

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR60093-LN-29A\* (2/11)**

Sponsors: Representative Setzer.

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Referred to:

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1 A JOINT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
2 COMMISSION TO STUDY THE NURSING SHORTAGE.

3 Whereas, a study published in the Journal of the American Medical  
4 Association (JAMA) revealed that between 1983 and 1998 the average age of working  
5 Registered Nurses increased by 4.5 years to 41.9; and

6 Whereas, the JAMA study indicated that 35% fewer full-time Registered  
7 Nurses are observed today when compared to similar age groups of Registered Nurses  
8 entering the workforce 20 years ago; and

9 Whereas, according to the JAMA study, within 10 years, 40% of working  
10 Registered Nurses will be 50 years or older and, as those nurses retire, the supply of  
11 working Registered Nurses is projected to be 20% below requirements by the year  
12 2020; and

13 Whereas, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that jobs for Registered  
14 Nurses will grow 23% by 2008; and

15 Whereas, according to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, RN  
16 enrollments in schools of nursing are down, and in the fall of 2000, entry-level BSN  
17 enrollment fell by 2.1%, dropping for the sixth year in a row; and

18 Whereas, physician respondents in a recent survey by the Harvard School of  
19 Public Health indicated that among the leading causes of medical errors are a shortage  
20 of nurses; Now, therefore,

21 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

22 **SECTION 1.** The Legislative Research Commission may study the reasons  
23 for the nursing shortage and the impact the shortage has on quality of health care in this  
24 State. The study may include recommendations to increase the supply of nurses, school  
25 nurses, nursing program faculty, and the amount of funds needed in the Nursing  
26 Scholars Program to reduce the nursing shortage. In conducting the study, the  
27 Commission shall consult with representatives of the following: North Carolina  
28 Community Colleges, the North Carolina Hospital Association, the North Carolina Area

1 Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program, the North Carolina Nurses Association, the  
2 North Carolina Institute of Medicine Task Force on the North Carolina Nursing  
3 Workforce, the North Carolina Center for Nursing, the North Carolina Board of  
4 Nursing, the North Carolina Associate Degree Nursing Council, and any other related  
5 organizations.

6       **SECTION 2.** The Legislative Research Commission may make an interim  
7 report to the 2003 General Assembly, 2004 Regular Session, and shall make its final  
8 report to the 2005 General Assembly.

9       **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.