

CHAPTER 137**(HCR 22)**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION declaring that nuclear power generation is a clean and dispatchable means of providing baseload electricity to the residents and businesses of the Commonwealth.

WHEREAS, for decades, a moratorium on the construction of nuclear power facilities in Kentucky caused the Commonwealth to fall behind the rest of the country in the development and deployment of nuclear power, including the neighboring states of Illinois, Tennessee, Ohio, and Virginia; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the General Assembly lifted the long-standing nuclear moratorium in the Commonwealth with the passage of Senate Bill 11; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the General Assembly passed Senate Joint Resolution 79 to convene a working group of state officials and representatives of the utility and nuclear industries to advise the General Assembly on the establishment of a permanent nuclear energy commission to provide for the education, coordination of resources, and professional expertise necessary to foster the development of the nuclear industry in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the report produced by the Nuclear Energy Development Working Group, and with the passage of Senate Bill 198 in 2024, the General Assembly established the Kentucky Nuclear Energy Development Authority to serve as the nonregulatory, trusted state government agency on nuclear energy issues and to support and facilitate the development of the nuclear energy ecosystem across the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, interest in developing the nuclear energy industry in Kentucky has never been greater for many reasons, including the emergence of promising new nuclear technologies like small modular reactors that may be useful in a range of applications in the Commonwealth and the need for new baseload energy generation to be sited in the Commonwealth in order to maintain the resiliency and reliability of the electric grid; and

WHEREAS, nuclear power should be an important part of the Commonwealth's all of the above energy approach; and

WHEREAS, nuclear power is an excellent option for generating large amounts of baseload electricity that is reliable, dispatchable, and produces no emissions while in operation; and

WHEREAS, the practice of reprocessing spent nuclear fuel for reuse reduces the volume of high-level wastes produced from the nuclear energy generation process and decreases demand for new fuel, both of which contribute to the cleanliness of nuclear energy as a baseload electricity source; and

WHEREAS, the nuclear industry is among the most thoroughly tested and regulated industries in the world, and nuclear power plants constructed in the United States are well designed to withstand natural disasters like floods, droughts, earthquakes, and hurricanes, as well as man-made threats;

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 General Assembly finds and declares that nuclear power generation is a clean and dispatchable means of providing baseload electricity to the residents and businesses of the Commonwealth, and that adding nuclear power to Kentucky's energy portfolio would result in a more resilient and reliable electric grid.

➔Section 2. The General Assembly further finds that adding nuclear power generation to Kentucky's energy portfolio in a timely manner is more important than ever given the speed of ongoing retirements of fossil fuel-fired generation resources in the Commonwealth, which have provided reliable and dispatchable baseload electricity for decades but are being replaced with intermittent and less reliable generation resources that are not capable of providing baseload power.

Signed by Governor March 31, 2025.