

CHAPTER 331**(HCR 132)**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION to study how best to implement a disaster relief funding program for the Commonwealth, its local governments, and citizens.

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth is subject to many types of natural and manmade disasters and emergencies which leave recovery costs in their wake; and

WHEREAS, these disasters include floods, tornadoes, snowstorms, hazardous materials incidents, fires, power outages, and others too numerous to mention; and

WHEREAS, in a large disaster, following a Presidential disaster declaration, the Federal Emergency Management Agency covers a large portion of the costs of recovering from the disaster; and

WHEREAS, even with a Presidential disaster declaration, state and local governments must routinely match the federal dollars, dollars which local government does not have; and

WHEREAS, small disasters which do not qualify for federal assistance require 100% funding of recovery efforts for local governments and the citizens by local governments; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's emergency fund is sometimes used to provide relief in such situations but is not always able to fund recovery efforts in specific incidents; and

WHEREAS, in reality, the Commonwealth has no fund specifically dedicated to helping local governments and the citizens recover from disasters, either large or small; and

WHEREAS, disasters and emergencies do not recognize that local government and the citizens may not have the money to recover and rebuild after disasters and emergencies, so these incidents keep occurring; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring therein, recognizing the need to establish such a fund, wants to gather together local government officials, emergency management professionals, and members of the General Assembly to work out the most feasible and efficient means of establishing and operating a disaster relief funding program;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:

Section 1. The Disaster Relief Funding Task Force is created and is directed to study the establishment of a disaster relief funding program for the Commonwealth which would provide grants that require no matching funds to units of local government and the citizens to recover and rebuild following a disaster or emergency where federal funds were either unavailable or insufficient to fund the recovery and rebuilding effort.

Section 2. The Legislative Research Commission shall appoint the following members to the Task Force on Disaster Grant Funding:

- (1) Two Representatives and two Senators who are members of the Interim Joint Committee on State Government;
- (2) Two Representatives and two Senators who are members of the Interim Joint Committee on Local Government;

- (3) One Representative and one Senator who are members of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue; and
- (4) One person recommended by each of the following organizations:
 - (a) The Division of Emergency Management of the Department of Military Affairs;
 - (b) The Department for Local Government;
 - (c) The Kentucky Emergency Management Association;
 - (d) The Kentucky Association of Counties;
 - (e) The Kentucky League of Cities; and
 - (f) The Kentucky Council of Area Development Districts.

The agencies and organizations specified in this subsection shall inform the Legislative Research Commission as to their recommended permanent representative to the task force within twenty days after the effective date of this resolution. Any organization which does not make such a notification shall forfeit membership on the task force. Only the permanent member of a state agency or organization may represent the agency or organization or vote at any meeting of the task force.

Section 3. Members of the task force may be reimbursed for travel and other necessary expenses. All members shall have voting privileges. The chair and vice chairs of the task force shall be members of the Interim Joint Committee on State Government or the Interim Joint Committee on Local Government and shall be chosen by the Legislative Research Commission.

Section 4. The task force shall report to the Interim Joint Committee on State Government, the Interim Joint Committee on Local Government, the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue, and the Legislative Research Commission recommendations relating to at least the following subjects: sources of revenue; the agency or official which should administer the program; whether grant decisions should be made by a committee or by a single official; eligibility for grant funding; the constitutionality of providing grants to individual citizens; amount of grant funding; the handling of requests in excess of the amount of funding available; disqualifying factors relating to application for funds; and similar details. The report shall include a draft of legislation necessary to accomplish the program recommended. The report shall be completed and presented to the interim committees and the Legislative Research Commission not later than October 15, 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 April 11, 2002