

CHAPTER 312**(HJR 210)**

A JOINT RESOLUTION authorizing and directing Kentucky State University, in cooperation with the Kentucky Aquaculture Task Force and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, to conduct and facilitate a series of statewide public meetings relating to the public support and regulation of reservoir ranching of paddlefish (zooplanktivore) on public waters, and making an appropriation therefor.

WHEREAS, The Kentucky Aquaculture Task Force is directed to assist the promotion and study of the aquaculture industry in Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, reservoir ranching of paddlefish should continue to be investigated to determine biological impacts; and

WHEREAS, the possible economic benefits should be determined; and

WHEREAS, the level of public support of the use of public waters and fisheries for reservoir ranching should be considered in any decision to allow reservoir ranching; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly needs information on the feasibility and public support of allowing reservoir ranching of paddlefish on public waters in order to objectively and responsibly determine whether to proceed;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. Kentucky State University, with the cooperation of the Kentucky Aquaculture Task Force and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, shall conduct and facilitate a series of statewide public meetings, conduct a survey, and generate a final report and recommendations on:

- (1) The feasibility of allowing reservoir ranching of paddlefish on public waters; and
- (2) The public support of reservoir ranching of paddlefish on public waters.

Section 2. There is hereby appropriated from the general fund for fiscal year 2002-2003 the sum of \$10,000 to accomplish the feasibility study, meetings, and survey. Any amount remaining following the completion of the study shall revert to the general fund. The meetings shall begin not later than September 1, 2002, and the report and recommendations shall be submitted to the Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources not later than the committee's regularly scheduled meeting in November, 2002.

Approved April 11, 2002