

**CHAPTER 28****(SCR 1)**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION creating the Blackacre State Nature Preserve Task Force and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, the Blackacre State Nature Preserve was created in 1979 as the first natural area of the state deemed worthy of preservation for the benefit of all Kentuckians; and

WHEREAS, the farm and homestead at Blackacre are part of the Tyler Settlement Rural Historic District, a National Historic Site preserving archaeological and cultural links to Jefferson County's agricultural beginnings; and

WHEREAS, Blackacre is located outside the City of Jeffersontown near the conjunction of Jefferson, Shelby, and Spencer counties, an area now undergoing intense development; and

WHEREAS, during a ten year period from 1987 to 1997, land dedicated to farming in Jefferson County decreased by more than thirty-eight percent (38%);

WHEREAS, the conversion of farmland and natural areas to residential and other nonfarm uses is much higher in Jefferson County than in the rest of the state;

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 Blackacre State Nature Preserve Task Force is created to develop a strategy to protect the character of Blackacre upon which the land's dedication as a nature preserve was based. The strategy shall include, but not be limited to, identifying land appropriate for adding to the preserve or to serve as a buffer for the preserve, capitalizing on Blackacre's status as the state's first nature preserve and the state's only preserve with a farm registered as a national historical site to publicize the importance of preserving natural and cultural areas that are threatened by development, to preserve Kentucky's farming heritage, and to promote the value of the state nature preserves system to citizens across the Commonwealth. The strategy shall also include determining funding sources to be used for maintenance of the preserve, adding land to the preserve, and acquiring land to serve as a buffer around the preserve.

Section 2. The members of the task force shall be appointed as follows: two (2) members of the Senate appointed by the Senate President, at least one (1) of whom represents the area where Blackacre is located at the time of adoption of this resolution; two (2) members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker, at least one (1) of whom represents the area where Blackacre is located at the time of adoption of this resolution; two (2) members of the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission or its staff, nominated by the chairperson of the Commission; two (2) members of the Blackacre Foundation Inc., nominated by the president of the Foundation; two (2) members of the Jefferson County School Board or its staff, nominated by the superintendent of the Board; two (2) members of Jefferson County government, nominated by the Jefferson County Judge/Executive; and four (4) members representing the state-at-large, nominated by the Governor.

Section 3. The President of the Senate shall select one (1) of the Senate members to serve as co-chairperson of the task force and the Speaker of the House shall select one (1) of the House members to serve as co-chairperson of the task force. The task force shall be staffed by the Legislative Research Commission staff.

Section 4. The task force shall report its strategy for Blackacre State Nature Preserve and recommendations for action to the Legislative Research Commission by November 30, 2001.

Section 5. Provisions 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.

Section 6. Whereas not enough time would be available for a thorough investigation of the issues required by this study if this resolution became effective ninety (90) days after adjournment sine die, an emergency is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect upon its passage and approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law.

**Approved March 15, 2001**