

HOUSE BILL 949

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By: **Delegates Stein, Beitzel, Bromwell, Costa, Kach, Kipke, Malone, Mizeur, Oaks, Riley, and Tarrant**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2007

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Military Health Care Personnel – Staffing Initiative**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, in
4 conjunction with the Governor’s Workforce Investment Board and certain
5 regulatory boards to identify certain barriers to licensing or certifying
6 individuals who have certain training and experience in providing health care
7 through military service that is equivalent to certain requirements for licensure
8 or certification; requiring certain regulatory boards to draft certain regulations
9 and legislation that will expedite certain licensure and certification of
10 individuals who have certain training and experience in providing health care
11 through military service that is equivalent to certain requirements for licensure
12 or certification; requiring certain regulatory boards to adopt certain regulations
13 on or before a certain date; requiring the Secretary and certain regulatory
14 boards to make certain recommendations to the General Assembly for
15 implementation of certain legislation; requiring that certain identifications,
16 regulations, and legislation have a certain focus; determining certain
17 identifications, regulations, and legislation in consultation with certain interest
18 groups; and generally relating to a health care staffing initiative for military
19 medical personnel.

20 Preamble

21 WHEREAS, Recent studies have identified a critical shortage of health care
22 providers in many professional, technical, and supporting roles in Maryland; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, The scheduled return from duty or retirement of military personnel
2 with experience in providing health care will create an opportunity for reducing the
3 shortage of health care providers in Maryland; and

4 WHEREAS, The Base Realignment and Closure process will bring tens of
5 thousands of skilled professionals including health care providers to Maryland; and

6 WHEREAS, The Governor's Workforce Investment Board and other entities
7 have identified various barriers to licensing returning military personnel as health
8 care providers in professional, technical, and supporting roles; and

9 WHEREAS, Removing the identified barriers in licensing returning military
10 personnel as health care providers will reduce the shortage of health care workers and
11 alleviate the insufficient staffing of health care facilities including acute hospital
12 emergency rooms and other units and in community-based medical care settings; now,
13 therefore,

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That:

16 (a) The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, in conjunction with the
17 Governor's Workforce Investment Board and the appropriate regulatory boards for
18 health care providers, shall identify the barriers under the Health Occupations Article
19 to licensing or certifying individuals who have training and experience in providing
20 health care through military service that is equivalent to the training and experience
21 required for licensure or certification under the Health Occupations Article.

22 (b) (1) In response to the identification of barriers under subsection (a) of
23 this section, the regulatory boards shall draft regulations and legislation that will
24 expedite the licensure or certification process for individuals who have training and
25 experience in providing health care through military service that is equivalent to the
26 training and experience required for licensure or certification under the Health
27 Occupations Article.

28 (2) On or before December 31, 2007, the Secretary and regulatory
29 boards shall make recommendations to the General Assembly for implementation of
30 the legislation drafted under this subsection.

31 (3) By September 30, 2008, the regulatory boards shall adopt
32 regulations drafted under this subsection.

33 (c) The identifications made under subsection (a) of this section and the
34 regulations and legislation drafted under subsection (b) of this section shall:

- 1 (1) focus on meeting employment needs in:
 - 2 (i) acute hospital emergency rooms and other units; and
 - 3 (ii) community-based health care settings; and
- 4 (2) be determined in consultation with:
 - 5 (i) the Maryland Hospital Association;
 - 6 (ii) the American College of Emergency Physicians, Maryland
 - 7 Chapter;
 - 8 (iii) the Maryland State Medical Society;
 - 9 (iv) the Maryland Nurses Association;
 - 10 (v) the Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants; and
 - 11 (vi) any other interest group determined to be appropriate by the
 - 12 Secretary.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 2007.