

HOUSE BILL 949

J1, J2

71r1947

By: **Delegates Stein, Beitzel, Bromwell, Costa, Kach, Kipke, Malone, Mizeur, Oaks, Riley, ~~and Tarrant~~ Tarrant, Hammen, Benson, Donoghue, Elliott, Hubbard, Kullen, McDonough, Montgomery, Morhaim, Nathan-Pulliam, Pena-Melnyk, Pendergrass, V. Turner, and Weldon**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2007

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 21, 2007

CHAPTER _____

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~~ make certain findings concerning certain barriers
6 to licensing or certifying individuals who have certain training and experience
7 in providing health care through military service that is equivalent to certain
8 requirements for licensure or certification; ~~requiring certain regulatory boards~~
9 ~~to draft certain regulations and legislation that will expedite certain licensure~~
10 ~~and certification of individuals who have certain training and experience in~~
11 ~~providing health care through military service that is equivalent to certain~~
12 ~~requirements for licensure or certification; requiring certain regulatory boards~~
13 ~~to adopt certain regulations on or before a certain date;~~ requiring the Secretary,
14 in conjunction with the Governor's Workforce Investment Board and certain
15 regulatory boards ~~to make,~~ to report certain findings and recommendations to
16 the General Assembly ~~for implementation of certain legislation~~ regarding
17 certain ways to expedite the inclusion of individuals who have certain training
18 and experience into a certain health care work force on or before a certain date;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 requiring that certain ~~identifications, regulations, and legislation~~ findings and
2 recommendations have a certain focus; ~~determining certain identifications,~~
3 ~~regulations, and legislation~~ requiring that certain findings and
4 recommendations be made in consultation with certain interest groups; and
5 generally relating to a health care staffing initiative for military medical
6 personnel.

7 Preamble

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

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

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

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

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

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
24 MARYLAND, That:

25 (a) The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, in conjunction with the
26 Governor's Workforce Investment Board and the appropriate regulatory boards for
27 health care providers, ~~shall identify~~ shall:

28 (1) make findings regarding the barriers under the Health
29 Occupations Article to licensing or certifying individuals who have training and
30 experience in providing health care through military service that is equivalent to the
31 training and experience required for licensure or certification under the Health
32 Occupations Article; and

1 (2) report to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
2 Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee on or before
3 December 1, 2007, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article,
4 findings and recommendations regarding the most appropriate ways to expedite the
5 inclusion of individuals who have training and experience in providing health care
6 through military service into the State's health care work force.

7 ~~(b) (1) In response to the identification of barriers under subsection (a) of~~
8 ~~this section, the regulatory boards shall draft regulations and legislation that will~~
9 ~~expedite the licensure or certification process for individuals who have training and~~
10 ~~experience in providing health care through military service that is equivalent to the~~
11 ~~training and experience required for licensure or certification under the Health~~
12 ~~Occupations Article.~~

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

16 ~~(3) By September 30, 2008, the regulatory boards shall adopt~~
17 ~~regulations drafted under this subsection.~~

18 ~~(e) (b) The identifications findings and recommendations made under subsection~~
19 ~~(a) of this section and the regulations and legislation drafted under subsection (b) of~~
20 ~~this section shall:~~

21 (1) focus on meeting employment needs in:

22 (i) acute hospital emergency rooms and other units; and

23 (ii) community-based health care settings; and

24 (2) be determined in consultation with:

25 (i) the Maryland Hospital Association;

26 (ii) the American College of Emergency Physicians, Maryland

27 Chapter;

28 (iii) the Maryland State Medical Society;

29 (iv) the Maryland Nurses Association;

30 (v) the Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants; and

1 (vi) any other interest group determined to be appropriate by the
2 Secretary.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 ~~October~~ June 1, 2007.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.