314.450 Legislative finding.

The General Assembly hereby finds and declares that:

(1) Kentucky is experiencing a nursing shortage that, without proactive intervention, could have serious consequences for the delivery of health care in the state;

(2) With the average age of registered nurses in Kentucky at forty-four (44) years and the average age for licensed practical nurses at forty-nine (49) years, an adequate number of new nurses will be needed to replace the aging nursing workforce;

(3) The current number of students will not be enough to meet the state's future needs for nurses;

(4) The age of nursing educators continues to rise and nursing schools are finding it increasingly more difficult to attract qualified educators;

(5) Changes in the delivery of care and more employment options becoming available to nurses that did not exist previously are making it difficult for employers of nurses to recruit and retain an adequate number of qualified nursing personnel;

(6) Educational institutions must be involved in addressing the shortage but require financial assistance to support the costs associated with program changes, expansions, or both;

(7) Financial assistance is needed to help employers provide scholarships and develop and implement innovative recruitment and retention strategies;

(8) The state has a role in helping to support and finance activities directed toward increasing the supply of nurses; and

(9) A foundation should be established to receive grants, contributions, federal funding, and appropriations for the purpose of making awards to educational institutions, nurses seeking graduate degrees, nursing employers, nursing employer consortiums, and nursing employer associations to meet the workforce needs for licensed nurses in the state.

Effective: July 15, 2002

History: Created 2002 Ky. Acts ch. 272, sec. 1, effective July 15, 2002.