

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 360 Session of  
2009

INTRODUCED BY THOMAS, MCGEEHAN, OLIVER, JOSEPHS, BISHOP, DALEY,  
HALUSKA, KAUFFMAN, KIRKLAND, PALLONE, PARKER, PAYTON,  
SIPTROTH, WILLIAMS AND YOUNGBLOOD, JUNE 17, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, JUNE 17, 2009

## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs to  
2 conduct an in-depth review of the Commonwealth's approved  
3 professional nursing programs to determine each program's  
4 effectiveness in producing well-prepared licensed practical  
5 nurse candidates.

6 WHEREAS, Throughout the United States, there is currently a  
7 shortage of professionals in the field of nursing which, as a  
8 result, has caused a decrease in the volume of patient care in  
9 the country; and

10 WHEREAS, This shortage is especially prevalent in this  
11 Commonwealth, which ranks in the bottom half of states with the  
12 lowest number of registered nurses per capita; and

13 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth has made a concerted effort to  
14 address this issue by making nursing education grants and loan  
15 forgiveness programs available to nursing programs in this  
16 Commonwealth in order to promote greater participation in the  
17 nursing profession; and

18 WHEREAS, Certain approved professional nursing programs in  
19 this Commonwealth have been ineffective in properly preparing

1 graduates of their programs for passage of professional nursing  
2 licensure exams; and

3 WHEREAS, Certain professional nursing programs have  
4 prohibitions on the transferability of academic credits from  
5 licensed practical nursing (LPN) to registered nursing programs  
6 which limits procurement of LPNs and decreases the already  
7 diminished LPN workforce; and

8 WHEREAS, It is essential that State-approved professional  
9 nursing programs provide adequate preparation to students in  
10 order to maintain the benefit of high quality health care to  
11 Pennsylvanians; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Bureau  
13 of Professional and Occupational Affairs, within the Department  
14 of State, to conduct an in-depth review of all approved nursing  
15 programs to determine the effectiveness of each program in  
16 preparing students to take the State's registered nurse  
17 licensure exam; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the bureau use specific indicators to  
19 determine the effectiveness of these programs which include, but  
20 are not limited to, management practices, costs and fees for  
21 students, support services offered to students and counseling  
22 and clinical experience; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the bureau compile a report based on its  
24 findings and provide recommendations for strengthening  
25 professional nursing programs in order to improve passage rates  
26 for certain low-performing programs; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the bureau submit its report to the House of  
28 Representatives within 180 days following the adoption of this  
29 resolution.