

**CHAPTER 313****(HJR 148)**

A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting the Cabinet for Health Services to study the issues surrounding a distribution system for used or donated assistive devices.

WHEREAS, many health care programs within the Commonwealth provide financial support for the purchase of assistive devices such as wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, and other medical supplies or durable goods on behalf of persons with limited income; and

WHEREAS, these assistive devices may be used for a short time for the treatment of temporary or acute conditions or injuries; and

WHEREAS, many Kentuckians still do not qualify for programs providing assistive devices that are necessary to keep the persons working and functioning as independent members of society; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the Commonwealth and of its citizens to ensure that people are able to function at their highest level, particularly if this can be accomplished with minimal assistance from the government; and

WHEREAS, new assistive devices are expensive and unaffordable for many persons with limited income, who do not qualify for assistance programs, or who do not have health insurance that provides coverage for the assistive devices; and

WHEREAS, many local civic organizations and agencies voluntarily collect used assistive devices for distribution to Kentuckians in need; and

WHEREAS, more Kentuckians could be helped through a centralized network for the distribution of used or donated assistive devices; and

WHEREAS, the Cabinet for Health Services has oversight over many health care programs involving Kentuckians;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. The Cabinet for Health Services is requested to study the issues surrounding a distribution system for used assistive devices for persons who are uninsured, or who have limited income, and to report by December 1, 2002, to the Interim Joint Committee on Health and Welfare on any findings and conclusions to date. In furtherance of this report, the cabinet is requested to consult with other state and local agencies and civic organizations regarding the needs of Kentuckians for used or donated assistive devices and the current and the best methods for collecting and distributing used or donated assistive devices.

**Approved April 11, 2002**