

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs to
2 study the feasibility of hiring or contracting with active duty military personnel to help
3 alleviate its nursing staff shortages at some veterans' center nursing homes.

4 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs has struggled for some
5 time with nursing staff shortages at some of the veterans' centers due to their inability to
6 compete with the local private market starting salaries; and

7 WHEREAS, the department has demonstrated a current and ongoing nursing staff
8 shortage at Thomson-Hood Veterans Center of approximately 45 percent and at Western
9 Kentucky Veterans Center of approximately 43 percent; and

10 WHEREAS, despite continually putting nursing staff vacancies on the Personnel
11 Cabinet job registers, the vacancies filled at Thomson-Hood Veterans Center averages
12 less than 40 percent of the advertised open positions; and

13 WHEREAS, positions in the United States Armed Forces include many nursing
14 military occupational specialties; and

15 WHEREAS, there may be an opportunity to partner with the Department of Defense
16 and the various branches of the Armed Forces to provide nursing positions at state
17 veterans' centers as duty stations for active duty military personnel who are nurses;

18 NOW, THEREFORE,

19 ***Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

20 ➔Section 1. The Department of Veterans Affairs is directed to study the
21 feasibility of hiring or contracting with active duty military personnel to alleviate nursing
22 staff shortages at some veterans' centers.

23 ➔Section 2. The Department of Veterans Affairs shall present a report to the
24 Legislative Research Commission, which shall refer the report to the Interim Joint
25 Committee on Veterans, Military Affairs, and Public Protection by no later than
26 November 1, 2017. The report shall include a summary of the department's research
27 relative to Section 1 of this Act.