

A RESOLUTION requesting that the Agriculture Committee examine and consider the legalization of monkey ownership in the Commonwealth.

WHEREAS, agile and lean in stature, standing 22 inches and weighing three to nine pounds, Capuchin monkeys are considered the most intelligent of the New World monkeys; and

WHEREAS, the intelligence of Capuchin monkeys is exhibited in the wild by their ability to collect, store, and use rocks as tools to open hard nuts; and

WHEREAS, with their high flexibility of habitat and variable diets, Capuchin monkeys have become popular as pets, attractions, and street entertainment in some states and other countries; and

WHEREAS, Capuchin monkeys are very clever, easy to train, and small, traits which facilitate their use and capabilities for helping people, including quadriplegics; and

WHEREAS, Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers for the Disabled, Inc. is an organization using Capuchin monkeys to help adults with mobility impairments throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, Ohio legislation has been passed banning exotic animals for personal use. Veterinarians who once cared for these animals are left out-of-work and agreeable to bringing monkey veterinarian practices to Kentucky upon monkey ownership legalization; and

WHEREAS, inconsistent with Kentucky law, many states in America have benefited from allowing Capuchin monkeys to be owned as pets and used as service animals; and

WHEREAS, Capuchin monkeys should not be stereotyped or discriminated against. With the intelligence, demeanor, and abilities of these monkeys, the ban in Kentucky should be lifted to allow the Commonwealth to benefit from and appreciate this amazing animal;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. The House of Representatives hereby requests that the Agriculture Committee examine and consider the legalization of monkey ownership in the Commonwealth.

➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House shall forward a copy of this Resolution and notification of its adoption to Jackie King, 45 Daisy Court, Cynthiana, Kentucky 41031