

CHAPTER 112**(SCR 17)**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION creating the Kentucky Watershed Task Force.

WHEREAS, Kentucky has abundant water resources disbursed within seven watersheds across the state; and

WHEREAS, within those watersheds local communities depend upon the drinking water supplies and the tourism and recreational opportunities arising from impounded water as well as free-flowing watercourses, and

WHEREAS, Kentucky shares borders with other states defined by two major rivers and shares numerous other waterways, reservoirs, and drainage basins with neighboring states; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is a vital part of Kentucky's history, economy, and character, and prudent management of water resources is critical to agricultural interests in the Commonwealth;

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 Kentucky Watershed Task Force is created to study the need for managing the state's water on a watershed basis; the necessity of seeking agreements with border states on the management of water in shared watersheds; and the possibility of seeking agreements with the owners of impounded waters, except for owners of private water impoundments, to manage the impounded water to further state and local water management goals. To the extent possible, all meetings of the task force should be held at Kentucky state resort parks which have lakes.

Section 2. The members of the task force shall include: three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, the President of the Kentucky Waterways Alliance Advisory Council, the Coordinator of the Center for Reservoir Research at Murray State University, the Director of the Kentucky Water Resources Research Institute at the University of Kentucky, a representative of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet, a representative of the Kentucky Farm Bureau, a representative of the Kentucky Resources Council, the director of the Center for Water Resource Studies at Western Kentucky University, a representative of Kentucky's area development districts, a representative of the Kentucky Rural Water Association, and the Executive Director of the Kentucky River Authority.

Section 3. The President of the Senate shall select one of the Senate members to serve as co-chair of the task force and the Speaker of the House shall select one of the House members to serve as co-chair of the task force. Staff for the task force shall be provided by the staff of the Legislative Research Commission.

Section 4. The task force shall report any findings and recommendations to the Legislative Research Commission by November 30, 2002.

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.

Approved March 28, 2002