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By: **The Speaker (By Request - Administration) and Delegates Eckardt, Aumann, Boschert, Boteler, Cluster, Cryor, Donoghue, Edwards, Elliott, Elmore, Gaines, Gilleland, Goldwater, Heller, Hubbard, Jameson, Jennings, Kaiser, Kelly, King, Kirk, Kohl, Krebs, Kullen, Leopold, Malone, McHale, McKee, Moe, Morhaim, Myers, Nathan-Pulliam, O'Donnell, Parker, Parrott, Proctor, Shank, Shewell, Sossi, Stocksdale, Stull, F. Turner, Walkup, Weir, Weldon, and Zirkin**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2006

Assigned to: Appropriations and Health and Government Operations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education - Nurse Support Program Assistance Fund**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Nurse Support Program Assistance Fund in the  
4 Maryland Higher Education Commission; establishing a funding source for the  
5 Fund; providing for expenditures from the Fund; requiring the Fund to be used  
6 for certain purposes; and generally relating to the Nurse Support Program  
7 Assistance Fund.

8 BY adding to  
9 Article - Education  
10 Section 11-404  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

15 **Article - Education**

16 11-404.

17 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "FUND" MEANS THE NURSE SUPPORT PROGRAM  
18 ASSISTANCE FUND.

19 (B) (1) THERE IS A NURSE SUPPORT PROGRAM ASSISTANCE FUND IN THE  
20 COMMISSION.

21 (2) THE FUND IS A CONTINUING, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT  
22 SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

1           (3)     THE TREASURER SHALL SEPARATELY HOLD AND THE COMPTROLLER  
2 SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

3           (4)     THE FUND SHALL BE INVESTED AND REINVESTED IN THE SAME  
4 MANNER AS OTHER STATE FUNDS.

5           (5)     ANY INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE PAID INTO  
6 THE FUND.

7       (C)     THE FUND CONSISTS OF REVENUE GENERATED THROUGH AN INCREASE  
8 TO THE RATE STRUCTURE OF ALL HOSPITALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 19-211 OF THE  
9 HEALTH - GENERAL ARTICLE.

10       (D)     EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND SHALL BE MADE BY AN APPROPRIATION  
11 IN THE ANNUAL STATE BUDGET OR BY APPROVED BUDGET AMENDMENT AS  
12 PROVIDED UNDER § 7-209 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

13       (E)     THE MONEY IN THE FUND SHALL BE USED FOR COMPETITIVE GRANTS  
14 AND STATEWIDE GRANTS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF QUALIFIED BEDSIDE  
15 NURSES IN MARYLAND HOSPITALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GUIDELINES  
16 ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSION AND THE HEALTH SERVICES COST REVIEW  
17 COMMISSION.

18       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
19 effect June 1, 2006.