

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging local governments to facilitate the
2 creation of long-term recovery groups prior to the occurrence of disasters.

3 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Association of Mitigation Managers has identified
4 thirteen hazards that can readily affect Kentucky: dam failures; droughts; earthquakes;
5 extreme temperatures; floods; forest fires; hail storms; karst geological structures and
6 sinkholes; landslides; mine and land subsidence; severe storms; severe winter storms; and
7 tornadoes; and

8 WHEREAS, recently, Kentucky has been beset by several disasters that have had
9 significant impacts on the citizens of the Commonwealth which include, in part, the
10 Western Kentucky tornadoes of December 2021 affecting Caldwell County, Fulton
11 County, Graves County, Hickman County, Hopkins County, Marshall County, Ohio
12 County, and Warren County; and flooding in Breathitt County, Knott County, Letcher
13 County, Perry County, and Pike County in July 2022; and

14 WHEREAS, certain disasters of yore have become imprinted upon the psyche of
15 the Kentuckians that lived through them, such as the Ohio River Flood of 1937, wherein
16 over half of Louisville was flooded, causing the evacuation of tens of thousands of
17 residents from the city. In addition, there was the 1974 Super Outbreak of tornadoes
18 during which 148 tornadoes touched down in 13 states. In Kentucky 39 counties were
19 affected, with tornadoes killing 77 persons and injuring 1,377. The year 2024 will mark
20 the 50th anniversary of that disaster; and

21 WHEREAS, Kentucky has established a robust disaster and emergency system. The
22 Kentucky Division of Emergency Management works with state, federal, local, and
23 nongovernmental organizations to blunt the effects of disasters and other emergencies;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, there are four phases to a disaster cycle: mitigation, preparedness,
26 response, and recovery; and

27 WHEREAS, in a disaster, while the response phase could take anywhere from days

1 to months, the recovery phase can take years; and

2 WHEREAS, a long-term recovery group has been defined as a cooperative body
3 composed of representatives from faith-based groups, nonprofits, government, business,
4 and other organizations working within a community to assist individuals and families as
5 they recover from a disaster; and

6 WHEREAS, long-term recovery groups can provide years-long responses and
7 recovery to disasters; and

8 WHEREAS, groups such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, through
9 its publication "Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning Guide for Local Governments," and the
10 National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, through its "Long Term Recovery
11 Guide," can serve as resources for local government to begin to emplace fiscal resources,
12 personnel, governmental and nongovernmental resources, and policies so that when a
13 disaster occurs, local governments can be better prepared to marshal the resources
14 necessary in restoring, and potentially improving, their citizens' quality of life in the
15 months and years following a disaster;

16 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

19 ➔Section 1. The General Assembly urges Kentucky's local governments to
20 consult with state, federal, and nongovernmental entities to establish long-term recovery
21 groups, and to perform pre-disaster recovery planning so that there is little delay in
22 restoring citizens' standards of living when disasters occur within the Commonwealth.