

CHAPTER 57**(HCR 121)**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION directing the Legislative Research Commission to conduct a study on the advisability of licensing physician assistants.

WHEREAS, there is a shortage of physicians in some areas of Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, people in underserved areas may benefit if physician assistants work with supervising physicians to improve access to medical care in those areas; and

WHEREAS, physician assistants are valued health care providers; and

WHEREAS, recent news reports on the poor health of Kentuckians in general highlight the role that licensed physician assistants may play in providing increased health care services in the state; and

WHEREAS, physician assistants have proven to be effective in educating patients about implementing healthy lifestyle practices; and

WHEREAS, the retention of state-trained health care practitioners is a laudable goal; and

WHEREAS, 43 states and the District of Columbia license physician assistants; and

WHEREAS, when referring to professional credentialing, the term "certification" generally refers to voluntary accreditation and the term "licensing" refers to the imposition of state-mandated requirements to practice;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:

Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission shall conduct a study on the advisability of licensing physician assistants. The study shall identify the advantages and disadvantages of licensing physician assistants. The analysis undertaken shall compare and contrast the services physician assistants in other states are authorized to provide by statute with those Kentucky physician assistants are authorized to provide; compare the employment patterns of physician assistants in states with, and without, licensing requirements; and gather information, testimony, and opinions from affected persons and groups in and out of Kentucky regarding the advantages and disadvantages of licensing physician assistants in the Commonwealth.

Section 2. The Legislative Research Commission shall transmit the results of the study required by Section 1 of this Resolution to the appropriate committees by December 15, 2005.

Section 3. Provisions of this resolution to the contrary notwithstanding, the Legislative Research Commission shall have the authority to alternatively assign the issues identified herein to an interim joint committee or subcommittee thereof, and to designate a study completion date.

Approved March 11, 2005.