

1 A RESOLUTION encouraging high schools to offer annual government instruction.

2 WHEREAS, President Thomas Jefferson famously described a well-informed
3 electorate as a prerequisite to a properly functioning democracy; and

4 WHEREAS, a general understanding of how local government functions is critical
5 to understanding the context of actions taken by federal, state, and local governments and
6 is therefore essential to creating a well-informed electorate; and

7 WHEREAS, familiarity with how local government functions may inspire young
8 people to participate in local politics, seek out mentorship and networking opportunities,
9 and become more involved in their communities;

10 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

13 ➔Section 1. High schools across Kentucky are strongly encouraged to offer all
14 students at least 3 hours of annual, nonpartisan instruction on the roles and functions of
15 city, county, and state government. The encouraged instruction may incorporate
16 attendance at a government meeting, a presentation from a state or local government
17 official, or a field trip to a state or local government building. This instruction may be
18 incorporated into relevant classroom instruction or be covered as part of a school or class
19 assembly. Schools should reach out to local youth organizations, such as the Boys & Girls
20 Clubs, to assist in the provision of the instruction. The topics covered should include but
21 are not limited to:

22 (1) The duties, terms, and identity of local and state government officers;

23 (2) Elections, election rules, and voter registration;

24 (3) The relationship between local, state, and federal government with an
25 emphasis on the specific responsibilities of local government;

26 (4) Local and state taxes, including an explanation of how individual and business
27 tax liability is calculated and identification of agencies that are funded by local and state

1 tax revenue; and

2 (5) Relevant topics that are specific to the school's community.

3 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to send a copy
4 of this Resolution to Commissioner Jason Glass, Kentucky Department of Education, 300
5 Sower Boulevard, 5th Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601 and to Angela Briggs, Boys &
6 Girls Club of Glasgow Barren County, 100 Cheatham Street, Glasgow, Kentucky 42141.