



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

March 14, 2023

The Honorable Melony Griffith  
Chair, Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: SB 669 – Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship Program Workgroup – Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Griffith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of information for Senate Bill (SB) 669 - Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship Program Workgroup. SB 669 establishes the Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship Program Workgroup to study the feasibility of developing and implementing a registered nurse degree apprenticeship program in the State and recommend sustainable funding models. MDH and the Maryland Department of Labor (DoL) are required to jointly staff the Workgroup.

Creating a pathway to RN licensure is needed to support the state's healthcare needs. However, MDH is not the appropriate state agency for programs that focus on career development. The requirements of this bill are more appropriate for DoL. Notably, DoL prepared a foundational study similar to the areas outlined in SB 669 under House Bill 1208 of the Acts of 2022 which tasked DoL with "establishing a workgroup to study expanding the State apprenticeship programs to the healthcare workforce." Furthermore, DoL also oversaw the Healthcare Apprenticeship Workgroup, as required by the 2022 Joint Chairmen's Report (p. 153-155). This Workgroup met during the 2022 interim and submitted an interim report.<sup>1</sup> This report is a preliminary assessment of Maryland's healthcare workforce and discussion of Registered Apprenticeship programs. The workgroup will continue to meet in the coming year and will submit a final report of its activities by June 30, 2023.

If enacted as drafted, this bill will have a fiscal and operational impact on MDH. MDH will need to hire at least one full-time staff to fulfill the requirements of this legislation. The staff member will support the Workgroup in its feasibility study and prepare required reports.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Peters, Acting Director of Governmental Affairs at [megan.peters@maryland.gov](mailto:megan.peters@maryland.gov) or (410) 260-3190.

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<sup>1</sup> Interim Report on Apprenticeships in Healthcare Workgroup, 2022 Joint Chairmen's Report (p. 153-155), December 1, 2022. [https://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/JCR/2022/2022\\_153-155\(a\)\(HC\)\\_2022.pdf](https://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/JCR/2022/2022_153-155(a)(HC)_2022.pdf)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'LH Scott', is positioned above the typed name.

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.  
Secretary