

CHAPTER 162**(HB 303)**

AN ACT relating to programs of significant importance to the citizens of the Commonwealth and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 158 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

All public high schools shall observe Veterans Day under this section.

- (1) On Veterans Day, or one (1) of the five (5) school days preceding Veterans Day, one (1) class period shall be devoted to the observance of Veterans Day.***
- (2) Students shall assemble in one (1) or more groups, as decided by the school principal, to attend the Veterans Day program.***
- (3) The program shall be approved by the principal and, at a minimum, shall consist of a teacher and a veteran speaking on the meaning of Veterans Day.***
- (4) To develop a Veterans Day program, Kentucky public high schools are encouraged to seek advice from the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs and veterans' service organizations, including but not limited to the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.***

Section 2. (1) The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate are directed to establish a nineteen (19) member task force on prescription drug abuse and the illegal diversion of prescription drugs in the Commonwealth and to select two co-chairs from among its members no later than thirty (30) days from the effective date of this Act. The task force shall initially meet no later than thirty (30) days after its co-chairs are selected, and shall report its recommendations as proposed legislation in accordance with subsection (2) of this section to the Interim Joint Committee on Judiciary no later than October 1, 2003. The task force shall cease to exist upon the making of its report.

- (2) The task force shall review the Kentucky All Schedule Prescription Electronic Reporting (KASPER) program and propose legislation to the General Assembly on:
 - (a) Improving the KASPER program's efficiency in recording information and responding to requests for information;
 - (b) Increasing the enforcement of reporting requirements of dispensers and prosecution for violations thereof;
 - (c) The use of data compiled by KASPER to isolate illegal drug diversion trends and to identify patterns of illegal drug diversion; and
 - (d) Enhancing the overall utility of KASPER for law enforcement and drug abuse prevention purposes.
- (3) The task force shall consist of the following members:
 - (a) Two (2) members from the Kentucky State Police, Division of Police Services, one (1) each to be selected by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate;

- (b) Two (2) members from the United States Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, Office of Diversion Control, one (1) each to be selected by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate;
 - (c) Two (2) members from the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services, Department for Public Health, one (1) each to be selected by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate;
 - (d) Two (2) members who are a Commonwealth's attorney, a full-time county attorney, or combination thereof, to be selected by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate;
 - (e) Two (2) members of the Kentucky Bar Association whose primary practice is devoted to criminal defense, one (1) each to be selected by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate from one (1) list of five (5) submitted to those legislators upon a vote of the Criminal Law Section of the Kentucky Bar Association;
 - (f) Two (2) members from the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure, the Kentucky Board of Pharmacy, or combination thereof, one (1) each to be selected by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate;
 - (g) Two (2) members representing drug treatment programs licensed pursuant to KRS 222.231, one (1) each to be selected by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate;
 - (h) Two (2) members from citizen groups in the Commonwealth devoted to preventing drug abuse, one (1) each to be selected by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate;
 - (i) One (1) member of the Kentucky House of Representatives to be selected by the Speaker of the House;
 - (j) One (1) member of the Kentucky Senate to be selected by the President of the Senate; and
 - (k) The secretary of the Justice Cabinet, or a designee.
- (4) Except as provided in KRS 18A.200, members of the task force shall receive actual travel expenses while attending meetings.
- (5) The task force may employ consultants if approved by the Legislative Research Commission, request and hear testimony, and take other steps to ensure a thorough and reasonable study of the issue. The task force shall be staffed by the Legislative Research Commission.
- (6) Provisions of this section 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.

Section 3. Whereas prescription drug abuse and the illegal diversion of prescription drugs have become both an epidemic disease and the fastest growing crime trend in the Commonwealth, an emergency is declared to exist, and Section 2 of this Act takes effect upon its passage and signature by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming law.

Approved March 31, 2003