
By: **The President (By Request - Administration) and Senators Kittleman, Brinkley, Colburn, Dyson, Harris, Hogan, Hooper, Kramer, Lawlah, Schrader, and Stoltzfus**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2006

Rules suspended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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.

23 (3) THE TREASURER SHALL SEPARATELY HOLD AND THE COMPTROLLER
24 SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

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

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

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

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

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

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