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

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2006

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

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.

16 BY adding to
17 Article - Health Occupations
18 Section 1-601 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 6. Statewide Commission
19 on the Shortage in the Health Care Workforce"
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2005 Replacement Volume)

22 Preamble

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

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

27 WHEREAS, A recent study by the Center for Health Workforce Development
28 identified critical shortages of health care professionals and workers, including

1 laboratory technicians and mental health specialists, in many important health care
2 fields including nursing and pharmacy; and

3 WHEREAS, Access to care, the delivery of quality care, and patient safety are
4 dependent on the availability of an adequate supply of well-educated and trained
5 health care professionals and workers, the backbone of the health care delivery
6 system; now, therefore

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

9 **Article - Health Occupations**

10 **SUBTITLE 6. STATEWIDE COMMISSION ON THE SHORTAGE IN THE HEALTH CARE**
11 **WORKFORCE.**

12 1-601.

13 (A) THERE IS A STATEWIDE COMMISSION ON THE SHORTAGE IN THE HEALTH
14 CARE WORKFORCE.

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

16 (1) ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE
17 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

18 (2) ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE
19 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

20 (3) THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE;

21 (4) THE SECRETARY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT;

22 (5) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, OR THE STATE
23 SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE;

24 (6) THE SECRETARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, OR THE SECRETARY'S
25 DESIGNEE;

26 (7) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND
27 WITH KNOWLEDGE OF HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE ISSUES, APPOINTED BY THE
28 CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND;

29 (8) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM A COMMUNITY COLLEGE THAT OFFERS
30 DEGREES TO HEALTH CARE WORKERS, APPOINTED BY THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION
31 OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES;

32 (9) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM AN INDEPENDENT COLLEGE THAT
33 OFFERS DEGREES TO HEALTH CARE WORKERS, APPOINTED BY THE MARYLAND
34 INDEPENDENT COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION;

1 (10) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH
2 AND HEALTH DISPARITIES;

3 (11) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR HEALTH
4 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT;

5 (12) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE GREATER BALTIMORE REGIONAL
6 BUSINESS COMMUNITY WITH KNOWLEDGE OF HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE ISSUES,
7 APPOINTED BY THE GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE;

8 (13) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE GREATER WASHINGTON REGIONAL
9 BUSINESS COMMUNITY WITH KNOWLEDGE OF HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE ISSUES,
10 APPOINTED BY THE COMMITTEE FOR MONTGOMERY;

11 (14) A UNION REPRESENTATIVE WHO IS A HEALTH CARE WORKER,
12 CHOSEN FROM A LIST SUBMITTED BY UNIONS THAT REPRESENT HEALTH CARE
13 WORKERS;

14 (15) A STUDENT HEALTH CARE WORKER REPRESENTATIVE, CHOSEN
15 FROM A LIST SUBMITTED BY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT EDUCATE
16 HEALTH CARE WORKERS;

17 (16) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND HOSPITAL
18 ASSOCIATION;

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

20 (18) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH CARE
21 INDUSTRY; AND

22 (19) A CONSUMER OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

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

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

26 (I) CHAIR THE COMMISSION;

27 (II) APPOINT THE NONDESIGNATED MEMBERSHIP OF THE
28 COMMISSION; AND

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

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

34 (E) THE COMMISSION SHALL:

1 (1) DETERMINE THE CURRENT EXTENT OF THE HEALTH CARE
2 WORKFORCE SHORTAGE IN THE STATE INCLUDING AN EVALUATION OF
3 MECHANISMS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN THE STATE AND ELSEWHERE INTENDED
4 TO ENHANCE EDUCATION, RECRUITMENT, AND RETENTION OF HEALTH CARE
5 WORKERS;

6 (2) EXAMINE WHAT CHANGES ARE NEEDED:

7 (I) TO ENHANCE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY TO INCREASE
8 STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND GRADUATION RATES; AND

9 (II) TO ENHANCE EXISTING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS,
10 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS, AND FUNDING MECHANISMS TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES TO
11 INDIVIDUALS TO ENTER THE HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE;

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

14 (4) IDENTIFY METHODS TO:

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

16 (II) RECRUIT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS INTO THE HEALTH CARE
17 WORKFORCE; AND

18 (III) FACILITATE CAREER ADVANCEMENT AND RETENTION OF
19 HEALTH CARE WORKERS; AND

20 (5) DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS ON, AND FACILITATE
21 IMPLEMENTATION OF, STRATEGIES TO REVERSE THE GROWING SHORTAGE OF
22 HEALTH CARE WORKERS IN THE STATE.

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

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

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

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
31 July 1, 2006. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June
32 30, 2008, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
33 abrogated and of no further force and effect.