

# SENATE BILL 968

J1, J3, J2

9lr3271  
CF HB 1319

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By: **Senators Colburn, Pipkin, and Stoltzfus**  
Introduced and read first time: February 23, 2009  
Assigned to: Rules

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Medicine Rural Health Commission**

3 FOR the purpose of creating the Family Medicine Rural Health Commission;  
4 providing for the composition and staffing of the Commission; providing that a  
5 member of the Commission may not receive compensation but may be  
6 reimbursed for certain expenses; specifying the duties of the Commission;  
7 authorizing the Commission to seek, accept, and expend certain funds and seek,  
8 accept, and use certain services; specifying the terms of the initial members of  
9 the Commission; requiring the Commission to report to the Governor and the  
10 General Assembly on or before certain dates; providing for the termination of  
11 this Act; and generally relating to the creation of the Family Medicine Rural  
12 Health Commission.

13 BY adding to

14 Article – Education

15 Section 24–701 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 7. Family Medicine Rural  
16 Health Commission”

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2008 Replacement Volume)

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
20 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

21 **Article – Education**

22 **SUBTITLE 7. FAMILY MEDICINE RURAL HEALTH COMMISSION.**

23 **24–701.**

24 **(A) THERE IS A FAMILY MEDICINE RURAL HEALTH COMMISSION.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(B) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

2                   **(1) A MEMBER OF THE SENATE, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT**  
3 **OF THE SENATE;**

4                   **(2) A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY**  
5 **THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;**

6                   **(3) THE SECRETARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, OR THE**  
7 **SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

8                   **(4) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, OR THE**  
9 **SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE;**

10                   **(5) THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF**  
11 **MARYLAND MEDICAL SYSTEM; AND**

12                   **(6) THE FOLLOWING EIGHT MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE**  
13 **GOVERNOR:**

14                           **(I) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REGIONAL HEALTHCARE**  
15 **COMMITTEE OF THE TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL;**

16                           **(II) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND AREA HEALTH**  
17 **EDUCATION CENTERS;**

18                           **(III) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND STATE OFFICE**  
19 **OF RURAL HEALTH;**

20                           **(IV) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION**  
21 **OF COUNTY HEALTH OFFICERS;**

22                           **(V) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND RURAL**  
23 **HEALTH ASSOCIATION;**

24                           **(VI) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND HOSPITAL**  
25 **ASSOCIATION;**

26                           **(VII) A LICENSED PHYSICIAN WHO PRACTICES MEDICINE IN**  
27 **A RURAL PART OF THE STATE; AND**

28                           **(VIII) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A RURAL HOSPITAL IN THE**  
29 **STATE.**

1           (c)   (1)   **THE TERM OF A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION APPOINTED BY**  
2 **THE GOVERNOR IS 3 YEARS.**

3           (2)   **THE TERMS OF MEMBERS ARE STAGGERED AS REQUIRED BY**  
4 **THE TERMS PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON OCTOBER 1,**  
5 **2009.**

6           (3)   **AT THE END OF A TERM, A MEMBER CONTINUES TO SERVE**  
7 **UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.**

8           (4)   **A MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED AFTER A TERM HAS BEGUN**  
9 **SHALL SERVE FOR THE REST OF THE TERM OR UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS**  
10 **APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.**

11          (d)   **THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT A SUCCESSOR IN THE EVENT OF A**  
12 **VACANCY ON THE COMMISSION.**

13          (e)   **FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS, THE COMMISSION SHALL ELECT A**  
14 **CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND ANY OTHER OFFICERS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT ITS**  
15 **FUNCTIONS.**

16          (f)   **THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION SHALL**  
17 **PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE COMMISSION USING EXISTING RESOURCES.**

18          (g)   **A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION:**

19               (1)   **MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE**  
20 **COMMISSION; BUT**

21               (2)   **IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE**  
22 **STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE**  
23 **BUDGET.**

24          (h)   **THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET AT LEAST FOUR TIMES EACH YEAR**  
25 **AND MAY HOLD ADDITIONAL MEETINGS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR OR**  
26 **AT THE REQUEST OF A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS.**

27          (i)   **THE COMMISSION SHALL:**

28               (1)   **PERFORM AN EVALUATION OF THE CURRENT STATE OF**  
29 **MEDICAL EDUCATION IN THE STATE;**

30               (2)   **ANALYZE EXISTING DATA REGARDING CURRENT AND FUTURE**  
31 **PHYSICIAN SUPPLY SHORTAGES IN THE STATE AND THE RELATIONSHIP OF**

1 THESE SHORTAGES TO THE CURRENT MEDICAL EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THE  
2 STATE;

3 (3) EVALUATE THE CAPACITY NECESSARY TO OFFSET PHYSICIAN  
4 SHORTAGES OVER TIME AND IDENTIFY THE RESOURCES THAT ARE NECESSARY  
5 TO ACHIEVE THAT CAPACITY;

6 (4) DETERMINE THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CREATING  
7 ADDITIONAL CAPACITY IN THE STATE FOR MEDICAL SCHOOL GRADUATES AND  
8 IDENTIFY POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES FOR THESE COSTS;

9 (5) FORMULATE A SPECIFIC MANDATE TO THE MARYLAND  
10 HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH A PROGRAM THAT WOULD  
11 ELIMINATE PHYSICIAN SHORTAGES IN THE STATE;

12 (6) RECOMMEND EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES THAT WOULD  
13 PRODUCE RURAL FAMILY PHYSICIANS;

14 (7) STUDY OTHER SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS, INCLUDING THE  
15 UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA RURAL HEALTH LEADERS PIPELINE PROGRAM;

16 (8) DESIGN A COLLABORATIVE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM  
17 AT A RURAL CAMPUS THAT WOULD ESTABLISH A PIPELINE FOR RURAL MEDICAL  
18 SCHOLARS WHO CHOOSE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES IN  
19 THE STATE;

20 (9) IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATIVE  
21 AGREEMENTS BETWEEN RURAL HOSPITALS AFFILIATED WITH THE UNIVERSITY  
22 OF MARYLAND MEDICAL SCHOOL HEALTH SYSTEM AND OTHER RURAL  
23 HOSPITALS AND LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES THAT ARE NOT AFFILIATED WITH  
24 THE SYSTEM BUT HAVE THE CAPACITY TO PROVIDE INTERNSHIP AND  
25 RESIDENCY SUPPORT;

26 (10) DESIGN COLLABORATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR RURAL  
27 MEDICAL SCHOLARS WHO WISH TO PURSUE OTHER MEDICAL PROFESSIONS,  
28 INCLUDING PHARMACISTS, PHYSICAL THERAPISTS, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS,  
29 AND NURSE PRACTITIONERS; AND

30 (11) DESIGN MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL  
31 STUDENTS FOR THE PREPARATION OF THESE STUDENTS TO ENTER MEDICAL  
32 SCHOOL OR PURSUE OTHER MEDICAL PROFESSIONS.

33 (J) THE COMMISSION MAY:

1           (1)   **SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND FUNDS FROM ANY SOURCE,**  
2 **INCLUDING DONATIONS, STATE APPROPRIATIONS, AND FEDERAL GRANTS; AND**

3           (2)   **SEEK, ACCEPT, AND USE SERVICES FROM INDIVIDUALS,**  
4 **CORPORATIONS, AND GOVERNMENT ENTITIES.**

5           **(K)   ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE COMMISSION**  
6 **SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR, AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN**  
7 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE**  
8 **IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

9           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of the initial  
10 members of the Family Medicine Rural Health Commission shall expire as follows:

11           (1)   two members in 2010; and

12           (2)   three members in 2011.

13           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
14 October 1, 2009. It shall remain effective for a period of 6 years and, at the end of  
15 September 30, 2015, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act  
16 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.