

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to  
2 evaluate and report on services offered to children in out-of-home care settings.

3 WHEREAS, 10 percent of children placed in foster care reside in group homes or  
4 institutional placements; and

5 WHEREAS, up to 80 percent of children in foster care have significant mental  
6 health issues, compared to approximately 18 to 22 percent of the general population; and

7 WHEREAS, Kentucky ranks among the highest states in the country for rates of  
8 psychotropic medication use for children, including antipsychotic medications; and

9 WHEREAS, psychotropic medications are expensive and have many side effects,  
10 some of which bear a long-term burden on an individuals' health and finances;

11 NOW, THEREFORE,

12 ***Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

13 ➔Section 1. The Cabinet for Health and Family Services is hereby directed to:

14 (1) Partner with Aetna Better Health of Kentucky to conduct an external audit and  
15 review of current requirements related to training for residential care organizations to  
16 ensure the response to youth behavior in consideration of their history of trauma and  
17 reactiveness is consistent with best practices and appropriate interventions;

18 (2) Develop practices and procedures that would increase the opportunities for  
19 youth in residential or institutional care to enter relative or fictive kin placements with  
20 robust transitional supports for the youth and their families;

21 (3) Designate a study group to make recommendations regarding the creation and  
22 implementation of performance-based contracting for licensed child-caring facilities and  
23 child-placing agencies in the Commonwealth; and

24 (4) Develop practices and procedures related to the long-term effects of  
25 psychotropic medications on childhood development.

26 ➔Section 2. The Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall report on the audit,  
27 development of practice and procedures, and the study required in Section 1 of this

- 1 Resolution by November 1, 2024 to the Legislative Research Commission for referral to
- 2 the Interim Joint Committee on Families and Children.