

## EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 179

WHEREAS, Nursing care represents an important link in the chain of health care services vital to the health and well-being of the citizens of this State; and

WHEREAS, Nurses belong to the single largest professional discipline within the medical care delivery system; and

WHEREAS, This State, as well as the rest of the nation, is experiencing an acute nursing shortage; and

WHEREAS, The crisis in nursing vacancies has now climbed to a 17 percent vacancy rate reported in New Jersey hospitals; and

WHEREAS, This crisis cuts broadly across the entire medical care delivery system including not only the acute care industry, but also the long-term care and home health care industries;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Thomas H. Kean, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of this State, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. There is hereby created a Nursing Shortage Study Commission to evaluate the adequacy of the current and future supply of registered professional nurses and ancillary nursing personnel in New Jersey and to make recommendations to insure that the supply of registered professional nurses and ancillary nursing personnel will be consistent with the health care needs of the people of this State.

2. The Commission shall consist of 13 members, appointed by the Governor, as follows: (a) one member of the New Jersey Board of Nursing; (b) three registered professional nurses, including one representative from each of the following organizations: the New Jersey State Nurses Association, the New Jersey League for Nursing, and the Organization of Nurse Executives of New Jersey; and (c) nine public members including one representative from each of the following organizations: the New Jersey Hospital Association, the Home Health Agency Assembly of New Jersey, Inc., the New Jersey Association of Health Care Facilities, the New Jersey Hospice Organization, the New Jersey Association of Deans and Directors of Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Programs, the New Jersey Council of Chairpersons of Associate Degree Programs, the Association of Diploma Schools of Professional Nursing, the Licensed Practical Nurse Association of New Jersey and the New Jersey Association of Non-profit Homes for the Aging.

3. The Commission shall organize as soon as practicable after the appointment of its members. The Governor shall designate the Chairperson of the Commission from among the members of the Commission who shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The Vice-Chairperson shall be selected by the Commission from among its members. Commission members shall serve without compensation.

4. The Commission may meet and hold hearings at such place or places as it shall designate and shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor not more than 180 days following its organization.

5. The Departments of Human Services, Higher Education and Health are authorized and directed, to the extent consistent with the law, to cooperate with the Commission and supply such data, program reports and other information as may be requested by the Commission for its study. In addition, the Department of Health shall furnish the Commission with such staff, office space and supplies as necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Order.

6. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall expire 12 months after its effective date.

Issued October 6, 1987.

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WHEREAS, The State of New Jersey has been the site of numerous commemorative historical and cultural celebrations that have included: the Tall Ships of 1976, Liberation Monument, the Statue of Liberty Celebration, the Waterfront Marathon and the annual Ethnic Festival; and

WHEREAS, The State of New Jersey has made major contributions to the historical significance of this Great Nation through its strategic location, diversified geography, cultural sites and attractions; and

WHEREAS, Numerous major celebratory events are planned for the future that include local and Statewide celebrations of the United States Constitution, a celebration of the Colony of New Sweden, the National Governors' Conference, the Centennial of Ellis Island and others; and