

CHAPTER 66**(HCR 8)**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION directing the Interim Joint Committee on Economic Development and Tourism to conduct a study on the development of the Lexington/Big Sandy Rail Trail and to 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-trails 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 House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:

Section 1. The Interim Joint Committee on Economic Development and Tourism, or its logical successor, shall conduct a study focusing on the development of the Lexington/Big Sandy Rail Trail and suggest a strategy for its completion.

Section 2. The committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the Legislative Research Commission no later than December 17, 2004. 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 7, 2004