

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 1113  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Parrott, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Institutions of Higher Education - Nursing Education Program Assessment

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This bill requires the State Board of Nursing to provide written notification within 15 days after it determines that a nursing education program offered at an institution of higher education in Maryland falls below testing standards and is subject to removal from the list of approved nursing education programs. Notification must be provided to: (1) each member of the local governing body where the principal campus of the institution is located; and (2) each member of the General Assembly who represents the county where the principal campus of the institution is located.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2004.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The State Board of Nursing could provide the required notifications with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** Local finances would not be materially affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** The State Board of Nursing sets standards for nursing education programs in Maryland. Before an institution may implement a nursing education program, it must receive the approval of the board. The board may rescind its approval if a program fails to meet the board's standards.

**Background:** Test scores for the nursing program at Harford Community College fell just below State Board of Nursing standards last academic year. As is the normal procedure, the board sent a letter to the nursing program notifying it that its test scores had fallen below the standard and that its performance must improve. The State Board of Nursing could strip the program of its accreditation if scores remain below the standard for several years, but one year of sub-par test scores does not jeopardize a program's approval.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (State Board of Nursing), Maryland Higher Education Commission, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 12, 2004  
ncs/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - April 5, 2004

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