

1 A RESOLUTION urging the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs to explore
2 the feasibility of moving contractor operations currently housed at Bluegrass Station to
3 the Blue Grass Army Depot.

4 WHEREAS, throughout its history, the United States military has defended the
5 people of this great nation and has been deployed around the globe to ensure the freedom
6 of the world; and

7 WHEREAS, Kentucky has always played a vital role in our nation's security, with
8 many brave service members answering the call, as well as the efforts of thousands of
9 civilian workers in military related industries throughout the Commonwealth; and

10 WHEREAS, Bluegrass Station is a prime example how the Commonwealth has
11 served a vital logistical and support role to our nation's military and defense contractors.
12 This decommissioned United States Army post, which was fully transferred to the
13 Commonwealth in 2008, includes 777 acres, more than 2.2 million square feet of space in
14 112 buildings, 17 miles of paved roads, 27 acres of paved parking lots, as well as its own
15 water, electrical, and wastewater systems, and is managed by the Kentucky Department
16 of Military Affairs; and

17 WHEREAS, Bluegrass Station has more than two dozen tenants, including local,
18 state, and federal governmental agencies, federal contractors, private commercial
19 enterprises, and residential occupants who employ over 1,300 Kentuckians; and

20 WHEREAS, over Bluegrass Station's history, its tenants have included the
21 Kentucky Logistics Operation Center, the Field Logistics Readiness Center, the Kentucky
22 Army National Guard, and various units of the Kentucky State Police; and

23 WHEREAS, Bluegrass Station's largest current employer is Lockheed Martin,
24 which, along with its contractors who operate at the facility, employs over 1,000 workers;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, in order to retain this vital industry which is seeking to expand its
27 operations to include work on fixed-wing aircraft, including C-17s, the construction of a

1 runway with airfield support facilities is required; and

2 WHEREAS, for years, the Blue Grass Army Depot in Madison County was charged
3 with the dangerous but necessary task of housing, and ultimately destroying and
4 chemically neutralizing, the nation's last stockpile of chemical weapons, the last of which
5 were destroyed on July 7, 2023; and

6 WHEREAS, the newly passed national defense act lays the groundwork for the
7 Blue Grass Army Depot to take on new missions at the 14,600-acre site; and because the
8 final phase of weapons destruction is not scheduled to be completed until late 2027; and

9 WHEREAS, the needs of contractors at Bluegrass Station and the window of
10 opportunity presented by the impending restructuring of the mission of the Blue Grass
11 Army Depot offers the opportunity for the Department of Military Affairs to work with
12 the United States Department of Defense, other state entities, and the General Assembly
13 to seek creative solutions to accommodate this vital industry, help expand economic
14 development, and strengthen our national defense;

15 NOW, THEREFORE,

16 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
17 *Kentucky:*

18 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate urge the Kentucky Department of
19 Military Affairs to explore the feasibility of transferring the operations of aviation
20 contractors currently at Bluegrass Station to the Blue Grass Army Depot in Madison
21 County.

22 ➔Section 2. As part of the study encouraged by this Resolution, the Kentucky
23 Department of Military Affairs should:

24 (1) Consult with the United States Department of Defense to examine the benefits
25 and obstacles to a relocation of this type;

26 (2) Explore the potential expansion of fixed-wing aviation maintenance activities
27 and the costs of acquiring the land necessary for such an expansion;

1 (3) Meet with members of the General Assembly to explore state appropriations
2 needed to acquire land, construct necessary airstrips or other infrastructure, and assist
3 funding the transfer of operations;

4 (4) Communicate with contractors that could potentially be affected by such a
5 move to explore their willingness to participate and what needs they would have;

6 (5) Explore other potential partnerships with the United States Department of
7 Defense;

8 (6) Communicate with Eastern Kentucky University, which operates the only
9 aviation program at a public university in Kentucky, to explore ways in which that
10 program could assist and benefit from having expanded aircraft operations in Madison
11 County; and

12 (7) Identify how the transfer of these contract operations would affect the
13 ongoing operations at Bluegrass Station, including the potential repurposing of the
14 facility.

15 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this Resolution to
16 Governor Andy Beshear, Brigadier General (Ret.) Steven Bullard, Commission on
17 Military Affairs, and Major General Haldane B. Lamberton, Adjutant General.