
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

Reassigned: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs, January 27, 2006

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 15, 2006

CHAPTER _____

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.

1 (B) (1) THERE IS A NURSE SUPPORT PROGRAM ASSISTANCE FUND IN THE
2 COMMISSION.

3 (2) THE FUND IS A CONTINUING, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT
4 SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

5 (3) THE TREASURER SHALL SEPARATELY HOLD AND THE COMPTROLLER
6 SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

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

9 (5) ANY INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE PAID INTO
10 THE FUND.

11 (C) THE FUND CONSISTS OF REVENUE GENERATED THROUGH AN INCREASE,
12 AS APPROVED BY THE HEALTH SERVICES COST REVIEW COMMISSION, TO THE RATE
13 STRUCTURE OF ALL HOSPITALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 19-211 OF THE HEALTH -
14 GENERAL ARTICLE.

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

18 (E) THE MONEY IN THE FUND SHALL BE USED FOR COMPETITIVE GRANTS
19 AND STATEWIDE GRANTS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF QUALIFIED BEDSIDE
20 NURSES IN MARYLAND HOSPITALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GUIDELINES
21 ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSION AND THE HEALTH SERVICES COST REVIEW
22 COMMISSION.

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