



# Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET  
AND MANAGEMENT

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## **SENATE BILL 696 Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment for Nurses and Nursing Workers – Program Establishment and Funding (Beidle)**

### **STATEMENT OF INFORMATION**

**DATE:** February 22, 2022

**COMMITTEE:** Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs and Senate Budget & Taxation

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** SB 696 establishes the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program (LARP) and Fund for Nurses and Nursing Workers to assist nurses and nursing workers with the repayment of education loans; in FY 2023 - FY 2025, dedicates \$400,000 from the Board of Nursing fee revenues to the LARP Fund, if the Governor does not appropriate at least \$400,000 to the Fund; directs the Department of Health to convene a stakeholder work group to develop a permanent funding source and provide an interim report by December 1, 2022 and a final report on December 1, 2023; and in FY 26 and each fiscal year thereafter, if no permanent funding source is implemented, and Governor does not appropriate at least \$400,000 to the LARP Fund, \$400,000 is dedicated from the Board of Nursing fee revenues to the LARP Fund.

**EXPLANATION:** The FY 2023 Budget allocates \$2 million for the LARP for Nurses and Nursing Assistants as part of the Administration's efforts to address the critical workforce shortage in nursing.

The Board of Nursing's special fund balance is insufficient to sustain multiple years of appropriations in the amounts required by the legislation without creating a deficit in the fund or requiring the Board to raise fees.

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