

CHAPTER 63**(HCR 120)**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION creating a Land Stewardship and Conservation Taskforce.

WHEREAS, Kentucky is a land of scenic beauty and diverse topography; and

WHEREAS, Kentuckians value the unique qualities of their land and want to pass that legacy on to their children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, we are currently converting over 130 acres of forests, fields, agricultural land, wildlife habitat, and other natural areas per day to urban uses; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to address this issue while the opportunity for solutions still exists;

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 Legislative Research Commission is hereby directed to create a Land Stewardship and Conservation Taskforce, that shall study the Commonwealth's strategy for the protection of natural areas, farmlands, habitats, and forests, and produce recommendations for a comprehensive land stewardship and conservation program, to be called the "Conserve Kentucky" program. The study shall include, but not be limited to: a review of the state's existing land preservation programs and their missions, their interactions, funding sources, and methods for prioritizing projects; a review of other states' land conservation programs and funding sources; a statewide assessment of potential areas and acreage that may be secured from willing participants; and an assessment of the sources and levels of funding needed to sustain a long-range plan.

Section 2. The taskforce shall be composed of the following members: one member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; one member of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate; the secretary of the Cabinet for Environmental and Public Protection or the secretary's designee; and one member from each of the following organizations and agencies, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives: the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund, the Kentucky Conservation Committee, the League of Kentucky Sportsmen, the Kentucky Resources Council, the Sierra Club, the Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, the Kentucky League of Cities; and one member of each of the following organizations and agencies to be appointed by the President of the Senate: the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, the Kentucky PACE program, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association, the Kentucky Farm Bureau, the Kentucky Home Builders Association, the Kentucky Department of Parks, and the Kentucky Association of Counties.

Section 3. The taskforce shall meet at least three times between June 30, 2006, and the date of the completion of its final report.

Section 4. The taskforce shall submit its final report, along with recommendations and any proposed legislation, to the Legislative Research Commission for referral to the appropriate committee or committees by June 30, 2007.

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 March 28, 2006.