

CHAPTER 132 (HJR 73)

A JOINT RESOLUTION creating a Task Force on Senior Citizens and the Workforce, providing for the membership thereof, and specifying activities and responsibilities.

WHEREAS, the population of Kentucky aged 55-75 will grow nearly four times greater than the state's population aged 25-55 (46 percent to 12 percent) during the period 1990 to 2010; and

WHEREAS, the ratio of Kentuckians between ages 25-55 to Kentuckians aged 55 and older will decline by the year 2010 to 1.6:1 from its 1990 level of 2:1, with the disparity estimated to grow through the year 2025; and

WHEREAS, a full complement of skilled workers in the state's workforce is necessary for a healthy economy and successful economic development; and

WHEREAS, a strong ratio of workers to nonworkers is necessary to provide adequate financial support for programs addressing the retired and elderly; and

WHEREAS, senior citizens represent a reservoir of talent that must be retained in the workforce; and

WHEREAS, there is a trend both nationally and in the Commonwealth for workers to retire at an ever-increasing younger age; and

WHEREAS, a substantial number of senior citizens demonstrate an interest in remaining in the workforce, but under different schedules and in different jobs;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. There is hereby created a Task Force on Senior Citizens and the Workforce.

Section 2. The Task Force on Senior Citizens and the Workforce shall be composed of the following 18 members:

(1) Six members appointed by the Governor. The members may be employees of the Executive Branch of state government or may be at-large members;

(2) Six legislative members (three Representatives and three Senators) appointed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, respectively; and

(3) Six at-large members appointed by the Legislative Research Commission. In making the appointments the Commission shall consult with organizations including, but not limited to, organizations representing labor, management, senior citizens, and retired persons, and with the state's universities, community and technical colleges, and local governments. The Commission shall coordinate its appointments with the at-large appointments of the Governor.

Section 3. The Task Force on Senior Citizens and the Workforce shall:

(1) Identify the age characteristics of Kentucky's present and future workforce;

(2) Examine the role of senior citizens in the state's present and future workforce;

(3) Identify the accommodations and incentives necessary to attract and retain senior citizens in the workforce;

(4) Determine the needs of senior citizens to remain productive members of the workforce;

(5) Evaluate the ability of existing programs to attract and retain senior citizens in the workforce, including those intended to provide the necessary education to qualify for entry or retention in the workforce;

(6) Recommend improvements in existing programs and the creation of new programs, if indicated, addressing senior citizens in the workforce, including programs through which prospective employers can identify and access qualified senior citizens; and

(7) Promote public awareness of the value of senior citizens in the workforce and initiate dialogue between citizens and policymakers in this regard.

Section 4. The Task Force on Senior Citizens and the Workforce shall be authorized, subject to the approval by the Legislative Research Commission, to conduct meetings throughout the state and to sponsor a conference for the purpose of gaining and exchanging information and publicizing the activities of the Task Force.

Section 5. Co-chairs of the Task Force on Senior Citizens and the Workforce shall be appointed by the Legislative Research Commission from among the legislative members of the Task Force.

Section 6. The Task Force on Senior Citizens and the Workforce shall submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislative Research Commission by September 30, 2001.

Section 7. Staff services for this task force shall be furnished by the Legislative Research Commission, with officers and agencies of the Executive Branch providing any assistance that may be requested by the Commission or its Director.

Approved March 16, 2000