

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION establishing the Kentucky Kinship Task Force.

2 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Kentucky has a child maltreatment rate of 12.3
3 per 1,000 children, while the national rate is 7.7 per 1,000 children; and

4 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Kentucky has grandparents, other relatives, and
5 fictive kin stepping up to care for children when their parents cannot care for them due to
6 abuse, neglect, dependency, death, deployment, or parental incarceration; and

7 WHEREAS, an estimated six percent of children are living in families where the
8 head of household is their grandparent or another relative; and

9 WHEREAS, the economic, physical, and mental well-being of kinship and fictive
10 kin caregivers and the children in their care are heavily impacted by their access to
11 necessary supports; and

12 WHEREAS, even with caregiver hardships, children still fare better on measures of
13 mental health, community connection, and education, when living with a kinship
14 caregiver compared to traditional foster care; and

15 WHEREAS, 1,151 babies were exposed to illegal substances prenatally in
16 Kentucky in 2022; and

17 WHEREAS, one in 10 children have experienced the incarceration of a parent;

18 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

21 ➔Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission shall establish the Kentucky
22 Kinship Task Force. The task force shall study, review, and make recommendations
23 regarding the current and future policy needs of the state to address access and
24 availability of kinship care to the citizens of the Commonwealth, including but not
25 limited to:

26 (1) A demographic analysis of kinship caregivers broken down by types of
27 caregivers and numbers of children with ages in their care to include formal placements,

1 type of placement in the child welfare system, and average length of case;

2 (2) An analysis of all Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) offered
3 services available to kinship caregivers to include:

4 (a) Denials and explanations as to why;

5 (b) Length of time utilizing services; and

6 (c) Payments through the Cabinet for Health and Family Services with
7 demographic data;

8 (d) Safety net supports like the Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program,
9 relative placement supports, child care, and kinship foster care; and

10 (e) Any other services, including SNAP;

11 (3) An analysis of all available federal and state dollars used and unused for
12 kinship families in Kentucky compared to those of foster families;

13 (4) An analysis of kinship related hotline requests and kinship related
14 ombudsman complaints, including those listed in this Resolution, compared to DCBS
15 staffing levels by county and including final dispositional outcomes since 2018;

16 (5) An analysis of children that have reentered the system over the last five years
17 with a previous kinship placement or DCBS involvement and the status and outcome;

18 (6) Details and analysis of training and communication for the DCBS workforce,
19 from headquarters to field, and how that translates to timely implementation of modified
20 policy changes or new programs and policies; and

21 (7) Evaluation of the old kinship care program that ended in 2013. From 2013,
22 show the current number of children in the current program and provide an explanation as
23 to any children who are no longer in the program.

24 ➔Section 2. The Kentucky Kinship Task Force shall be composed of the
25 following members, with final membership of the task force being subject to the
26 consideration and approval of the Legislative Research Commission:

27 (1) Three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, one of

1 whom shall be designated by the President of the Senate as a co-chair of the task force;

2 (2) One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of the
3 Senate;

4 (3) Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of
5 the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be designated by the Speaker of the
6 House of Representatives as a co-chair of the task force; and

7 (4) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Minority Floor
8 Leader of the House of Representatives.

9 ➔Section 3. The Kentucky Kinship Task Force shall meet monthly during the
10 2024 Interim of the General Assembly and shall submit findings and recommendations
11 for improving the healthcare outcomes in Kentucky to the Legislative Research
12 Commission for referral to the Interim Joint Committee on Families and Children by
13 December 1, 2024.

14 ➔Section 4. Provisions of this Concurrent Resolution to the contrary
15 notwithstanding, the Legislative Research Commission shall have the authority to
16 alternatively assign the issues identified herein to an interim joint committee or
17 subcommittee thereof, and to designate a study completion date.