

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Energy and Environment Cabinet to study  
2 the economic impact and feasibility of adopting an electronic waste disposal program in  
3 Kentucky.

4 WHEREAS, electronic waste disposal has become a global crisis, with more than  
5 forty million tons of electronic waste produced annually in the world; and

6 WHEREAS, electronic waste is the world's fastest-growing trash stream, expected  
7 to grow by eight percent per year; and

8 WHEREAS, by 2021, the global annual total is predicted to surpass 57 million tons;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, not even twenty percent of the world's electronic waste is collected and  
11 delivered to formal recyclers; and

12 WHEREAS, electronic waste disposal is also a nationwide crisis, with Americans  
13 throwing away an estimated 6.9 million tons of electron waste in 2016, and costing an  
14 estimated fifty-five billion dollars in annually; and

15 WHEREAS, annual American electronic sales were greater than \$206 billion in  
16 2018; and

17 WHEREAS, Americans own approximately twenty-four electronic products per  
18 household and produce forty-two pounds of waste per person; and

19 WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency says that almost  
20 2.4 million tons of electronics were disposed of in 2009, yet only twenty-five percent  
21 were collected for recycling; and

22 WHEREAS, electronics contain toxic substances, like lead, mercury, and cadmium,  
23 all metals which pose risks to human health; and

24 WHEREAS, there are recyclable resources contained in electronic waste, such as  
25 metals, plastics, and glass; and

26 WHEREAS, recovering these resources through recycling uses a fraction of the  
27 energy needed to mine new materials; and

1           WHEREAS, there is no federal law regulating electronic waste disposal, leaving the  
2 issue to each state; and

3           WHEREAS, over half of the states have passed electronic waste disposal laws,  
4 following in the footsteps of California, which was the first state to pass disposal laws in  
5 2003; and

6           WHEREAS, New York City was the first major city to set up its own electronic  
7 waste collection program and to ban electronics from garbage cans; and

8           WHEREAS, Kentucky is among the states with no such electronic waste disposal  
9 laws;

10          NOW, THEREFORE,

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

12           ➔Section 1.   The Energy and Environment Cabinet is directed to study the  
13 economic impact of an electronic waste disposal program in all states and the  
14 applicability and feasibility of adopting an electronic waste disposal program in  
15 Kentucky. The cabinet is specifically directed to study the cost of implementing an  
16 electronic waste disposal program, the potential income that the program would generate,  
17 the potential for economic development, and the benefits to the environment. The cabinet  
18 shall collaborate with environmental stakeholders representing the public and private  
19 sector, including but not limited to businesses, scientists, and state government entities, in  
20 conducting its research and analysis.

21           ➔Section 2.   The cabinet shall submit its findings and recommendations regarding  
22 the implementation of an electronic waste disposal program in Kentucky and the resulting  
23 economic impact on the Commonwealth to the Governor, the Legislative Research  
24 Commission, the Interim Joint Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, and the  
25 Interim Joint Committee on Economic Development and Workforce Investment by July  
26 1, 2022.