

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION directing staff of the Legislative Research Commission to study the advantages and disadvantages of reducing the caseloads of public speech school language pathologists.

WHEREAS, the current Kentucky caseload limit for speech-language pathologists is 65; and

WHEREAS, speech-language pathologists serve many students with individualized education programs or individualized family service plans; and

WHEREAS, in some school districts, speech-language pathologists serve students with no identified disabilities who receive earlier interventions and other services designed to help prevent future difficulties with language learning and literacy; and

WHEREAS, large caseloads constrain the ability and capacity of speech-language pathologists to engage in the expanded roles necessary to meet the individual needs of today's diverse and complex student population; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that speech-language pathologists' large caseloads are related to poorer student outcomes and to the availability of fewer service options for students with disabilities;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission staff shall study the advantages and disadvantages of reducing Kentucky public school speech-language pathologist caseloads to 50 students per pathologist. This study shall examine the overall cost of the reduction and the cost over time by reducing the caseload in five student increments each year from 65 students to 50 students. The study shall examine the cost to districts, including the cost of additional staff needed to reduce caseloads or whether state funding would be necessary to allow the reduction. The study shall also examine the availability of newly graduated speech-language pathologists with advanced degrees from

state or national universities to fill the contemplated need.

➔Section 2. The Legislative Research Commission shall distribute the results of the study to the appropriate interim joint committee by December 30, 2016.

➔Section 3. Provisions of Sections 1 and 2 of this Resolution to the contrary notwithstanding, the Legislative Research Commission shall have the authority to alternatively assign the issues identified herein to an interim joint committee or subcommittee thereof, and to designate a study completion date.