

CHAPTER 197**(SCR 92)**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION directing the Legislative Research Commission to establish a task force to examine the development of the Lexington/Big Sandy Rail Trail, and suggest a strategy for its completion.

WHEREAS, the conversion of abandoned or unused railroad trails for pedestrian and nonmotorized use has become national policy through the National Trails Systems Act; and

WHEREAS, Rails to Trails projects throughout the United States have been shown to strengthen local economies through tourism and job development, preserve cultural and historic areas, protect natural green spaces, create family and individual recreational opportunities, preserve transportation options, encourage healthy lifestyles, and enhance community prosperity; and

WHEREAS, over 10,000 miles of rail-trail have been created across the country, but Kentucky has approximately 50 rail-trail miles; and

WHEREAS, the Lexington/Big Sandy Rail Trail was designated a Community Millennium Trail and has the potential to improve the quality of life for Kentucky citizens and connect communities stretching 109 miles from Lexington to Ashland;

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 Legislative Research Commission shall establish a task force to examine the development of the Lexington/Big Sandy Rail Trail and suggest a strategy for its completion. The task force shall be composed of twenty-five (25) members, to be approved by the Legislative Research Commission, to include:

- (1) The county judge/executive, or a designee, from the following counties:
 - (a) Bath;
 - (b) Boyd;
 - (c) Carter;
 - (d) Clark;
 - (e) Montgomery; and
 - (f) Rowan;
- (2) The mayor, or a designee, from the following cities:
 - (a) Grayson;
 - (b) Lexington;
 - (c) Morehead;
 - (d) Mount Sterling;
 - (e) Olive Hill; and
 - (f) Winchester;

- (3) The secretary, or a designee, from the following agencies:
 - (a) Tourism Development Cabinet;
 - (b) Cabinet for Economic Development;
 - (c) Transportation Cabinet; and
 - (d) Department for Local Government;
- (4) The executive director of the Kentucky Heritage Council, or a designee;
- (5) The Governor, or a designee;
- (6) Six members of the General Assembly, three members appointed by the President of the Senate, and three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. One of the Senate members shall be appointed co-chair by the President of the Senate, and one of the House of Representative members shall be appointed co-chair by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (7) One member of the Kentucky Rails to Trails Council, suggested by the Kentucky Rails to Trails Council.

Section 2. The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Legislative Research Commission for referral to the appropriate committee or committees no later than December 15, 2002. The report shall include at least the following:

- (1) Solutions for overcoming existing barriers to the trail's development;
- (2) Potential funding sources to complete the trail;
- (3) Projected date for completion of the trail;
- (4) Recommendations on entities best suited to implement the strategy for the trail's completion; and
- (5) Recommendations on entities best suited to administer the trail, in both the short and long term.

Section 3. 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 April 5, 2002