

# HOUSE BILL 354

J2, J1, F2  
HB 1160/23 – HGO

4lr1880

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By: **Delegate Cullison**

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Pathway to Nursing Program and Advisory Committee –**  
3 **Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Pathway to Nursing Program in the  
5 Maryland Department of Health; requiring the Secretary of Health to establish a  
6 certain pilot program before implementing the Program statewide; establishing the  
7 Maryland Pathway to Nursing Advisory Committee to assist the Secretary in the  
8 development and implementation of the Program; and generally relating to the  
9 Maryland Pathway to Nursing Program.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Health – General

12 Section 13–5201 through 13–5203 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 52.  
13 Maryland Pathway to Nursing Program”

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2023 Replacement Volume)

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

18 **Article – Health – General**

19 **SUBTITLE 52. MARYLAND PATHWAY TO NURSING PROGRAM.**

20 **13–5201.**

21 **(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
22 **INDICATED.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (B) "COMMITTEE" MEANS THE MARYLAND PATHWAY TO NURSING  
2 ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

3 (C) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE MARYLAND PATHWAY TO NURSING PROGRAM.  
4 13-5202.

5 (A) THERE IS A MARYLAND PATHWAY TO NURSING PROGRAM IN THE  
6 DEPARTMENT.

7 (B) THE GOALS OF THE PROGRAM ARE TO:

8 (1) SUPPORT CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANTS IN LICENSED  
9 PRACTICAL NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS WHO INTEND TO PRACTICE  
10 LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSING AS A CAREER IN THE STATE OR CONTINUE ON THE  
11 NURSING EDUCATIONAL PATHWAY TO BECOME A REGISTERED NURSE IN THE STATE;

12 (2) ALLEVIATE THE SHORTAGE OF NURSING PROFESSIONALS BY  
13 INCREASING THE GRADUATION AND LICENSURE RATES OF LICENSED PRACTICAL  
14 NURSING AND REGISTERED NURSING STUDENTS IN THE STATE;

15 (3) INCREASE THE NUMBER OF LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES AND  
16 REGISTERED NURSES WHO REFLECT THE DIVERSITY OF THE COMMUNITIES THEY  
17 SERVE; AND

18 (4) PROVIDE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
19 TO COVER THE COST OF:

20 (I) TUITION AND RELATED FEES FOR LICENSED PRACTICAL  
21 NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS;

22 (II) COMPUTERS, TEXTBOOKS, AND OTHER SUPPLIES; AND

23 (III) HOUSING, FOOD, AND OTHER BASIC LIVING EXPENSES.

24 (C) (1) BEFORE THE SECRETARY IMPLEMENTS THE PROGRAM  
25 STATEWIDE, THE SECRETARY SHALL IMPLEMENT A PILOT PROGRAM AT COMMUNITY  
26 COLLEGES IN AT LEAST TWO GEOGRAPHICALLY DIVERSE AREAS IN THE STATE THAT  
27 OFFER LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAMS.

28 (2) THE SECRETARY, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMITTEE,  
29 SHALL DETERMINE THE FOLLOWING FOR THE PILOT PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED  
30 UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION:

1                   **(I) THE TIME FRAME AND STEPS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH**  
2 **THE PILOT PROGRAM;**

3                   **(II) THE AREAS OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE PILOT PROGRAM**  
4 **WILL OPERATE;**

5                   **(III) THE RESOURCES NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THE PILOT**  
6 **PROGRAM; AND**

7                   **(IV) THE TYPES OF EVALUATIONS, INCLUDING OBTAINING**  
8 **FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, NEEDED TO MAKE**  
9 **RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM'S DESIGN AND EXPANSION STATEWIDE.**

10           **(D) THE SECRETARY, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMITTEE, SHALL**  
11 **ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE PROGRAM THAT INCLUDE:**

12                   **(1) REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM,**  
13 **INCLUDING A REQUIREMENT THAT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS SIGN AN AGREEMENT**  
14 **THAT THE PARTICIPANT INTENDS TO PRACTICE LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSING OR**  
15 **PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSING IN THE STATE FOR AT LEAST 2 YEARS AFTER**  
16 **COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAM;**

17                   **(2) CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE TYPE AND LEVEL OF SUPPORT**  
18 **PROVIDED TO PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS;**

19                   **(3) A PROCESS FOR PROVIDING WRAPAROUND SERVICES TO**  
20 **PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS;**

21                   **(4) A PROCESS FOR DISTRIBUTING FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO**  
22 **PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS;**

23                   **(5) A DESCRIPTION OF THE ROLE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN**  
24 **SUPPORTING PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS; AND**

25                   **(6) THE PROCESS FOR PERIODICALLY REVIEWING THE PROGRAM**  
26 **AND IMPLEMENTING MODIFICATIONS TO THE PROGRAM.**

27           **(E) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 15 EACH YEAR, BEGINNING IN 2024, THE**  
28 **SECRETARY SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH §**  
29 **2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE**  
30 **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM.**

31 **13-5203.**

1           **(A) THERE IS A MARYLAND PATHWAY TO NURSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

2           **(B) THE COMMITTEE SHALL ASSIST THE SECRETARY IN THE DEVELOPMENT**  
3 **AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM.**

4           **(C) THE COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, APPOINTED**  
5 **BY THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH:**

6                   **(1) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**  
7 **AFFAIRS;**

8                   **(2) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION**  
9 **COMMISSION;**

10                   **(3) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING;**

11                   **(4) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF**  
12 **LABOR;**

13                   **(5) FOUR REPRESENTATIVES FROM COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN THE**  
14 **STATE THAT OFFER LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAMS;**

15                   **(6) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION**  
16 **INSTITUTIONS WITH A 4-YEAR DEGREE NURSING PROGRAM, ONE OF WHOM SHALL**  
17 **BE FROM A HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY;**

18                   **(7) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION**  
19 **INSTITUTION THAT PRIMARILY OFFERS 4-YEAR DEGREE PROGRAMS;**

20                   **(8) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND NURSES**  
21 **ASSOCIATION;**

22                   **(9) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF**  
23 **COMMUNITY COLLEGES;**

24                   **(10) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND INDEPENDENT**  
25 **COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION;**

26                   **(11) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND HOSPITAL**  
27 **ASSOCIATION;**

28                   **(12) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIFESPAN NETWORK;**

1           **(13) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC**  
2 **HEALTH PATHWAYS PROGRAM;**

3           **(14) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A LABOR ORGANIZATION THAT**  
4 **REPRESENTS CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANTS, LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES, AND**  
5 **REGISTERED NURSES;**

6           **(15) TWO PRACTICAL NURSING STUDENTS LICENSED IN THE STATE;**  
7 **AND**

8           **(16) ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL WITH EXPERTISE OR EXPERIENCE THAT**  
9 **THE SECRETARY DETERMINES IS RELEVANT TO THE COMMITTEE.**

10       **(D) THE SECRETARY SHALL DESIGNATE THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE.**

11       **(E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE COMMITTEE.**

12       **(F) A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE:**

13           **(1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE**  
14 **COMMITTEE; BUT**

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

17       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1,  
18 2025, the Maryland Pathway to Nursing Advisory Committee established under Section 1  
19 of this Act shall study whether licensed practical nursing education programs that meet  
20 educational program requirements under Title 8 of the Health Occupations Article may be  
21 eligible for federal and State funding related to apprenticeship programs and report its  
22 findings and any recommendations to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health  
23 and Government Operations Committee, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State  
24 Government Article.

25       SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
26 1, 2024.