

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2002.

Approved May 6, 2002.

CHAPTER 322

(Senate Bill 537)

AN ACT concerning

~~Health Occupations - Nurses' Bill of Rights~~
Labor and Employment - Nurses - Involuntary Overtime Prohibition

FOR the purpose of ~~declaring that nurses have certain rights; prohibiting an employer from taking retribution against a nurse under certain circumstances; prohibiting an employer from requiring a nurse to work more than the scheduled hours according to the predetermined work schedule; providing that a nurse may not be considered to be responsible for the care of a patient beyond the nurse's scheduled work period~~ predetermined work schedule under certain circumstances; requiring an employer to ~~be responsible for ensuring~~ exhaust all good faith, reasonable attempts to ensure that appropriate staff is available to accept responsibility for care of a patient beyond a nurse's scheduled work period predetermined work schedule; exempting certain nurses from certain provisions of this Act; defining a certain terms *term*; and generally relating to the ~~rights of nurses~~ employment and work hours of nurses.

~~BY adding to~~

~~Article - Health Occupations
Section 8-103 and 8-708
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)~~

BY adding to

Article - Labor and Employment
Section 3-421
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1999 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

Preamble

~~WHEREAS, Nurses are highly competent, highly educated specialists, and highly valued professional care givers who are independent decision makers and whose autonomy of action is legally defined; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Nurses are at the core of the delivery of hands-on patient care; and~~