

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION establishing the Adoption Task Force.

2 WHEREAS, interim joint committees may meet monthly from June to November
3 during the interim to consider issues related to their legislative jurisdictions; and

4 WHEREAS, interim joint committees are able to call on outside experts on issues to
5 provide relevant testimony and information; and

6 WHEREAS, interim joint committees are able to utilize the staff, facilities, and
7 other resources existing at the Legislative Research Commission; and

8 WHEREAS, the General Assembly recognizes the importance of studying the data,
9 the complexity of issues, and the consequences of proposed legislation;

10 NOW, THEREFORE,

11 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*
12 *Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:*

13 ➔Section 1. Interim joint committee co-chairs have complete discretion as to the
14 amount of committee time to devote to an issue and the depth of the committee's analysis.
15 At the request of both co-chairs of an interim joint committee, the Legislative Research
16 Commission may assign to an interim joint committee one or more of the following
17 issues:

18 (1) An investigation of adoption in the Commonwealth of Kentucky that might identify
19 policy options to streamline the adoption process, increase efficiency, reduce the
20 timeline of the adoption process, reduce costs, and decrease paperwork and
21 redundancy;

22 (2) A review of a mileage-based transportation funding mechanism to replace the
23 current system of taxing highway use through motor vehicle fuel taxes;

24 (3) A review of the financial and civic literacy programs that may be implemented in
25 high schools and required for high school graduation;

26 (4) A review of the current state of county animal shelters in the Commonwealth that
27 could recommend standards and processes for better regulation of county animal

- 1 shelters and advocate and find methods to fund spay and neuter options for pets
2 across the state. The final report could include:
- 3 (a) An analysis of Kentucky animal shelter standards and pet overpopulation and
4 access to, cost of, and funding for spay and neuter services;
 - 5 (b) Recommendations for the periodic inspection of Kentucky county shelters and
6 enforcement of Kentucky animal shelter standards; and
 - 7 (c) Identification of potential funding sources for Kentucky county animal
8 shelters for spay and neuter programs, shelter services appropriate for animal
9 welfare, and ways to reduce shelter intake and pet overpopulation;
- 10 (5) A review of the current status of the Hepatitis C epidemic with a goal of producing
11 legislative, executive, community, and regional recommendations to better combat
12 this epidemic, and to advocate and publicize the seriousness of viral Hepatitis C
13 infection and the looming Hepatitis C epidemic;
- 14 (6) A review of the property tax calendar and possible development of legislative
15 recommendations on whether property taxes can be paid on another due date or on a
16 monthly or quarterly basis to replace the current process requiring a lump sum
17 payment at the end of the tax year;
- 18 (7) A review of the use of volunteer firefighters in Kentucky, the factors impacting the
19 recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters, and the options used in Kentucky
20 and across the nation to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters. The study may
21 include recommendations to improve the recruitment and retention of volunteer
22 firefighters;
- 23 (8) A review of essential skills programs that teach skills and characteristics that are
24 critical to success in the workplace to be provided to students in kindergarten
25 through grade twelve (12) in order to graduate, along with legislative
26 recommendations. Essential skills include but are not limited to instruction on
27 adaptability, diligence, initiative, knowledge, reliability, remaining drug free, and

1 working well with others;

2 (9) A review of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services' Waiver Redesign Working
3 Group formed to redesign the way that services and supports are provided to
4 medically fragile and medically complex populations in the Medicaid system
5 through the 1915(c) Medicaid Waiver;

6 (10) A review of the potential for local health departments to perform drug testing for
7 individuals that are participating in drug court or who are on probation;

8 (11) A review of the need and potential effectiveness of requiring physical and health
9 education instruction in prescription opioid abuse prevention and the connection
10 between abuse and addiction to other drugs;

11 (12) A review of effective screening tools and interventions for students who have
12 dyslexia in order to improve student learning. The study may include a
13 consideration of response-to-intervention components, a list of qualified screening
14 tools, frequency of screening for dyslexia, and development and resources for
15 teachers;

16 (13) A review of the Board of Education's nepotism prohibitions. The review may
17 include considerations of the need for the prohibitions and the consequences of
18 lifting some hiring eligibility restrictions; and

19 (14) A review of the duties of the Kentucky Attorney General. The review may include
20 the authority of the Attorney General to represent the state in civil lawsuits.

21 ➔Section 2. The co-chairs of an interim joint committee shall retain complete
22 authority on the scope of any review. A review may involve consideration at a portion of
23 one or more meetings during the interim. The co-chairs may or may not elect to report on
24 findings, and any report may be in the form of a draft of proposed legislation, a
25 memorandum, or a more formal report developed under formal research standards of the
26 Legislative Research Commission.

27 ➔Section 3. This Resolution shall not be construed to limit the authority of co-

- 1 chairs to review any other issues relevant to their interim joint committees' jurisdictions.