

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION directing the Legislative Research Commission
2 to establish the Kentucky Preschool Program Task Force.

3 WHEREAS, Kentucky has a poverty rate of 16.9%, more than 5 percentage points
4 higher than the 2018 national average of 11.8%; and

5 WHEREAS, Kentucky's labor force participation rate of 57% in November 2020
6 falls far behind the national average of 61.5% in November 2020 and has been
7 consistently declining for two decades; and

8 WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has said that child
9 care should cost no more than 7% of a family's income; and

10 WHEREAS, Kentucky's median household income is \$50,247; and

11 WHEREAS, Kentucky's median annual child care rate of \$7,000, as a percentage of
12 the median household income, is more than double what the U.S. Department of Health
13 and Human Services says is affordable and makes child care unaffordable for most
14 Kentucky families; and

15 WHEREAS, access to high-quality early childhood education is essential to combat
16 poverty and provide opportunity; and

17 WHEREAS, there were an estimated 111,748 preschool age children in Kentucky in
18 2018 but only 21,270 participated in state-funded preschool during the 2018-2019 school
19 year; and

20 WHEREAS, research shows that important brain development occurs during the
21 preschool years; and

22 WHEREAS, high-quality preschool has been shown to help children to be
23 "kindergarten ready," but for the 2019-2020 school year, only 51% of kindergarten
24 students arrived "kindergarten ready"; and

25 WHEREAS, children who participate in high-quality preschool programs are more
26 likely to graduate high school and college and have higher lifetime earnings; and

27 WHEREAS, access to high-quality preschool programs can benefit families by

1 reducing child care costs and increasing workforce participation rates; and

2 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has and will continue to have an
3 immeasurable impact on children of all ages; and

4 WHEREAS, the General Assembly believes that the convening of a task force is an
5 appropriate way to evaluate mixed delivery models and funding mechanisms for a high-
6 quality full-day preschool program that provides voluntary access to services for all 3-
7 and 4-year-old children in Kentucky;

8 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

11 ➔Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission is hereby directed to establish
12 the Kentucky Preschool Program Task Force to:

13 (1) Study the existing delivery system, organizational structure, and funding
14 mechanisms of early care and education programs in Kentucky, including but not limited
15 to Early Head Start, Head Start, public preschools, private preschools, child care centers,
16 and family child care homes;

17 (2) Study the health and social benefits to children of participating in a high-
18 quality early childhood education program;

19 (3) Identify best practices through research of Kentucky's and other states'
20 preschool programs that provide services to 3- and 4-year-old children;

21 (4) Develop strategies for interagency coordination to maximize existing
22 resources, including but not limited to federal, state, and local funding;

23 (5) Study the availability of staffing, resources, and preparation programs for
24 early childhood educators;

25 (6) Analyze the potential return on investment and tax revenue from a positive
26 impact on workforce participation and improved worker productivity;

27 (7) Identify best practices for parent education and engagement strategies;

1 (8) Analyze the cost of implementation and identify additional potential funding
2 sources; and

3 (9) Present written recommendations for legislation that would ensure voluntary
4 access to some form of high-quality full-day preschool program for all 3- and 4- year-old
5 children in Kentucky.

6 ➔Section 2. The Kentucky Preschool Program Task Force shall be composed of
7 the following members, with final membership of the task force being subject to the
8 consideration and approval of the Legislative Research Commission:

9 (1) One member of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate, who
10 shall serve as co-chair;

11 (2) One member of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker
12 of the House, who shall serve as co-chair;

13 (3) One member of the Senate to be appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of
14 the Senate;

15 (4) One member of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Minority
16 Floor Leader of the House;

17 (5) The commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Education or designee;

18 (6) The executive director of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood or
19 designee;

20 (7) The president of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce or designee;

21 (8) The director of a member facility of the Child Care Advocates of Kentucky to
22 be determined by its board of directors;

23 (9) The director of the Division of Child Care, Cabinet for Health and Family
24 Services or designee;

25 (10) The executive director of the Kentucky Head Start Association or designee;

26 (11) The president of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence or
27 designee;

1 (12) The president of the Family Resource Youth Services Coalition of Kentucky
2 or designee;

3 (13) The president of the United Way of Kentucky or designee;

4 (14) The president of the National Center for Families Learning or designee;

5 (15) A certified Kentucky elementary school teacher appointed by the Governor;

6 (16) An early childhood professor from a Kentucky public research university to be
7 determined by the Governor's Office of Early Childhood;

8 (17) The president of the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky or designee;

9 (18) The president of the resource and referral agency Community Coordinated
10 Child Care or designee;

11 (19) A Kentucky superintendent nominated by the Kentucky Association of School
12 Superintendents;

13 (20) The executive director of the Kentucky Youth Advocates or designee;

14 (21) A public preschool teacher appointed by the commissioner of the Kentucky
15 Department of Education;

16 (22) The president of the Louisville Urban League or designee; and

17 (23) The executive director of La Casita Center of Louisville or designee.

18 ➔Section 3. The Kentucky Preschool Program Task Force shall meet at least
19 monthly during the 2021 Interim of the General Assembly. The task force shall present its
20 findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation to be considered during the 2022
21 legislative session to the Interim Joint Committee on Education at its regularly scheduled
22 meeting in November 2021.

23 ➔Section 4. Provisions of this Resolution to the contrary notwithstanding, the
24 Legislative Research Commission shall have the authority to alternatively assign the
25 issues identified herein to a statutory committee, an interim joint committee, or a
26 subcommittee thereof and to designate a study completion date.