

CHAPTER 72**(SCR 47)**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION requesting reauthorization of the Tobacco Task Force.

WHEREAS, tobacco production is at the heart of Kentucky's agricultural economy; and

WHEREAS, loss of tobacco production or the tobacco program would have a devastating effect on Kentucky and its tobacco farmers; and

WHEREAS, the loss of tobacco production would cause failure of many farms and businesses, decreases in land values, the default of loans, and the loss of state and local revenues; and

WHEREAS, shifts in tobacco production from the auction marketing system to contract marketing system, and cuts in tobacco quota continue to change the traditional tobacco program and methods of tobacco production in Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, the Tobacco Task Force was created by the Legislative Research Commission in 1984 to address problems that threaten the tobacco industry and the tobacco price support program; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force has studied contracting in tobacco and many other problems that threaten Kentucky's tobacco economy and been instrumental in helping to resolve these problems; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky's tobacco industry and tobacco farmers remain in jeopardy because of threats to the tobacco program, increased use of imported tobacco, labor shortages, marginal prices, cuts in tobacco quota, a shift from an auction marketing system to a contract marketing system, possible increases in excise taxes, and other problems;

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. That the Kentucky Tobacco Task Force be reauthorized through December 31, 2003, to help resolve the problems facing the tobacco industry and the tobacco program.

Section 2. 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.

Approved March 26, 2002