

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1099 (Delegate Mandel, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations

Statewide Commission on the Nursing Workforce

This bill creates a Statewide Commission on the Nursing Workforce, without a termination date, to replace the existing Statewide Commission on the Crisis in Nursing. The existing commission must develop a plan for appointing the initial members of the new workforce commission. This provision of the bill takes effect July 1, 2005. Otherwise, the bill takes effect January 1, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund expenditures would be maintained for the commission beyond FY 2006 as the existing commission transitions into the new commission. The existing commission's FY 2006 budget allowance is \$118,871. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The commission must: (1) assess, monitor, and evaluate the current and long-term impact of the nursing workforce on access to, and delivery of, safe, quality health care; (2) develop and implement a standardized statewide system of data collection on the nursing workforce; (3) establish committees to address issues and make recommendations related to the nursing workforce and delivery of safe, quality health care; (4) serve as an advisor to public and private entities to facilitate implementation of nursing workforce strategies; (5) develop strategies for increasing ethnic and cultural diversity in the nursing workforce; and (6) provide for an annual meeting on the State's nursing workforce and issues related to quality nursing and health care.

The commission may appoint an advisory committee to assist with implementing strategies. The commission must report annually to the nursing community and the public on the state of the nursing workforce in Maryland. The State Board of Nursing must staff the commission.

Current Law: Chapters 257 and 258 of 2000 created the Statewide Commission on the Crisis in Nursing. The commission is charged with: (1) developing recommendations on, and facilitating the implementation of, strategies to reverse the growing shortage of qualified nursing personnel; and (2) advising public and private entities on how to facilitate implementation of the commission's recommendations. The commission terminates December 1, 2005.

Chapter 231 of 2002 required the commission to identify a technology-driven point-of-care application, in consultation with an individual with expertise in technology-driven point-of-care applications, to: (1) maximize nursing productivity and increase the quality of patient care; and (2) improve the work environment infrastructure in health care facilities.

Background: The commission's technology workgroup issued six recommendations on how technology could be used to address the nursing shortage. The recommendations are: (1) analyze technology usage among Maryland nurses; (2) diffuse technology knowledge on the latest trends and lessons learned; (3) leverage education dollars through coordinated student projects; (4) improve awareness of funding opportunities for technology-related projects; (5) explore revolving loan funds to finance technology infrastructure projects in health care; and (6) introduce a "Best Use of Technology" in nursing annual award.

State Expenditures: Special fund expenditures for the commission would be maintained beyond fiscal 2006 because the bill replaces the existing commission with a reconfigured commission on the same topic. The existing commission's fiscal 2006 budget allowance is \$118,871, which provides a full year of funding.

The State Board of Nursing states that it would need to hire an additional contractual full-time nursing program administrator/consultant because existing staff (one full-time nursing program administrator/consultant and one full-time secretary) are currently overburdened with staffing duties and the board expects that to continue under the new commission. However, the board currently is managing its commission staffing duties and Legislative Services does not believe that the bill would result in any additional duties that would necessitate the hiring of an additional person.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; *Technology's Role in Addressing Maryland's Nursing Shortage: Innovations & Examples*, Technology Workgroup, Maryland Statewide Commission on the Crisis in Nursing, January 2004; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 15, 2005
mam/ljm

Analysis by: Lisa A. Daigle

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510