

SENATE BILL 718

J2, J1, F2

4lr1934

By: **Senators Lam and McKay**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2024

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 28, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

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

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Pathway to Nursing Pilot Program in the
5 Maryland ~~Department of Health~~ Higher Education Commission; establishing the
6 Maryland Pathway to Nursing Advisory Committee to assist the Secretary of Higher
7 Education in the development and implementation of the Program; and generally
8 relating to the Maryland Pathway to Nursing Pilot Program.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – ~~Health – General Education~~

11 Section ~~13-5201 through 13-5203~~ 11-1801 through 11-1803 to be under the new
12 subtitle “Subtitle ~~52~~ 18. Maryland Pathway to Nursing Pilot Program”

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 ~~(2023)~~ (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – ~~Health – General Education~~**

18 **SUBTITLE ~~52~~ 18. MARYLAND PATHWAY TO NURSING PILOT PROGRAM.**

19 **~~13-5201~~. 11-1801.**

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 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
2 INDICATED.

3 (B) "COMMITTEE" MEANS THE MARYLAND PATHWAY TO NURSING
4 ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

5 (C) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE MARYLAND PATHWAY TO NURSING PILOT
6 PROGRAM.

7 ~~13-5202~~ 11-1802.

8 (A) THERE IS A MARYLAND PATHWAY TO NURSING PILOT PROGRAM IN
9 THE ~~DEPARTMENT~~ COMMISSION.

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

11 (1) SUPPORT STUDENTS IN LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSING
12 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS WHO INTEND TO PRACTICE LICENSED PRACTICAL
13 NURSING AS A CAREER IN THE STATE OR CONTINUE ON THE NURSING EDUCATIONAL
14 PATHWAY TO BECOME A REGISTERED NURSE IN THE STATE;

15 (2) ALLEVIATE THE SHORTAGE OF NURSING PROFESSIONALS BY
16 INCREASING THE GRADUATION AND LICENSURE RATES OF LICENSED PRACTICAL
17 NURSING AND REGISTERED NURSING STUDENTS IN THE STATE;

18 (3) INCREASE THE NUMBER OF LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES AND
19 REGISTERED NURSES WHO REFLECT THE DIVERSITY OF THE COMMUNITIES THEY
20 SERVE;

21 (4) FACILITATE STUDENT APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL
22 RESOURCES THAT PROVIDE TUITION ASSISTANCE, LOAN REPAYMENT, AND SUPPORT
23 FOR OTHER EDUCATIONAL COSTS; AND

24 (5) PROVIDE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
25 TO COVER THE COST OF:

26 (I) COMPUTERS, TEXTBOOKS, AND OTHER SUPPLIES AND
27 ADDITIONAL EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES; AND

28 (II) WRAPAROUND SUPPORT SERVICES THAT PROVIDE
29 ASSISTANCE WITH TRANSPORTATION, CHILD CARE, ELDER CARE, AND OTHER
30 LIVING EXPENSES THAT POSE A BARRIER TO STUDENTS SUCCESSFULLY
31 COMPLETING THE STUDENT'S EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS.

1 (C) THE SECRETARY, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE,
2 SHALL DETERMINE THE FOLLOWING FOR THE PROGRAM:

3 (1) THE TIME FRAME AND STEPS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH THE
4 PROGRAM;

5 (2) THE AREAS OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE PROGRAM WILL
6 OPERATE;

7 (3) FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING A STRATEGY
8 FOR SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH BRAIDED FUNDING FROM LOCAL WORKFORCE
9 DEVELOPMENT BOARDS, LOCAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS, AND FEDERAL GRANTS;

10 (4) THE RESOURCES NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAM; AND

11 (5) THE TYPES OF EVALUATIONS, INCLUDING OBTAINING FEEDBACK
12 FROM STUDENTS AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, NEEDED TO MAKE
13 RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM'S DESIGN AND EXPANSION STATEWIDE.

14 (D) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2025, THE SECRETARY SHALL ISSUE GRANTS TO
15 AT LEAST TWO PILOT SITES, LOCATED IN DIVERSE AREAS, THAT MEET THE
16 ~~DEPARTMENT'S~~ COMMISSION'S REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE
17 PROGRAM.

18 (E) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 15, 2024, AND EACH DECEMBER 15
19 THEREAFTER THROUGH 2029, THE SECRETARY SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR
20 AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE
21 GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM.

22 ~~13-5203~~ 11-1803.

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

24 (B) THE COMMITTEE SHALL ASSIST THE SECRETARY IN THE DEVELOPMENT
25 AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM.

26 (C) THE COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, APPOINTED
27 BY THE SECRETARY ~~OF HEALTH~~:

28 (1) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
29 AFFAIRS;

30 (2) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND ~~HIGHER EDUCATION~~
31 ~~COMMISSION~~ DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH;

1 (3) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING;

2 (4) FOUR REPRESENTATIVES FROM COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN THE
3 STATE THAT OFFER LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAMS;

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

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

9 (7) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND NURSES
10 ASSOCIATION;

11 (8) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF
12 COMMUNITY COLLEGES;

13 (9) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND INDEPENDENT
14 COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION;

15 (10) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND HOSPITAL
16 ASSOCIATION;

17 (11) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIFESPAN NETWORK;

18 (12) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC
19 HEALTH PATHWAYS PROGRAM;

20 (13) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A LABOR ORGANIZATION THAT
21 REPRESENTS CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANTS, LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES, AND
22 REGISTERED NURSES;

23 (14) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT
24 BOARD;

25 (15) ONE PRACTICAL NURSING STUDENT IN THE STATE;

26 (16) ONE LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE LICENSED IN THE STATE; ~~AND~~

27 (17) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF LEADING AGE MARYLAND;

28 (18) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HEALTH FACILITIES
29 ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND; AND

1 ~~(17)~~ **(19) ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL WITH EXPERTISE OR EXPERIENCE**
2 **THAT THE SECRETARY DETERMINES IS RELEVANT TO THE COMMITTEE.**

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

4 **(E) THE ~~DEPARTMENT~~ COMMISSION SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE**
5 **COMMITTEE.**

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

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

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

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 June 1, 2024.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.