

1           A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION establishing the Medicinal Marijuana Task  
2 Force.

3           WHEREAS, marijuana has been used to treat a variety of health conditions for  
4 more than 3,000 years; and

5           WHEREAS, 33 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico now allow  
6 the use of marijuana for certain medical purposes; and

7           WHEREAS, legislation to legalize medicinal marijuana in Kentucky has been  
8 introduced during the past seven regular sessions of the Kentucky General Assembly; and

9           WHEREAS, according to the 2013 Kentucky Health Issues Poll conducted by the  
10 Foundation for a Healthier Kentucky, nearly 80 percent of Kentuckians support  
11 legalization of medicinal marijuana; and

12           WHEREAS, despite growing support for medical marijuana, marijuana and its  
13 derivatives remain classified as a Schedule I drug by the United States Drug Enforcement  
14 Administration; and

15           WHEREAS, classification as a Schedule I drug makes it extremely difficult to  
16 research medically appropriate uses of marijuana and the potential side effects of such  
17 use; and

18           WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration has not found that  
19 marijuana is safe or effective in treating any medical conditions; and

20           WHEREAS, marijuana-based medications, such as FDA-approved dronabinol,  
21 nabilone, and epidiolex, all of which use purified chemicals derived from or based on  
22 those found in marijuana, may represent a more promising course of treatment than the  
23 use of the whole marijuana plant or its crude extracts; and

24           WHEREAS, Kentucky currently has the opportunity to study the mistakes made and  
25 lessons learned by each of the 33 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico  
26 that now allow for the medicinal use of marijuana; and

27           WHEREAS, the Kentucky General Assembly should pursue evidence-based

1 policies regarding medicinal marijuana;

2 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

5 ➔Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission shall establish the Medicinal  
6 Marijuana Task Force to study and to make recommendations related to the medicinal use  
7 of marijuana in the Commonwealth.

8 ➔Section 2. The duties of the task force shall include but are not limited to:

- 9 (1) Considering expert testimony related to existing scientific and academic research on  
10 the potential therapeutic and medicinal effects of the chemical components of  
11 marijuana, including tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), and the health effects of various  
12 consumption methods such as smoking, vaping, and ingestion;
- 13 (2) Examining current research and development efforts to produce additional FDA-  
14 approved prescription drugs derived from or based on the chemical compounds  
15 found in marijuana;
- 16 (3) Analyzing the potential impact of legalizing medicinal marijuana on overall public  
17 health, including appreciable improvements in quality of life and wellness among  
18 patients who engage in the medicinal use of marijuana;
- 19 (4) Studying the experiences of other states and jurisdictions that allow for the  
20 medicinal use of marijuana including but not limited to:
- 21 (a) The effectiveness of various regulatory schemes to license, permit, monitor,  
22 and otherwise control the production, processing, distribution, and use of  
23 marijuana for medicinal or therapeutic purposes;
- 24 (b) The impact on opioid prescribing practices, rates of opioid use disorder, and  
25 opioid-related overdose deaths;
- 26 (c) The impact on the addiction and mental health care treatment system,  
27 including addiction treatment enrollment, drug-related overdose incidents, and

- 1 drug-related hospitalizations;
- 2 (d) The impact on youth perceptions of marijuana and other illicit drugs, as well  
3 as child welfare cases and juvenile justice matters involving marijuana;
- 4 (e) The impact on the illicit drug trade in marijuana and other illicit drugs,  
5 including drug-related arrests, convictions, incarcerations, and other public  
6 safety concerns;
- 7 (f) The impact on the economy and workforce including employers' recruiting,  
8 hiring, and human resource practices;
- 9 (g) The effectiveness of various data systems implemented to collect and share  
10 information between government entities, the health care sector, research  
11 institutions, and the public; and
- 12 (h) The impact on state and local government revenue and expenditures; and
- 13 (5) Developing policy recommendations concerning the legalization of medicinal  
14 marijuana in the Commonwealth.
- 15 ➔Section 3. The Medicinal Marijuana Task Force shall be composed of the  
16 following members with final membership of the task force being subject to the  
17 consideration and approval of the Legislative Research Commission:
- 18 (1) Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the  
19 House of Representatives, one of whom shall be designated by the Speaker of the  
20 House of Representatives as a co-chair of the task force;
- 21 (2) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Minority Floor  
22 Leader of the House of Representatives;
- 23 (3) Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, one of whom  
24 shall be designated by the President of the Senate as a co-chair of the task force;
- 25 (4) One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of the Senate;
- 26 (5) The executive director of the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy;
- 27 (6) The commissioner of the Kentucky State Police;

- 1 (7) The president of the Kentucky Sheriff's Association;
- 2 (8) One representative from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services;
- 3 (9) One representative from the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet;
- 4 (10) One representative from the Public Protection Cabinet;
- 5 (11) One physician licensed in Kentucky having a primary practice in pain management  
6 selected from a list of three physicians submitted by the Kentucky Medical  
7 Association;
- 8 (12) One physician licensed in Kentucky having a primary practice in oncology selected  
9 from a list of three physicians submitted by the Kentucky Medical Association;
- 10 (13) One physician licensed in Kentucky having a primary practice in neurology selected  
11 from a list of three physicians submitted by the Kentucky Medical Association;
- 12 (14) One physician licensed in Kentucky who is certified as an addiction specialist  
13 selected from a list of three physicians submitted by the Kentucky Medical  
14 Association;
- 15 (15) One faculty member from the University of Kentucky College of Public Health  
16 selected from a list of three faculty members submitted by the dean of the  
17 University of Kentucky College of Public Health; and
- 18 (16) One faculty member from the University of Louisville School of Medicine selected  
19 from a list of three faculty members submitted by the dean of the University of  
20 Louisville School of Medicine.

21 ➔Section 4. The task force shall meet at least bimonthly during the 2019 Interim  
22 of the General Assembly. The task force shall submit findings and recommendations to  
23 the Legislative Research Commission for referral to the appropriate committee or  
24 committees by December 1, 2019.

25 ➔Section 5. Provisions of this Resolution to the contrary notwithstanding, the  
26 Legislative Research Commission shall have the authority to alternatively assign the  
27 issues identified herein to an interim joint committee or subcommittee thereof, and to

- 1 designate a study completion date.