

CHAPTER 191**(SCR 66)**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville to explore opportunities to participate in federal nuclear-related programs and to expand their curricula to offer courses and degree paths to train the workforce that will construct and operate the next generation of nuclear energy facilities.

WHEREAS, with the passage of Senate Bill 11 in 2017, the General Assembly lifted the moratorium on the construction of new nuclear power facilities that had been in place for decades; and

WHEREAS, interest in developing the nuclear energy ecosystem in Kentucky has never been greater for many reasons, including but not limited to the momentum created by the convening of the Nuclear Energy Development Working Group and the recommendations it produced for the establishment of the Kentucky Nuclear Energy Development Authority; and

WHEREAS, the emergence of promising new nuclear technologies, including small modular reactors, may be useful in a range of applications in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, there is increasing 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, there are 25 university research nuclear reactors located across the United States, including at universities in the neighboring states of Missouri, Indiana, and Ohio; and

WHEREAS, universities with research nuclear reactors and universities that have sharing agreements with those universities are eligible for research funding from the United States Department of Energy's Nuclear Energy University Program; and

WHEREAS, cutting-edge nuclear research is being conducted at these universities, including at Texas A&M University, where in February 2025, the university offered land to four nuclear power companies to construct and test the latest prototypes of small modular reactors; and

WHEREAS, the Markey Cancer Center at the University of Kentucky and the Brown Cancer Center at the University of Louisville already use various radioactive isotopes in their radiopharmaceuticals to treat metastatic neuroendocrine tumors and prostate cancer, with researchers also conducting clinical trials to possibly expand their use to treatment of breast, colon, head and neck, lung, pancreatic, and other cancers; and

WHEREAS, as part of the development of the nuclear energy ecosystem in the Commonwealth, universities should take a lead role in exploring opportunities to participate in the latest nuclear energy research and expand their course offerings to contribute to the development of the nuclear energy workforce in the Commonwealth;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. The General Assembly urges the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville to explore opportunities to participate in the United States Department of Energy's Nuclear Energy University Program and to expand their curricula to offer courses and degree paths to train the workforce that will construct and operate the next generation of nuclear energy facilities.

➔Section 2. The General Assembly further encourages the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville to engage and collaborate with the United States Department of War to explore possible nuclear energy-related grant funding and research opportunities that may become available as the universities expand their contributions to the development of the nuclear energy ecosystem in the Commonwealth.

➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution and notification of its passage to Eli Capilouto, President, University of Kentucky, 101 Main Building, Lexington, Kentucky 40506, and Gerry Bradley, President, University of Louisville, Grawemeyer Hall, Suite 102, Louisville, Kentucky 40292.

Signed by Governor April 23, 2026.