

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION DRSJR65102-LG-56 (03/04)

Sponsors: Senators Rand and Lucas.

Referred to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF MARY
2 LEWIS WYCHE, FOUNDER AND FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH
3 CAROLINA NURSES ASSOCIATION AND ONE OF THE THREE NURSES
4 APPOINTED TO THE FIRST NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF NURSE
5 EXAMINERS, ON THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF
6 PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN NORTH CAROLINA.

7 Whereas, in 1894, Mary Lewis Wyche, native of Vance County and graduate
8 of Philadelphia General Hospital School of Nursing, founded North Carolina's first
9 school of nursing at Rex Hospital in Raleigh; and

10 Whereas, on October 24, 1901, Mary Lewis Wyche called together nurses in
11 the Raleigh area and formed the Raleigh Nurses Association; and

12 Whereas, the following year on October 28, 1902, Mary Lewis Wyche invited
13 nurses from across the State to meet with members of the Raleigh Nurses Association,
14 and together they founded the North Carolina State Nurses Association, now known as
15 the North Carolina Nurses Association; and

16 Whereas, Mary Lewis Wyche, as president of the North Carolina State
17 Nurses Association, successfully lobbied for the establishment of the first nursing laws
18 in the United States; and

19 Whereas, the first Nursing Practice Act in the United States was signed into
20 law on March 3, 1903, by Governor Charles Aycock; and

21 Whereas, the North Carolina Board of Nurse Examiners, now known as the
22 Board of Nursing, became the first board of nursing in the United States; and

23 Whereas, Josephine Burton of Craven County became the first registered
24 nurse in the United States on June 4, 1903; and

25 Whereas, Mary Rose Battenhan of Buncombe County registered as a nurse on
26 June 5, 1903; and

27 Whereas, the North Carolina Nurses Association and the North Carolina
28 Board of Nursing are jointly celebrating their 100th anniversary; and

1 Whereas, the North Carolina Nurses Association has worked throughout its
2 existence to promote the profession of nursing through strengthening education and
3 practice standards; and

4 Whereas, the North Carolina Nurses Association advocates both for
5 registered nurses in their workplace and for quality care for their patients; and

6 Whereas, the North Carolina Board of Nursing ensures safe care to the public
7 through the licensure of registered nurses and licensed practical nurses, approval of
8 education programs, and regulation of the scope of nursing practice; and

9 Whereas, the North Carolina Board of Nursing is the only organization in the
10 United States whose nurses elect the nurse members of the Board; and

11 Whereas, the North Carolina Nurses Association and the North Carolina
12 Board of Nursing, working together, serve to improve access to quality health care for
13 the citizens of North Carolina; Now, therefore,

14 Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

15 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the life and memory of Mary
16 Lewis Wyche and expresses appreciation for the contributions she made to the State of
17 North Carolina, the North Carolina Nurses Association, and the North Carolina Board
18 of Nursing. The General Assembly recognizes the historical accomplishments of the
19 North Carolina Nurses Association and the North Carolina Board of Nursing and
20 congratulates them on 100 years of dedicated commitment to improving the health of
21 the citizens of North Carolina and to advancing the nursing profession by promoting
22 high standards of nursing education and nursing practice.

23 **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
24 resolution to the President of the North Carolina Nurses Association and the Chairman
25 of the North Carolina Board of Nursing.

26 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.