

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER, Governor

No. 25

(House Joint Resolution No. 53)

A House Joint Resolution concerning

A Task Force to Study the Crisis in Nursing

FOR the purpose of requesting the Governor to establish a Task Force to examine ways to retain working nurses, to attract inactive nurses back into the profession, and to promote nursing as a profession in our secondary schools.

WHEREAS, The percentage of unfilled staff nursing positions in United States hospitals more than doubled in the past year; and

WHEREAS, Working conditions in hospitals, nursing homes and critical care facilities are frequently less attractive than other alternatives; and

WHEREAS, Hospital job openings for registered nurses increased from 6.3% to 10% between December 1, 1985 and December 1, 1986; and

WHEREAS, The economics of the present reimbursement system are inadequate to allow primary care providers to compete for nurses in the market place; and

WHEREAS, These problems are exacerbated by nursing school enrollments being down 8% in 1986, with fewer people choosing nursing as a career; and

WHEREAS, The cost of education for nurses has risen dramatically and scholarship opportunities are limited; and

WHEREAS, An increase in the number of persons who choose nursing as a career and who choose to practice nursing in a hospital setting is critical to public health; ~~now, therefore, be it and now, therefore, be it~~

~~WHEREAS,--The--shortage--of--nurses--often--results--in--nurses working--beyond--their--scheduled--shifts,--now,--therefore,--be--it~~

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Governor is requested to establish a Task Force to study this crisis in nursing; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force to Study the Crisis in Nursing be composed of: