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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

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 20, 2006

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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.

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)

1 Preamble

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

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

6 ~~WHEREAS, A recent study by the Center for Health Workforce Development~~  
7 WHEREAS, Recent studies have identified critical shortages in Maryland of  
8 health care professionals and workers, including laboratory technicians and mental  
9 health specialists, radiologic technicians, respiratory therapists, and physical  
10 therapists, in many important health care fields including nursing and pharmacy;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Access to care, the delivery of quality care, and patient safety are  
13 dependent on the availability of an adequate supply of well-educated and trained  
14 health care professionals and workers, the backbone of the health care delivery  
15 system; now, therefore

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

18 **Article - Health Occupations**

19 SUBTITLE 6. STATEWIDE COMMISSION ON THE SHORTAGE IN THE HEALTH CARE  
20 WORKFORCE.

21 1-601.

22 (A) THERE IS A STATEWIDE COMMISSION ON THE SHORTAGE IN THE HEALTH  
23 CARE WORKFORCE.

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

25 (1) ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE  
26 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

27 (2) ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE  
28 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

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

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

31 (5) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, OR THE STATE  
32 SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE;

1 (6) THE SECRETARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, OR THE SECRETARY'S  
2 DESIGNEE;

3 (7) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND  
4 WITH KNOWLEDGE OF HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE ISSUES, APPOINTED BY THE  
5 CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND;

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

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

12 (10) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH  
13 AND HEALTH DISPARITIES OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;

14 (11) ~~THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR HEALTH~~  
15 ~~WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT~~ THE PRESIDENT OF THE RURAL MARYLAND COUNCIL  
16 OR THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE;

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

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

23 (14) A UNION REPRESENTATIVE WHO IS A HEALTH CARE WORKER,  
24 CHOSEN FROM A LIST SUBMITTED BY UNIONS THAT REPRESENT HEALTH CARE  
25 WORKERS;

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

29 (16) ~~THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR~~ PRESIDENT OF THE MARYLAND  
30 HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION OR THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE;

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

32 (18) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH CARE  
33 INDUSTRY; AND

34 (19) A CONSUMER OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

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

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

2 (I) CHAIR THE COMMISSION;

3 (II) APPOINT THE NONDESIGNATED MEMBERSHIP OF THE  
4 COMMISSION; AND

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

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

10 (E) THE COMMISSION SHALL:

11 (1) DETERMINE THE CURRENT EXTENT OF THE HEALTH CARE  
12 WORKFORCE SHORTAGE IN THE STATE INCLUDING AN EVALUATION OF  
13 MECHANISMS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN THE STATE AND ELSEWHERE INTENDED  
14 TO ENHANCE EDUCATION, RECRUITMENT, AND RETENTION OF HEALTH CARE  
15 WORKERS;

16 (2) EXAMINE WHAT CHANGES ARE NEEDED:

17 (I) TO ENHANCE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY TO INCREASE  
18 STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND GRADUATION RATES; AND

19 (II) TO ENHANCE EXISTING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS,  
20 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS, AND FUNDING MECHANISMS TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES TO  
21 INDIVIDUALS TO ENTER THE HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE;

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

24 (4) IDENTIFY METHODS TO:

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

26 (II) RECRUIT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS INTO THE HEALTH CARE  
27 WORKFORCE; AND

28 (III) FACILITATE CAREER ADVANCEMENT AND RETENTION OF  
29 HEALTH CARE WORKERS; AND

30 (5) DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS ON, AND FACILITATE  
31 IMPLEMENTATION OF, STRATEGIES TO REVERSE THE GROWING SHORTAGE OF  
32 HEALTH CARE WORKERS IN THE STATE.

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

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

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

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
8 July 1, 2006. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June  
9 30, 2008, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
10 abrogated and of no further force and effect.