

CHAPTER 184**(HJR 218)**

A JOINT RESOLUTION reauthorizing the Kentucky Aquaculture Task Force, and making an appropriation therefor.

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Aquaculture Task Force was created in 1998 by the General Assembly to develop a State Aquaculture Plan and to promote the development of the aquaculture industry in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the aquaculture industry has steadily grown in the state, and money has been appropriated to assist aquaculture farmers in pond construction, infrastructure development, and other aquacultural enterprises; and

WHEREAS, the task force has been proactively supporting the development of the aquaculture industry in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that the task force continue to monitor the activities surrounding the implementation of the state plan, while at the same time developing and updating the plan as the aquaculture industry grows and changes;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. The Kentucky Aquaculture Task Force is reauthorized to develop an updated State Aquaculture Plan and to continue promoting the development of the aquaculture industry in the Commonwealth.

Section 2. The Kentucky Aquaculture Task Force is attached to the Department of Agriculture for administrative purposes, and shall consist of fifteen (15) members as follows:

- (1) The Speaker of the House of Representatives or the Speaker's designee;
- (2) The President of the Senate or the President's designee;
- (3) The Chair of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee or the Chair's designee;
- (4) The Chair of the House Agriculture and Small Business Committee or the Chair's designee;
- (5) The Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture or the Commissioner's designee;
- (6) The Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources or the Commissioner's designee;
- (7) Four (4) members of the Kentucky Aquaculture Association representing the four (4) geographic regions of the state as defined in the original State Aquaculture Plan and appointed by the board of the association; and
- (8) Five (5) members appointed by the Governor, with one (1) member representing each of the following interests:
 - (a) Kentucky State University aquaculture program;
 - (b) Kentucky Farm Bureau;
 - (c) Agriculture liaison, Office of the Governor;

- (d) Retailers of aquacultural products; and
- (e) Wholesalers of aquacultural products.

Section 3. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. The members shall elect one (1) member to serve as chair.

Section 4. The task force shall meet quarterly and may meet more often upon the call of the chair or by a majority of the members. Except as provided in KRS 18A.200, members of the task force shall receive actual traveling expenses while attending meetings of the task force. Staff services for the task force shall be provided by the Department of Agriculture.

Section 5. Because of the success of the programs that resulted from the original state plan, the task force shall develop an updated State Aquaculture Plan by September 1, 2005, and shall report on the plan and make recommendations to the Governor and to the Legislative Research Commission with respect to aquacultural policies and practices that result in the proper management, use, and marketing of the state's aquacultural industry. These policies and practices shall, at a minimum, identify and address the following:

- (1) Regulatory constraints and environmental awareness;
- (2) Support for and promotion of the aquaculture industry and its products;
- (3) Research, extension, and education;
- (4) Financial aspects of aquaculture; and
- (5) Infrastructure needs.

Section 6. There is appropriated from the general fund the sum of \$30,000 to accomplish the development of a new plan; \$15,000 to be appropriated in fiscal year 2004-2005 and \$15,000 to be appropriated in fiscal year 2005-2006. Any amount remaining following the completion of the plan shall lapse to the general fund. The study shall begin not later than August 1, 2004, and the report and recommendations shall be submitted to the Governor and to the Legislative Research Commission no later than September 1, 2005.

Approved April 22, 2004