

HOUSE BILL 354

J2, J1, F2
HB 1160/23 – HGO

4lr1880

By: ~~Delegate Cullison~~ Delegates Cullison, Alston, Bagnall, Bhandari, Chisholm, Guzzone, Hill, Hutchinson, S. Johnson, Kaiser, Kerr, Kipke, R. Lewis, Lopez, Martinez, M. Morgan, Pena-Melnyk, Reilly, Rosenberg, Szeliga, Taveras, White Holland, and Woods

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 22, 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; ~~requiring the~~
6 ~~Secretary of Health to establish a certain pilot program before implementing the~~
7 ~~Program statewide~~; establishing the Maryland Pathway to Nursing Advisory
8 Committee to assist the Secretary of Higher Education in the development and
9 implementation of the Program; and generally relating to the Maryland Pathway to
10 Nursing Pilot Program.

11 BY adding to

12 Article – ~~Health – General~~ Education

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

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 ~~(2023~~ (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – ~~Health – General~~ Education**

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.



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

~~13-5201.~~ 11-1801.

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

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

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

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

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

(B) THE GOALS OF THE PROGRAM ARE TO:

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

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

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

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

~~(4)~~ (5) PROVIDE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO COVER THE COST OF:

~~(i) TUITION AND RELATED FEES FOR LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS;~~

~~(H)~~ (I) COMPUTERS, TEXTBOOKS, AND OTHER SUPPLIES AND
ADDITIONAL EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES; AND

~~(H)~~ ~~HOUSING, FOOD, AND OTHER BASIC LIVING EXPENSES.~~

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

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

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

~~(H)~~ (1) THE TIME FRAME AND STEPS NECESSARY TO
ESTABLISH THE ~~PILOT PROGRAM~~ PROGRAM;

~~(H)~~ (2) THE AREAS OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE ~~PILOT~~
~~PROGRAM~~ PROGRAM WILL OPERATE;

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

~~(H)~~ (4) THE RESOURCES NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THE ~~PILOT~~
~~PROGRAM~~ PROGRAM; AND

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

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

~~(1) REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM,~~
~~INCLUDING A REQUIREMENT THAT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS SIGN AN AGREEMENT~~
~~THAT THE PARTICIPANT INTENDS TO PRACTICE LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSING OR~~

~~PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSING IN THE STATE FOR AT LEAST 2 YEARS AFTER COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAM;~~

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

~~(3) A PROCESS FOR PROVIDING WRAPAROUND SERVICES TO PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS;~~

~~(4) A PROCESS FOR DISTRIBUTING FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS;~~

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

~~(6) THE PROCESS FOR PERIODICALLY REVIEWING THE PROGRAM AND IMPLEMENTING MODIFICATIONS TO THE PROGRAM.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(4) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR;

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

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

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

(8) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND NURSES
ASSOCIATION;

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

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

(11) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION;

(12) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIFESPAN NETWORK;

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

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

~~(15) TWO PRACTICAL NURSING STUDENTS LICENSED IN THE STATE;~~

~~AND~~

(15) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT
BOARD;

(16) ONE PRACTICAL NURSING STUDENT IN THE STATE;

(17) ONE LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE LICENSED IN THE STATE;

(18) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF LEADING AGE MARYLAND;

(19) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HEALTH FACILITIES ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND; AND

~~(16)~~ (20) ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL WITH EXPERTISE OR EXPERIENCE THAT THE SECRETARY DETERMINES IS RELEVANT TO THE COMMITTEE.

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

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

(F) A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE:

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

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

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

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