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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 165

Offered January 24, 2000

*Requesting the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to work with Virginia nursing schools to encourage students to obtain certified nurse aide credentials early in their nursing training.*

Patrons—Martin, Bolling and Schrock; Delegates: Hamilton and Morgan

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, there is a staffing shortage of certified nurse aides both in Virginia and nationwide; and

WHEREAS, a 1998 study by the Department of Medical Assistance Services found turnover of certified nurse aides in Virginia's nursing homes averages 80 percent per year; and

WHEREAS, certified nurse aides are the primary direct-care staff in long-term care nursing facilities; and

WHEREAS, the need for nurse aides is expected to increase considering the aging of the population in Virginia and the resulting increased demand that will be placed on long-term care services; and

WHEREAS, one means of addressing the shortage of certified nurse aides is to encourage nursing schools in Virginia to assist nursing students in obtaining certified nurse aide credentials early in their training, enabling them to work as certified nurse aides while they complete more advanced nursing studies; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia is to promote the development and operation of an educationally and economically sound, vigorous, progressive, and coordinated system of higher education in the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, the House of Delegates concurring, That nursing students are encouraged to obtain certified nurse aide credentials early in their training and to work in long-term care facilities in Virginia while they complete more advanced nursing studies; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia work with Virginia's nursing schools to encourage students to obtain certified nurse aide credentials early in their training to become licensed practical nurses or registered nurses; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That all agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, upon request; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia prepare and submit a report outlining the actions that will be taken to encourage nursing students to obtain certified nurse aide credentials early in their training. Such report shall be submitted to the Joint Commission on Health Care by September 15, 2000, and to the Governor and the 2001 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

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