

WHEREAS, There is a nationally identified shortage of workers in many health care fields; and

~~WHEREAS, A recent study by the Center for Health Workforce Development~~

WHEREAS, Recent studies have identified critical shortages in Maryland of health care professionals and workers, including laboratory technicians and mental health specialists, radiologic technicians, respiratory therapists, and physical therapists, in many important health care fields including nursing and pharmacy; and

WHEREAS, Individuals in rural and underserved areas of Maryland are at risk due to a shortage in Maryland of physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals and workers; and

WHEREAS, Access to care, the delivery of quality care, and patient safety are dependent on the availability of an adequate supply of well-educated and trained health care professionals and workers, the backbone of the health care delivery system; now, therefore

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

**Article - Health Occupations**

**SUBTITLE 6. STATEWIDE COMMISSION ON THE SHORTAGE IN THE HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE.**

1-601.

(A) THERE IS A STATEWIDE COMMISSION ON THE SHORTAGE IN THE HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE.

(B) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

(1) ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

(2) ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

(3) THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE;

(4) THE SECRETARY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT;

(5) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, OR THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE;

(6) THE SECRETARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

(7) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND WITH KNOWLEDGE OF HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE ISSUES, APPOINTED BY THE CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND;