

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER, Governor

This Session the General Assembly passed, and I have signed, legislation enhancing the financial resources of community colleges. With enactment of the community college funding bill (H.B. 1449), general funding for community colleges increased by almost \$10 million, to a level of \$92 million in fiscal year 1990. The State is paying an additional \$26 million for professors' pension and Social Security payments. The total State support for community colleges in fiscal year 1990, therefore, is over \$118 million.

I also signed four bills aimed at improving nursing education in the State. These bills deal with transition courses to facilitate the reentry of nurses (S.B. 703), authorizing State scholarships for part-time nursing students (S.B. 706), determining the feasibility of a cooperative degree program at the University of Maryland (S.B. 705), and establishing a task force to study certain aspects of nursing education programs throughout the State (S.B. 704).

While I am very supportive of efforts to increase the number of individuals entering health occupations, I am not convinced that Senate Bill 707 would actually create the incentives envisioned by the sponsors. The payment of the grant to a community college after graduation of a student does not seem likely to encourage students to initially decide to enter a health occupation education program.

Given these new laws for improving nursing education and the significantly increased level of funding for community colleges, I do not believe that an additional, small categorical grant program for the community colleges would be appropriate at this time.

For these reasons, I have decided to veto Senate Bill 707.

Sincerely,  
William Donald Schaefer  
Governor

Senate Bill No. 707

AN ACT concerning

Health Manpower Shortage Training Grant Program

FOR the purpose of establishing a Health Manpower Shortage Training Grant Program for ~~community--colleges~~ certain institutions-of-postsecondary-education community colleges for certain students who graduate from certain educational programs leading to licensure or certification in health