nurse staffing agency;
- 23                  (17)    A home care nurse;
- 24                  (18)    A student nurse representative;
- 25                  (19)    A physician;
- 26                  (20)    A practicing critical care nurse;
- 27                  (21)    A practicing rehabilitation nurse;
- 28                  (22)    A practicing behavioral home health nurse;
- 29                  (23)    A practicing perioperative nurse;
- 30                  (24)    A practicing occupational health nurse;

- 1 (25) A practicing perianesthesia nurse;
- 2 (26) A practicing gastroenterology nurse;
- 3 (27) A practicing ophthalmic nurse;
- 4 (28) A practicing emergency nurse;
- 5 (29) A practicing oncology nurse;
- 6 (30) A representative of the Maryland Association of Community Support  
7 Services;
- 8 (31) A representative of a managed care organization operating in the  
9 State;
- 10 (32) A consumer representative;
- 11 (33) A nurse recruiter;
- 12 (34) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE HOSPICE INDUSTRY;
- 13 (35) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE HOME HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY;
- 14 (36) Two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of  
15 the House; and
- 16 [(35)] (37) Two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the  
17 President of the Senate.
- 18 (d) The Commission shall:
- 19 (1) Convene a crisis in nursing summit to respond to the nursing  
20 shortage in the State;
- 21 (2) In addition to the issues identified and prioritized as a result of the  
22 summit convened under item (1) of this subsection, determine the current extent and  
23 long-term implications of the growing nursing personnel shortage in the State,  
24 including:
- 25 (i) An evaluation of mechanisms currently available in the State  
26 and elsewhere intended to enhance education, recruitment, and retention of nurses in  
27 the workforce and to improve quality of care;
- 28 (ii) An assessment of the impact of shortages in nursing personnel  
29 on access to, and the delivery of, quality patient care;
- 30 (3) Develop recommendations on, and facilitate implementation of,  
31 strategies to reverse the growing shortage of qualified nursing personnel in the State,  
32 including:

1 (i) Determining what changes are needed to existing programs,  
2 current scholarship programs, and funding mechanisms to better reflect and  
3 accommodate the changing health care delivery environment and to improve quality  
4 of care to meet the needs of patients;

5 (ii) Facilitating career advancement within nursing;

6 (iii) Identifying more accurately specific shortage areas in a more  
7 timely manner;

8 (iv) Attracting middle and high school students into nursing as a  
9 career; [and]

10 (v) IDENTIFYING A TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN POINT-OF-CARE  
11 APPLICATION TO:

12 1. MAXIMIZE NURSING PRODUCTIVITY AND INCREASE THE  
13 QUALITY OF PATIENT CARE; AND

14 2. IMPROVE THE WORK ENVIRONMENT AND  
15 INFRASTRUCTURE IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES; AND

16 (VI) Projecting a more positive and professional image of nursing;  
17 and

18 (4) Serve as an advisor to public and private entities to facilitate  
19 implementation of the recommendations of the Commission.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
21 July 1, 2002.