

1 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 122**

2 (By Delegates Perdue, Fleischauer, Diserio, Staggers, Eldridge,
3 Kinsey, Moore, Ellington, Sobonya and Miller)

4 [Originating in the Committee on Health and Human Resources;
5 Reported March 3, 2014]

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8 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to study
9 the feasibility of the following changes to the regulatory
10 requirements of advanced practice registered nurses (APRN):
11 expanding of scope of practice; expanding prescriptive
12 authority; permitting annual prescriptions supplies;
13 permitting that a signature have the same effect as a
14 physician insofar as patient care documentation in concerned;
15 and removing the collaborative relationship with physicians.

16 WHEREAS, West Virginia faces many challenges in meeting the
17 health care needs of its citizens with nearly half of the total
18 population residing in rural areas; and

19 WHEREAS, These citizens have high rates of chronic illness,
20 unhealthy lifestyles and have geographic and financial limitations
21 in accessing health care providers; and

22 WHEREAS, The influx of newly insured individuals may strain an
23 already fragile health care system that is not able to meet the
24 health care needs of its current population; and

25 WHEREAS, There is a growing shortage of primary care
26 physicians in West Virginia; and

27 WHEREAS, APRNs have provided not only primary health care for
28 over five decades, but also practice in ambulatory, acute and long-
29 term care settings; and

30 WHEREAS, Though nurse practitioners can legally practice in
31 all states, the ability of APRNs to practice to the full extent of
32 their education and training is dictated by individual state laws;
33 and

34 WHEREAS, Eighteen states and the District of Columbia allow
35 APRNs to practice and prescribe independently without direct
36 physician supervision or collaboration; and

37 WHEREAS, West Virginia's current APRN laws mandate that they
38 collaborate with physicians; this requirement may limit
39 implementing innovative solutions such as nurse-managed rural
40 health or mobile clinics; and

41 WHEREAS, A 2010 Institute of Medicine report calls for states
42 to remove unnecessary barriers that prevent APRNs from practicing
43 to the full extent of their educational training; therefore, be it

44 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

45 That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance is hereby
46 requested to conduct a study of the feasibility of the following
47 changes to the regulatory requirements of advanced practice
48 registered nurses (APRN): expanding of scope of practice; expanding

49 prescriptive authority; permitting annual prescriptions supplies;
50 permitting that a signature have the same effect as a physician
51 insofar as patient care documentation in concerned; and removing
52 the collaborative relationship with physicians; and, be it

53 *Further Resolved*, That the Joint Committee on Government and
54 Finance report to the regular session of the Legislature, 2015, on
55 its findings, conclusions and recommendations together with drafts
56 of any legislation necessary to effectuate its recommendations;
57 and, be it

58 *Further Resolved*, That the expenses necessary to conduct this
59 study, to prepare a report and to draft necessary legislation be
60 paid from legislative appropriations to the Joint Committee on
61 Government and Finance.