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By: **Delegate Elliott**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2006

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene - Local Health Department**  
3 **Volunteers**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to  
5 recruit certain health care practitioners as volunteers of local health  
6 departments; and generally relating to the powers of the Secretary and  
7 provision of health care staff in areas with a deficiency in health care services.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article - Health - General  
10 Section 2-108  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2005 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 - Health - General**

16 2-108.

17 The Secretary:

18 (1) On the Secretary's initiative or on request of a community or  
19 voluntary, nonprofit organization, may do a survey to identify any area in this State  
20 that has a substantial deficiency in general medical or health care facilities or  
21 services;

22 (2) In cooperation with appropriate county and State groups, may  
23 provide the community or organization with counsel and other help to establish  
24 medical or health care facilities and to recruit medical or health care staff,  
25 INCLUDING PRIMARY AND SPECIALTY CARE PHYSICIANS AND OTHER HEALTH CARE  
26 PRACTITIONERS AS VOLUNTEERS OF THE LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ON BEHALF  
27 OF THE STATE, in that area; and

1                   (3)       If the efforts under item (2) of this section are unsuccessful, may  
2 provide the facilities or staff by contract with one or more physicians, hospitals, or  
3 other medical groups or personnel.

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