

(PRE-FILED)

---

By: **Senator Teitelbaum**  
Requested: November 5, 2001  
Introduced and read first time: January 9, 2002  
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

---

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
Senate action: Adopted  
Read second time: February 6, 2002

---

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

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

4 FOR the purpose of ~~establishing a Task Force to Study the Use of Technology to Assist~~  
5 ~~Nurses in Caring for Patients; specifying the membership and duties of the Task~~  
6 ~~Force; providing for the appointment of a chairperson of the Task Force;~~  
7 ~~providing for staffing of the Task Force; providing for meetings of the Task~~  
8 ~~Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain~~  
9 ~~compensation; authorizing a member of the Task Force to receive~~  
10 ~~reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to report to the~~  
11 ~~Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for~~  
12 ~~the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the establishment of a Task~~  
13 ~~Force to Study the Use of Technology to Assist Nurses in Caring for Patients~~  
14 requiring the Statewide Commission on the Crisis in Nursing to identify a  
15 technology driven point of care application to accomplish certain goals; and  
16 generally relating to the Statewide Commission on the Crisis in Nursing and the  
17 use of technology in nursing.

18 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
19 Article - Health Occupations  
20 Section 8-7B-01(a)  
21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
22 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

23 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
24 Article - Health Occupations

1 Section 8-7B-01(d)  
2 Annotated Code of Maryland  
3 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

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

6 ~~(a) There is a Task Force to Study the Use of Technology to Assist Nurses in~~  
7 ~~Caring for Patients.~~

8 ~~(b) The Task Force shall consist of the following members:~~

9 ~~(1) Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the~~  
10 ~~Senate;~~

11 ~~(2) Two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of~~  
12 ~~the House; and~~

13 ~~(3) Ten members appointed by the Governor as follows:~~

14 ~~(i) Two members from the Maryland Nurses Association;~~

15 ~~(ii) Two representatives from the nursing home industry;~~

16 ~~(iii) Two representatives from the hospital industry; and~~

17 ~~(iv) Four consumer representatives.~~

18 ~~(e) The Governor shall appoint the chairperson of the Task Force.~~

19 ~~(d) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall provide the staffing~~  
20 ~~for the Task Force.~~

21 ~~(e) The Task Force shall meet at least once each month.~~

22 ~~(f) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation for service on~~  
23 ~~the Task Force, but shall be reimbursed for expenses under the Standard State Travel~~  
24 ~~Regulations, as provided in the State budget.~~

25 ~~(g) The Task Force shall:~~

26 ~~(1) Study the current use of computerized technology by the nursing~~  
27 ~~community in providing patient care;~~

28 ~~(2) Identify technology driven point of care applications to maximize~~  
29 ~~nursing operational efficiency and improve the quality of patient care in each of the~~  
30 ~~following areas:~~

31 ~~(i) Hospitals and related institutions;~~

32 ~~(ii) Residential treatment centers;~~

- 1 (iii) ~~Freestanding medical facilities;~~
- 2 (iv) ~~Freestanding ambulatory care facilities;~~
- 3 (v) ~~Home health agencies;~~
- 4 (vi) ~~Residential service agencies;~~
- 5 (vii) ~~Chronic disease centers;~~
- 6 (viii) ~~Hospice care facilities;~~
- 7 (ix) ~~Comprehensive physical rehabilitation facilities;~~
- 8 (x) ~~Nursing homes; and~~
- 9 (xi) ~~Assisted living programs; and~~
- 10 (3) ~~Develop recommendations to implement the use of computerized~~  
 11 ~~technology to increase nursing productivity and the quality of patient care.~~
- 12 (h) ~~The Task Force shall submit a final report to the General Assembly on or~~  
 13 ~~before January 10, 2003.~~

14 **Article - Health Occupations**

15 8-7B-01.

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

17 (d) The Commission shall:

18 (1) Convene a crisis in nursing summit to respond to the nursing  
 19 shortage in the State;

20 (2) In addition to the issues identified and prioritized as a result of the  
 21 summit convened under item (1) of this subsection, determine the current extent and  
 22 long-term implications of the growing nursing personnel shortage in the State,  
 23 including:

24 (i) An evaluation of mechanisms currently available in the State  
 25 and elsewhere intended to enhance education, recruitment, and retention of nurses in  
 26 the workforce and to improve quality of care;

27 (ii) An assessment of the impact of shortages in nursing personnel  
 28 on access to, and the delivery of, quality patient care;

29 (3) Develop recommendations on, and facilitate implementation of,  
 30 strategies to reverse the growing shortage of qualified nursing personnel in the State,  
 31 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 INFRASTRUCTURE  
 15 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. ~~It shall remain effective for a period of 7 months and 10 days and, at the~~  
 22 ~~end of January 10, 2003, with no further action required by the General Assembly,~~  
 23 ~~this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.~~