

ENROLLED BILL

-- Health and Government Operations/Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs --

Introduced by **Delegates Mandel, Bronrott, Frush, Goldwater, Gutierrez, Hammen, Howard, Jameson, Kaiser, Lawton, Lee, Madaleno, McDonough, Morhaim, Parker, and Sophocleus**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this
____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, ____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Statewide Commission on the Shortage in the Health Care Workforce**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Statewide Commission on the Shortage in the
4 Health Care Workforce; providing for the membership of the Commission;
5 authorizing the Commission to consult with certain individuals and entities in
6 performing the duties of the Commission; requiring the Secretary of Health and
7 Mental Hygiene to chair the Commission, make certain appointments to the
8 Commission, and establish certain subcommittees; providing for the duties of
9 the Commission; requiring the Commission to make certain recommendations;
10 requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to provide staff
11 support to the Commission; requiring the Commission to make a certain annual
12 report to the Governor and General Assembly on a certain date; providing that
13 members of the Commission are entitled to a certain reimbursement; providing
14 for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Statewide
15 Commission on the Shortage in the Health Care Workforce.

1 BY adding to
 2 Article - Health Occupations
 3 Section 1-601 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 6. Statewide Commission
 4 on the Shortage in the Health Care Workforce"
 5 Annotated Code of Maryland
 6 (2005 Replacement Volume)

7 Preamble

8 WHEREAS, The health care industry is one of the top economic engines of the
 9 State; and

10 WHEREAS, There is a nationally identified shortage of workers in many health
 11 care fields; and

12 ~~WHEREAS, A recent study by the Center for Health Workforce Development~~
 13 ~~WHEREAS, Recent studies have identified critical shortages in Maryland of~~
 14 ~~health care professionals and workers, including laboratory technicians and mental~~
 15 ~~health specialists, radiologic technicians, respiratory therapists, and physical~~
 16 ~~therapists, in many important health care fields including nursing and pharmacy;~~
 17 and

18 WHEREAS, Individuals in rural and underserved areas of Maryland are at risk
 19 due to a shortage in Maryland of physicians, nurses, and other health care
 20 professionals and workers; and

21 WHEREAS, Access to care, the delivery of quality care, and patient safety are
 22 dependent on the availability of an adequate supply of well-educated and trained
 23 health care professionals and workers, the backbone of the health care delivery
 24 system; now, therefore

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

27 **Article - Health Occupations**

28 SUBTITLE 6. STATEWIDE COMMISSION ON THE SHORTAGE IN THE HEALTH CARE
 29 WORKFORCE.

30 1-601.

31 (A) THERE IS A STATEWIDE COMMISSION ON THE SHORTAGE IN THE HEALTH
 32 CARE WORKFORCE.

33 (B) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

34 (1) ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE
 35 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

- 1 (2) ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE
2 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;
- 3 (3) THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE;
- 4 (4) THE SECRETARY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT;
- 5 (5) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, OR THE STATE
6 SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE;
- 7 (6) THE SECRETARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, OR THE SECRETARY'S
8 DESIGNEE;
- 9 (7) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND
10 WITH KNOWLEDGE OF HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE ISSUES, APPOINTED BY THE
11 CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND;
- 12 (8) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM A COMMUNITY COLLEGE THAT OFFERS
13 DEGREES TO HEALTH CARE WORKERS, APPOINTED BY THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION
14 OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES;
- 15 (9) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM AN INDEPENDENT COLLEGE THAT
16 OFFERS DEGREES TO HEALTH CARE WORKERS, APPOINTED BY THE MARYLAND
17 INDEPENDENT COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION;
- 18 (10) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH
19 AND HEALTH DISPARITIES OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;
- 20 (11) ~~THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR HEALTH~~
21 ~~WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT THE PRESIDENT~~ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE RURAL
22 MARYLAND COUNCIL OR THE PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;
- 23 (12) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE GREATER BALTIMORE REGIONAL
24 BUSINESS COMMUNITY WITH KNOWLEDGE OF HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE ISSUES,
25 APPOINTED BY THE GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE;
- 26 (13) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE GREATER WASHINGTON REGIONAL
27 BUSINESS COMMUNITY WITH KNOWLEDGE OF HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE ISSUES,
28 APPOINTED BY THE COMMITTEE FOR MONTGOMERY;
- 29 (14) A UNION REPRESENTATIVE WHO IS A HEALTH CARE WORKER,
30 CHOSEN FROM A LIST SUBMITTED BY UNIONS THAT REPRESENT HEALTH CARE
31 WORKERS;
- 32 (15) A STUDENT HEALTH CARE WORKER REPRESENTATIVE, CHOSEN
33 FROM A LIST SUBMITTED BY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT EDUCATE
34 HEALTH CARE WORKERS;
- 35 (16) ~~THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR~~ PRESIDENT OF THE MARYLAND
36 HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION OR THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE;

1 (17) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE LONG-TERM CARE INDUSTRY;

2 (18) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH CARE
3 INDUSTRY; ~~AND~~

4 (19) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM A COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH
5 PROGRAM OPERATING IN THE PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM;

6 (20) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM A MEDICAL LABORATORY; AND

7 ~~(19)~~ ~~(20)~~ (21) A CONSUMER OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

8 (C) IN PERFORMING ITS DUTIES, THE COMMISSION MAY CONSULT WITH
9 INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES THAT THE SECRETARY DEEMS APPROPRIATE.

10 (D) (1) THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE SHALL:

11 (I) CHAIR THE COMMISSION;

12 (II) APPOINT THE NONDESIGNATED MEMBERSHIP OF THE
13 COMMISSION; AND

14 (III) ESTABLISH SUBCOMMITTEES AND APPOINT SUBCOMMITTEE
15 CHAIRS AS NECESSARY TO FACILITATE THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION.

16 (2) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE
17 COMMISSION SHALL REASONABLY REFLECT THE GEOGRAPHIC, RACIAL, ETHNIC,
18 CULTURAL, AND GENDER DIVERSITY OF THIS STATE.

19 (E) THE COMMISSION SHALL:

20 (1) DETERMINE THE CURRENT EXTENT OF THE HEALTH CARE
21 WORKFORCE SHORTAGE IN THE STATE INCLUDING AN EVALUATION OF
22 MECHANISMS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN THE STATE AND ELSEWHERE INTENDED
23 TO ENHANCE EDUCATION, RECRUITMENT, AND RETENTION OF HEALTH CARE
24 WORKERS;

25 (2) EXAMINE WHAT CHANGES ARE NEEDED:

26 (I) TO ENHANCE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY TO INCREASE
27 STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND GRADUATION RATES; AND

28 (II) TO ENHANCE EXISTING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS,
29 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS, AND FUNDING MECHANISMS TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES TO
30 INDIVIDUALS TO ENTER THE HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE;

31 (3) EXAMINE WHAT CHANGES ARE NEEDED WITHIN THE HEALTH CARE
32 ENVIRONMENT TO RETAIN HEALTH CARE WORKERS;

33 (4) IDENTIFY METHODS TO:

1 (I) RECRUIT MINORITIES INTO THE HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE;

2 (II) RECRUIT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS INTO THE HEALTH CARE
3 WORKFORCE; ~~AND~~

4 ~~(III)~~ (III) RECRUIT AND FACILITATE THE LONG-TERM RETENTION OF
5 HEALTH CARE WORKERS IN RURAL AND UNDERSERVED AREAS IN THE STATE; AND

6 ~~(IV)~~ (IV) FACILITATE CAREER ADVANCEMENT AND RETENTION OF
7 HEALTH CARE WORKERS; AND

8 (5) DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS ON, AND FACILITATE
9 IMPLEMENTATION OF, STRATEGIES TO REVERSE THE GROWING SHORTAGE OF
10 HEALTH CARE WORKERS IN THE STATE.

11 (F) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT TO THE COMMISSION.

12 (G) THE COMMISSION SHALL REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
13 TO THE GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE,
14 TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1 OF EACH YEAR.

15 (H) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION BUT
16 IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE
17 TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 July 1, 2006. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June
20 30, 2008, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
21 abrogated and of no further force and effect.