

## A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

## The Nursing Shortage

FOR the purpose of urging the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to study the ~~problem-of-the-nursing shortage-in-this-State~~ guidelines, policies, and decisions of the Health Services Cost Review Commission, the State Health Coordinating Council, the State Health Planning and Development Agency, the State Board of Examiners of Nurses, the Board of Medical Examiners and such other parts of the Department which may affect the shortage of nurses; and providing that the Department should report its findings to the General Assembly by a certain date; and generally relating to the supply and demand for nurses.

WHEREAS, The General Assembly has declared that there is a shortage of nurses in this State; and

WHEREAS, The need for competent nurses ~~in-hospitals~~ in Maryland is vital to the health and well-being of the citizens of this State; and

WHEREAS, The Health Services Cost Review Commission was established in 1971 to perform several functions. One of these functions is to assure all purchasers of health care hospital services that costs of the hospital are reasonably related to total services offered by the hospital and that the hospital's aggregate rates are set in reasonable relation to the hospital's aggregate costs; and

WHEREAS, ~~The Health Services Cost Review Commission, pursuant to its legislative mandate, has used various guidelines and rates in an effort to hold down hospital costs attributable to nursing costs, and~~

WHEREAS, ~~The Commission's guidelines, policies, and rates affecting nursing costs may have assisted in increasing the shortage of nurses in this State, and~~

WHEREAS, ~~The problem of the decreasing nursing population and the role of the Commission~~ nursing shortage is considered a State health priority by the Senate of Maryland, but is not identified as such in the State Health Plan; and

WHEREAS, the State Health Planning and Development Agency is required to consider the availability of nurses and effect on the quality of care at other institutions when reviewing requests for expanded facilities and new services; and

WHEREAS, The State Board of Examiners of Nurses is required to promulgate regulations regarding the role and eligibility of nurses; and

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