



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

JENNIFER AIOSA
Director of Government Affairs

AMANDA KONTZ CARR
Legislative Officer

JOSHUA M. GREENBERG
Associate Director of Government Affairs

BILL NO.: SB 669

TITLE: Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship Program Workgroup

SPONSOR: Senator Rosapepe

COMMITTEE: Finance

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: March 14, 2023

Baltimore County strongly **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 774 – Maryland Pathway to Nursing Program and Advisory Committee - Establishment. This legislation would establish the Maryland Pathway to Nursing Program in the Maryland Department of Health.

Currently, Maryland has the longest emergency room wait times in the country, a statistic which many attribute to severe understaffing in Maryland’s hospitals. This shortfall not only extends wait times, but places tremendous burdens on nursing staff that are currently in place. With an average of nearly four hour wait times, overburdened hospitals, and a shrinking pool of nursing candidates, residents throughout the State are not being afforded the world-class healthcare they deserve.

Senate Bill 669 would establish the Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship Program Workgroup. This workgroup would study the establishment of a framework for apprenticeships to train and educate professional registered nurses in Maryland. Apprenticeship programs can facilitate industry-specific, on-the-ground training, which can remove barriers to entering the nursing profession while ensuring the next generation of nurses perform at the quality and level that Maryland’s residents require.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 669. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.